



Albania

Empowering the Vulnerable Minority Communities of Albania

Background information

Albania has undergone a striking economic transformation over the past thirty years, transitioning from one of Europe's poorest nations to a middle-income country, accompanied by a substantial reduction in poverty. However, challenges persist for marginalized communities, particularly the Roma and Egyptian minorities. These populations face social exclusion and limited livelihood opportunities, which creates further obstacles to economic security, educational attainment and social harmony at the community level. In addition, the lack of political representation and limited roles in government institutions for these groups underscores the need for policies that bridge historical disparities and foster genuine inclusion while preserving the unique identity and culture of these groups.

Goals and objectives

The programme aims to address the multidimensional issues of poverty and social exclusion faced by vulnerable Roma and Egyptian minorities in four regions of Albania. The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) support the participation of vulnerable communities in local decision-making through strengthened capacities and collaboration between communities, NGOs and governmental institutions; (ii) improve the communities' access to rights and public services; and (iii) promote social cohesion and the inclusion of vulnerable populations through policies and institutional strengthening.



DURATION

April 2010 – December 2013



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UNDP, UNV, UNFPA, UNICEF



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities



BENEFICIARIES

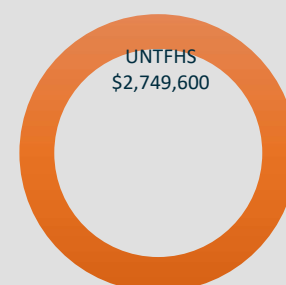
76,900



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 2,749,600

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme directly benefits 76,900, members of the Roma and Egyptian communities in Tirana, Elbasani, Fieri and Durrresi regions, who will benefit from capacity-building and skill development activities. In addition, the entire population of the four target regions and government officials indirectly benefit from improved policy and programming, as well as enhanced social cohesion.

Applying the Human Security approach

Long-term stability and sustainable development rest upon ensuring those furthest behind and in the most vulnerable situations benefit equitably from economic and social progress. By adopting the human security lens, the programme garners a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and dynamics that contribute to the disadvantages faced by Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania. It enables delving deeply to understand the specific insecurities faced by Roma women, recognizing the double discrimination they often experience. This provides the necessary information for the programme to address the multifaceted challenges facing the Roma and Egyptian communities at large while creating targeted initiatives to meet the specific needs of women, ensuring their active participation throughout.

Furthermore, the application of the human security lens allows the programme to understand the root causes of vulnerable communities' needs. As a result, it recognizes that poverty and economic insecurity affecting Roma and Egyptian minorities stem from exclusion and discrimination, further contributing to their vulnerability. Consequently, the programme prioritizes the meaningful inclusion of these groups in community planning as a fundamental step towards addressing their needs and ensuring their sustainable empowerment. Self-help activities are being implemented by members from host communities together with these minority groups, including revitalizing neighborhoods, planting trees, and rehabilitating houses. These interventions, which are often followed by recreation such as sports events and movie sessions, strengthen social interaction within communities and improve overall living conditions.

While actively fostering participation in community-planning among the Egyptian and Roma populations, the programme tackles the root causes of discrimination and negative perceptions. The programme notably conducts awareness-raising sessions on the marginalized communities' rights, improves their access to basic social services, and provides them with skill development trainings. In addition, inter-ethnic concerts are organized, involving young Roma musicians. This not only aims to strengthen their self-confidence but also to promote Roma art and music as an integral part of the region's cultural diversity. As a result, the comprehensive approach adopted by the programme is geared towards creating lasting positive change for the most marginalized populations.



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