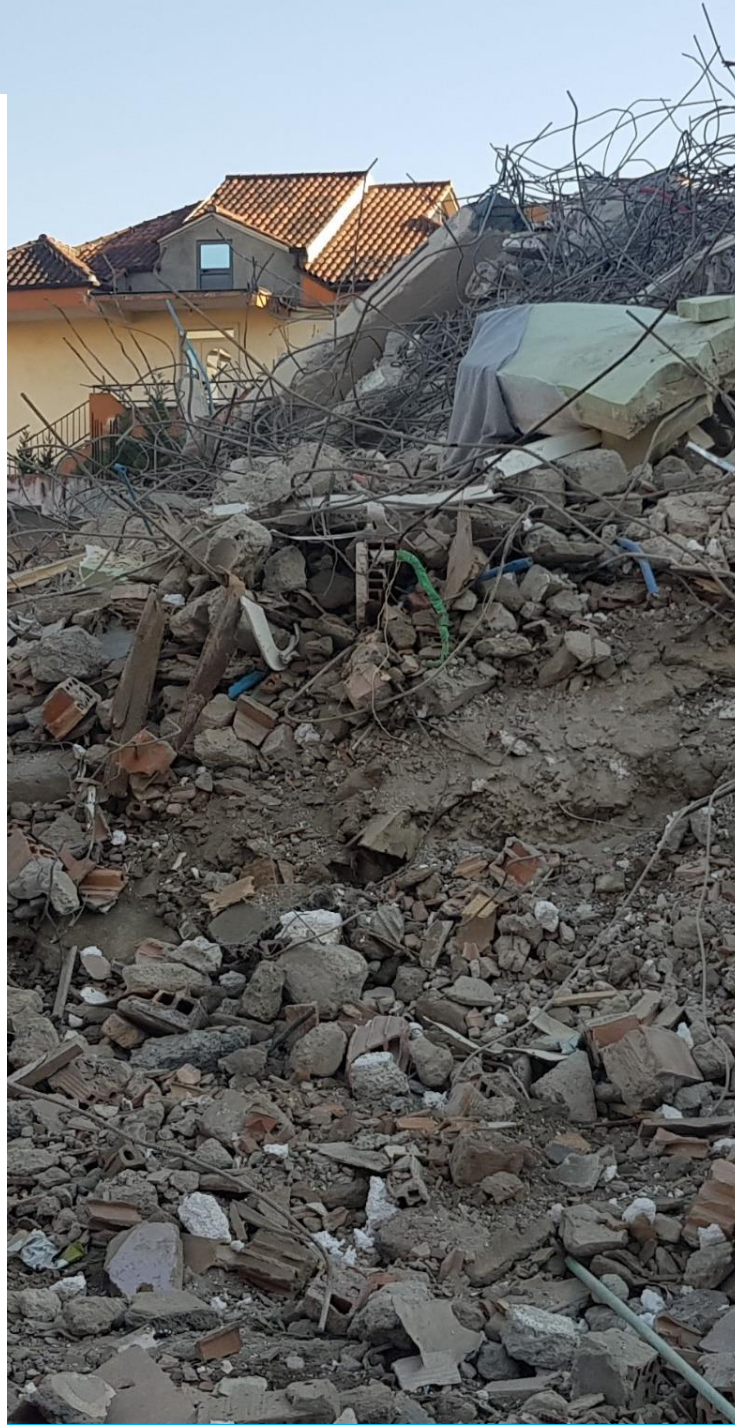


UN SUPPORT TO ALBANIA EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

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UN Albania Support for Earthquake Recovery

Humanitarian Assistance

The United Nations in Albania reiterates its condolences for the people of Albania suffering the strong earthquake of November 26, 2019. The UN family responded immediately. WHO flew in their emergency coordinator to support the Ministry of Health's response. An UN Disaster Assistance Coordination team organized by OCHA arrived to work with the EU-led Civil Protection Team. UNHCR delivered emergency supplies from a regional warehouse. UNDP immediately provided non-food items to vulnerable Roma and Egyptian communities where UNDP is a long-standing partner. UNICEF deployed international experts to support the Government's request to set up eight child-friendly spaces, four temporary learning spaces and assist with psycho-social support for both children and adults. UNICEF continues to co-lead humanitarian working groups on child protection, education, and humanitarian cash transfers. UNDP supported the emergency response by developing a Building Damage Assessment (BDA) tool and methodology to be used by the Government, and developed the Household Damage Assessment (HDA) tool and methodology which it conducted for those in hotels and tents to ensure that there was needed information for a quick emergency response to the affected populations.

