



PROJECT FACTSHEET

Embassy of Switzerland in Albania

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

ENHANCING SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE VULNERABLE



Roma, disabled persons, internal migrants, and vulnerable women in Albania face multiple barriers to social inclusion ©L. Qylafi

Due to limited financial, human and institutional capacities the Government of Albania so far does not adequately respond to the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups. Switzerland in partnership with the United Nations (UN) is addressing this issue through the project Support to Social Inclusion in Albania that assists current reforms led by the government.

The project works with Roma and Egyptian communities, people with disabilities, people in remote areas, women survivors of violence, victims of trafficking, children at risk, and people with HIV/AIDS. It complements the Support to Roma Social Inclusion project implemented by UNICEF and other social inclusion projects funded by the Swiss government.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The project uses the Delivering as One approach (DaO) which puts together all UN agencies operating in Albania for maximum effect. By improving legislation, policies, and social protection structures the country's whole population can benefit, however, the primary beneficiaries are the most vulnerable groups.

Generating Knowledge and Evidence

- Four key reports and studies were produced based on Albania's Census 2011 describing the situation of people with disabilities, Roma, youth and elderly. Government and institutions have now solid data for these four population groups for evidence-based policies.
- Developed profiles for people with disabilities, Roma, elderly, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors. This makes it easier for government and policy institutions to target the needs of these groups.

Stronger Government Capacities

- Drafted the Social Inclusion Policy Document 2015 – 2020 that will become part of the overall National Strategy for Development and Integration.
- Prepared an Action Plan and a set of indicators to assist the government in tackling social inclusion policies in order to meet the European Union accession requirements in this area.
- Assessing potentials and recommending ways for employment and re-integration of economic aid recipients.
- Included gender responsiveness and addressing of specific needs of women and girls in the Social Inclusion Policy Document 2015 – 2020.

Involving Local Government and Civil Society

- Introduced new inclusive action plans for Municipalities of Lezhë, Lushnje, and Pogradec to protect disabled persons in the areas of education, social care, health, employment, building accessibility and information.
- Developed a new Social Housing strategy and Action Plan to provide housing solutions to low income and vulnerable Albanian families, currently being endorsed by the government.
- Strengthened the network and capacities of the Albanian Disability Youth Forum. 130 young people with disabilities in three localities attended forums on disability rights, including independent voting.
- Supported 36 vulnerable Roma families and their children in two regions in court and administrative proceedings.

KEY EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Rights of disadvantaged groups are ensured through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and other social interventions.
- Public in general and marginalised groups in particular receive more equitable, inclusive and accountable services from central, regional and local government.

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME

UN Support to Social Inclusion in Albania

THEME

Social Inclusion

COUNTRY

Albania

PARTNERS

One UN

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To enhance social inclusion and access to services for vulnerable and marginalised groups

TARGET GROUPS

Roma

Disabled persons

Vulnerable and marginalised groups

PHASE DURATION

06 September 2013- 31 December 2016

PHASE BUDGET

CHF 3'500'000

FUNDING

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

CONTACT

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