UN support to the PDNA preparation

Within days, the Government started planning for recovery. The Prime Minister formally requested assistance from the EU, the United Nations and the World Bank to undertake a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) on 6 December. Again, the United Nations Country Team in Albania responded quickly. UNDP deployed 17 experts for more than a month in the areas of population needs assessments and statistics, infrastructure damage, loss and impact assessments, productive sector impacts, disaster risk reduction assessment, and social protection. UNICEF and WHO deployed expertise on the critical sectors of education and health. FAO's experts covered the agricultural/rural sector, and UN Women contributed to the core PDNA training to ensure gender issues were mainstreamed from the beginning.

UNDP assumed the lead technical support role within the UN family for the conduction of the PDNA including sharing report writing duties with the EU. As a preparatory work, UNDP conducted, with INSTAT, the Survey of Household Damages due to Earthquake, or mini-SILC, based on the EU Statistics on Income & Living Conditions, and a business survey to provide info on the impact of the earthquake on households and businesses in all affected municipalities. The PDNA report was distributed on 5 February and was launched in a Press Conference in Tirana.

Further to that, UNICEF has just launched the report “Assessing the post-earthquake situation of families with children in Albania”.

Based on the solid PDNA, United Nations entities are planning their coordinated contribution to recovery with Government counterparts. Some UN agencies have already mobilized core resources to accelerate design and even start pilot activities, for example in the cases of UNDP, UNICEF, and FAO. UN entities have a wealth of global technical expertise that can be drawn upon for earthquake recovery. The UN’s proposed programmes for recovery in Albania are summarized below. To support UN recovery assistance programmes the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund will open an ‘Earthquake Recovery’ Window. The Fund, co-chaired with Government, is described further below.

1. UN Recovery Programmes

The UN recovery programmes, both joint and agency specific respond to the sectorial needs as identified in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment and reflect where UN Agencies have been lead or co-lead of PDNA sector reports, and where UN agencies have a mandate and strong experience and presence in working on these issues in Albania. Depending upon the support received, further efforts will be made to identify areas where joint programming can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of UN support for recovery.

1.1. Health Sector

1.1.1. Health service continuity and resilience, early warning systems- WHO, UNICEF (1 m USD)

Based on the 2019 Albanian Action Plan of Health Security and PDNA results for Health Sector’s recovery from the earthquake, in the recovery phase, WHO will aim to enhance resilience in health services continuity in situation of crisis by:

- Supporting the development of contingency plans, simulation exercise
- Training hospital and public health staff at both central/local level on elements of health security and emergency risk management, as part of a work programme on emergency preparedness and response
- Making hospitals/health facilities safe and operational through supporting the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) to adopt and implement the WHO's safe hospitals programme, which enables hospitals to provide appropriate healthcare during emergencies / disasters, protect to health workers, patients and families, and develop hospital preparedness capacities.

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- Supporting the MOHSP to strengthen Health sector capacities through the development of a functional Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC), which will enhance early warning systems, support effective coordination of responses and enhance real-time inter and intra sector communication.
 - Supporting MOHSP to perform an After-action review (AAR) to evaluate the health sector's response to the earthquake of 26 November 2019 and identify areas for continued improvement
 - Supporting Investments for the development of emergency preparedness stocks that strengthen surgeons' capacities of health sector to respond to mass casualty emergencies, as it has been identified as one important gap in earthquake response

The support of WHO to the recovery plan will be implemented within the context of the health system's relationship with emergency risk management, considering health system functions and is expected to impact positively on the total population of Albania.

UNICEF aims at training health professionals in the area of maternal and child health care (MCH), providing basic medical supplies, and contributing to national and subnational contingency planning, development of protocols, and empowerment of communities through development and production of materials on Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, immunization, timely health care seeking, etc.

1.2. Education Sector

1.2.1. Education, Early Learning and Child Protection – UNICEF (19 m USD)

Damages in the education sector were the second-highest assessed in the PDNA, after private housing. UNICEF led the Education Sector PDNA to assess the damages and losses faced by the sector and provide estimates of the recovery and reconstruction needs using the principle of “building back better”. The assessment covered the entire sector, which includes early childhood education and development, primary and secondary education, technical and vocational education and training, higher education, and non-formal education/lifelong learning. UNICEF is UN lead partner to support Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MOEYS) in policy development and technical assistance on education sector reform and is currently supporting MOEYS in preparation of National Education Sector Strategy 2021-2026. UNICEF’s education and early learning programme focuses on the implementation of recovery plans aimed at supporting capacity building of teachers, psycho-social assistance and counselling, and introduce disaster risk reduction into education systems, as well as reconstruct pilot creches, kindergartens and schools to earthquake resilient and environmentally friendly standards. UNICEF in support of the Government of Albania stands ready to absorb more funds

for reconstruction/rehabilitation of infrastructures and will lead more comprehensive reconstruction programme for creches, kindergartens and schools to earthquake resilient and environmentally friendly standards

1.3. Housing

1.3.1. Sustainable housing support – IOM, UNOPS

IOM and UNOPS are offering their expertise in support of housing sector recovery. IOM has experience in the region with projects in the housing sector to recover from natural disasters – for example through a joint UN project in the context of flood recovery in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the 2015 floods. In line with local capacity and knowhow, IOM would propose to implement a recovery project in the housing sector for an indicative 150 dwellings. This can include reconstruction or construction of new units. UNOPS infrastructure expertise spans across multiple sectors such as housing, water and sanitation, health, education, and other social infrastructure. In the context of the significant damages to the housing stock during the earthquake in Albania, UNOPS has proven experience in working in post-earthquake contexts, for example Haiti and most recently in Nepal. Furthermore, UNOPS has extensively led on housing projects in several countries using innovative financing and sustainable and green design solutions, including a current major housing project supporting municipalities with EU financing in Serbia.

1.4. Productive Sectors

1.4.1. Business and Employment

Economic Recovery & Resilience - UNDP (8.5 m USD)

The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) results indicate of significant market disruption, loss of livelihoods and employment opportunities in the affected areas. UNDP, building up on its ongoing “In Motion” pilot, will aim to tackle significant market disruption, loss of livelihoods and employment opportunities in the affected areas, with the overall goal to stabilize livelihoods and improve the social and economic conditions, by addressing productive sectors, services, and the tourism sector, thus providing an opportunity to promote resilience and reduce vulnerability to future crisis. Done through emergency employment and enterprise recovery interventions that aim to revive the local economy, create a positive multiplier effect and generate employment. This will provide rapid improvements to community infrastructure and services, enabling access to markets and services, while in the long-run strengthening disaster preparedness the competitiveness of businesses and the productive sector.

Productive rehabilitation and sustainable livelihoods- UNIDO

UNIDO offers to develop activities on post-crisis productive rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable livelihoods with the aim to the empowerment of communities emerging from the earthquake. Though with no actual programme designed to the earthquake, UNIDO can contribute technical expertise to foster MSEs creation and expansion through facilitation of Business Development Services (BDS), market linkages, micro finance schemes and business promotion. Such initiatives can support enhance long-term sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

1.4.2 Cultural Heritage

Restauration and technical assistance for damaged cultural heritage properties- UNESCO (4.5 m USD)

Further to the PDNA, assessment in the cultural heritage subsector showed considerable damages on 53 monuments, out of which 23 monuments were classified at high risk and 30 monuments were classified as medium risk – which enable partial use only with an estimated damages and loses at 8,24 M USD.

Upon consultations with relevant institutions, including in priority the Ministry of Culture and the Institute for Monuments of Culture, UNESCO proposes interventions with its technical institutions and dedicated services in the Castle of Kruja, Castle of Durrës, Castle of Preza, Castle of Bashtova, Tekke of Dollma, Krujë and Ethnographic Museum - House of Aleksandër Moisiu, Durrës. The Cultural Heritage resources are one of the most valuable countries assets. Besides generating considerable tourism revenues, the cultural heritage is one of the most important vehicles for economic development of Albania and have a significant role at the local community level to foster social cohesion, resilience and sustainable development.

1.4.3 Agriculture

Supporting Recovery and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Agriculture Sector – FAO (2 m USD)

FAO aims to provide financial advisory services (i.e. linking farmers with financial resources available from banks, micro finance institutions and grant schemes) to support, rehabilitate or introduce micro-enterprise recovery and development, to create employment opportunities and increase farmer's resilience. FAO will strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant agencies to

deliver national legislation, policies and strategies on Disaster Risk Reduction, through technical advice, training, and practical tools to improve [the Government's] agricultural rehabilitation and extension services. FAO will support development of a multi-stakeholder scheme for agricultural insurance, enabling coverage of farmers in higher risk areas, and support Municipal capacities to address disaster resilience and damage assessment in agricultural communities.

1.5. Infrastructure

1.5.1 Community Infrastructure- UNDP (30 m USD)

UNDP will rebuild community infrastructure (public buildings and spaces, health centers, kindergartens, primary schools, community centres, etc.), through build back better principles, working with and ensuring that the affected community have a voice in strengthening their own community resilience post disaster. UNDP stands ready to work with other UN partners (UNICEF and WHO) and the Government of Albania to support a more comprehensive reconstruction of health and education facilities, if requested.

1.6. Social Protection

1.6.1. Community Resilience and Social Protection of Vulnerable Groups – UNDP (5 m USD)

UNDP will build on its current projects for vulnerable groups, social inclusion, social services, and the implementation of social care plans, to accelerate the recovery of the most vulnerable. The UNDP Household Damage Assessment and the ongoing pilot already point to neighborhoods where attention must be played. This project will enable self-help of the affected communities whilst ensuring they have a voice in strengthening their own community resilience post disaster, as well as expand the engagement and partnerships with local governments and civil society in affected areas.

1.6.2. Social protection policy, improved service delivery- UNICEF (1 m USD)

UNICEF is aiming at updating social protection policy and legal framework to make them shock responsive, upgrading MIS, strengthening coordination mechanisms, and developing a financing strategy for a possible vertical and horizontal expansion of social protection. Capacity of social protection workforce would be strengthened.

1.6.3. Child Protection- UNICEF (3 m USD)

UNICEF work on child protection will respond to social protection of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, considering work on child protection is coordinated by Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and other partners to address the protection needs of children through strengthening the existing child protection system and work force. For this purpose, a dedicated Child Protection Working Group, led by UNICEF, was established to coordinate the programmatic responses.

UNICEF will support the implementation of recovery plans in child protection including psycho-social component with particular focus on issues around abuse, exploitation and violence; inter - organizational collaboration and to ensure that humanitarian actors working in Albania build on and support the local capacities, develop and maintain appropriate links with national and local authorities, state institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. UNICEF will also investing in building the capacity of national and local actors involved in the child protection response to improve their knowledge and skills in implementing and monitoring child protection standards, providing psychological services, and supporting child's best interests' assessment and determination.

Capacity will be built, nationwide, to ensure preparedness on child protection issues against the most likely natural disasters as identified in the PDNA, being earthquakes and floods. Child rights and protection issues will be monitored.

Child protection infrastructure will be enhanced in earthquake-affected areas, through building of child protection and social care infrastructures in municipalities (social care centres, child-friendly rooms, multi-disciplinary centres for children and vulnerable population, and for children with disabilities). UNICEF in support of the Government of Albania stands ready to absorb more funds for reconstruction/rehabilitation of infrastructures and will lead more comprehensive reconstruction programme for child-friendly facilities to earthquake resilient and environmentally friendly standards.

1.7. Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction

1.7.1. Disaster Risk Management- instruments and DRR management capacities- UNDP (10 m USD)

UNDP will aim to tackle the non-systemic approach to DRR in Albania, support development of instruments and capacities for the strengthening of the DRM legislative system and execution of a

National DRM Strategy, improve institutional coordination in disaster risk management, strengthen local level DRR management capacities, and mainstream DRR into strategic and operational planning and implementation of municipal activities.

1.8. Cross-cutting

1.8.1. Gender mainstreaming in post disaster recovery and gender responsive preparedness (GRR)-UNWomen (1 m USD)

UN Women will support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to coordinate action in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly contribute to the implementation of specific measures included in the PDNA that aim to reduce gender inequality and protect women in vulnerable positions. The earthquake also demonstrated that effective emergency response must include adequate institutional capacity to understand and address the differential needs of specific groups of the population, and to ensure the protection and psycho-physical integrity of women and girls, including those living with disabilities and belonging to ethnic minorities. UN Women will help strengthen gender responsive emergency preparedness at national and local levels, including by building on existing collaboration with other UN agencies in the area of social protection and eliminating gender-based violence.

2. UN-Albania SDG Acceleration Fund – Earthquake Recovery Window

UN Albania has opened a dedicated window in the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund to support the UN's system-wide efforts, as outlined above, to assist earthquake recovery, as a supplement to the Government's financing mechanism. The Earthquake Recovery Window will enhance coordinated and timely UN action in support of Government efforts and can leverage and manage efficiently stakeholders' interest to respond to the post-recovery needs. The Window is one of multiple options for the financing of UN programmes. Partners and donors can finance through the SDG Fund, or directly with individual agencies depending on their instruments and agreements.

This window, within the context of the SDG Acceleration Fund will:

- Focus on needs outlined in the PDNA and draw upon PDNA principles including Building Back Better, the deepening and broadening of Disaster Risk Reduction capacity, community ownership, and gender equality.
- Enhance the coordinated efforts from UN agencies, in support to Government's and other partners efforts, to overarching aim to deliver integrated UN programme support in various

sectors of recovery such as productive, infrastructure, disaster risk reduction, education, health, social inclusion, among others- all gender mainstreamed.

- Upscale efforts through multiple partners in the window and leverage additional sources of finance which will sustain UN's work to added Government's efforts to post recovery while aligning work to Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development outcome areas.
- Track, monitor and report separately on the Earthquake Recovery Window, so that financial partners can have full transparency view on their contributions.
- While unearmarked contributions are encouraged, they may also be earmarked to PDNA sectors or specific UN programmes.
- Recognition and visibility of contributors will be fully transparent and supported. Using a pooled fund approach is in line with donor effectiveness principles, lowers transaction costs and encourages efficiencies of scale.

The UN Albania SDG Acceleration Fund is an established mechanism to build partnerships and accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda in Albania. Earlier versions of the Fund have existed since 2007, when it was established as part of the UN's Delivering as One initiative.

The SDG Acceleration Fund has received contributions to date from the following entities: The Government of Albania, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway. More information can be found here:

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>

The Principles of the SDG Acceleration Fund, to apply to the Earthquake Recovery Window:

1. *Governance*- This fund is governed by the Joint Executive Committee, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Albania, the latter demonstrating clear ownership over the Fund- to provide strategic guidance and monitoring on the allocation and execution of the funds.
2. *Accountability*- The work on the execution of funds is done through the Joint Work Plans, co-signed with the Government, which describe at a strategic level the work of UN agencies in a specific, dedicated programme area. The totality of the Fund's work is reported on annually, while specific, supplemental reporting will be issued for the Earthquake Recovery Window.
3. *Management*- The Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (of UNDP) in New York serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund.

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4. *Flexibility*- The Fund offers well established mechanisms which allow flexibility and quick response to the specific requests of the donors, both for earmarked and non-earmarked funding.