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State Agency for **Protection** of **Children** Rights



MID-TERM ANALYSIS

of National Action Plan for Children and of the Public Funds allocated for its Implementation

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TIRANË, 2014

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CHAPTER I

MIDTERM REVIEW OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND SPENDING FOR THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN RIGHTS

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Table of Context

Index of Tables and Figures.....	3
List of Figures.....	4
Abbreviations.....	5
1. Scope of the study and brief methodology.....	6
2. Situation of children in Albania.....	9
Brief overview based on existing policy framework and data.....	9
Household expenditures on education.....	11
Social inclusion.....	14
Child Labour and Education.....	17
Child health.....	21
3. Public spending vs Children rights.....	24
Brief sector budget analysis.....	25
Education spending for children.....	29
Basic education.....	31
Secondary education.....	33
Equity in education.....	34
Health spending for children.....	35
Primary Healthcare.....	36
Public healthcare services.....	38
Social protection for children.....	38
Juvenile Justice.....	43
4. Main findings and Recommendations.....	46
Main Findings and Recommendations Based on the Social Statics Analysis.....	46
Main Findings and Recommendations Based on the State Budget Analysis.....	47

Index of Tables and Figures

List of Tables

Table 1:	Monthly Education Expenditures by Households	12
Table 2:	Monthly Education Expenditures by Children's Age Groups	13
Table 3:	Monthly Education Expenditures by Prefecture and Children's Age Groups	14
Table 4:	Child Poverty linked to education	16
Table 5:	Distribution of boys and girls by age and labour status	18
Table 6:	Distribution of children in employment by economic activity	19
Table 7:	Distribution of boys and girls by status in employment	19
Table 8:	School attendance of working and non-working children by age	20
Table 9:	Time use patterns of boys and girls ages 6-17	20
Table 10:	Composition of sector spending by programmes, 2012 – 2014 and MTBP 2015-2017	26
Table 11:	Spending on children in the four sectors 2012 - 2017	28
Table 12:	Spending in education by programme: 2012 and 2013 (actual), 2014 – 2017 (budget)	30
Table 13:	Expenditure shares by programme and year	31
Table 14:	Economic allocation of public education spending in three main programs (in%, 2015 budget)	31
Table 15:	Spending in basic education/economic classification	32
Table 16:	Spending in secondary education/economic classification	33
Table 17:	Outputs in social inclusion in education (MES).....	34
Table 18:	Financing for MOH and revenue from health insurance in the budget 2015 and revisited budget 2014	35
Table 19:	Composition of spending of the Ministry of Health by program and main articles 2014 - 2015	36
Table 20:	Distribution of general practitioners by region in 2014	37
Table 21:	Share of main social protection budget components in GDP and total public expenditures	40
Table 22:	Social Protection Budget Programme& Outputs	40

Table 23: Social protection budget compliance - budget vs outturn	42
Table 24: Social Inclusion budget programme	43
Table 25: The budget of the Ministry of Justice 2013 (actual) and budget 2014 - 2017	44

List of Figures

Figure 1: Share of children's population.....	9
Figure 2: Number of individuals per age group.....	9
Figure 3: Monthly education expenditures by sex and area	13
Figure 4: Poverty Rate by Age of Children.....	15
Figure 5: Household poverty rate by number of children	15
Figure 6: Households with children under the age of 18 years receiving economic aid.....	17
Figure 7: Prevalence of child work and child labour by region.....	21
Figure 8: Mortality rates by sex.....	22
Figure 9: Percentage of malnutrition children	22
Figure 10: Percentage of children overweight.....	23
Figure 11: Share of spending in children related sectors in GDP and total Public expenditures	26
Figure 12: Composition of sector budget by programmes, 2012 – 2017	27
Figure 13: Share of GDP and Budget Expenditures of direct spending on children in the selected budget programmes	29
Figure 14: Education expenditure as a share of total budget expenditures and GDP 2012 - 2017	30
Figure 15: MoH budget by main articles and its share to GDP and total budget expenditure	35
Figure 16: Visits performed in primary healthcare centers 2008 – 2013	37
Figure 17: Composition of social protection spending.....	41
Figure 18: The share of the prison system and probation service to the overall MoJ budget 2013 - 2017	45

Abbreviations

CLG	Child Lead Groups
CoM	Council of Ministers
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DoCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
GoA	Government of Albania
HII	Health Insurance Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
INSTAT	Albanian Institute for Statistics
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession
JJ	Juvenile Justice
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
LGU	Local Government Units
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Minister of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoUD&T	Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism
MSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
MTBP	Medium Term Budget Program
SAFPCR	State Agency for Protection of Children Rights
NAFPCR	National Action Plan for Protection of Children Rights
NAVETAQ	National Agency for Vocational Education Training and Qualifications
NCPCR	National Council for Protection of Children's Rights
NES	National Employment Service
NLI	National Labour Inspectorate
VET	Vocational Education Training
WB	World Bank

1. Scope of the study and brief methodology

This midterm review of the existing NAFPCR has been conducted as a baseline analysis on whether child rights policies and plans are supported by adequate resource allocation and enable evidence for awareness raising on the importance of investment for children. The methodology used consisted on desk review of the main strategic, research, monitoring reports of non-governmental bodies, international organizations and policy documents of Albanian Government, focus group discussions with children and CSO members and roundtables with government officials.

The review explored strategic documents of the SAFPCR, priorities and other cross cutting policies relating to children rights. The aim of this work is to assess the extent to which strategic objectives of the NAFPCR are supported with adequate budget resource allocation. Further, this review focused on examining the National Plan of Action strategic objectives on children's rights to protection, social inclusion, protection from violence, abuse and exploitation, education,, healthcare and juvenile justice.; which was added later on in the analysis following the request of the MSWY and SAFPCR Recognizing that achievements and failures in the implementation of the NAFPCR are not always linked to resources allocated but rather to capacities and willingness. While a series of discussions with responsible authorities were organized to ascertain through comprehensive analysis the key factors impacting on the achievement of the action plan. These discussions also included also advocacy elements. This review has benefited from the support of the MSWY and the SAFPCR, their insights and valuable facilitation of the data collection process.

The budget monitoring has looked at the trend of budget appropriations, actual expenditures over a period of time (about 3 years) and budget compliance given that often, actual execution of budgets differs widely from original plans. The current assessment includes some common elements: reviewing the budget transparency specifically targeting its coverage and clarity. Additionally to the budget data received from the line ministries, brief analysis of the main features and needs in each sector were further investigated by the project team making use of additional data sources such as National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) surveys, in particular from Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS 2012), Census 2011) and other available data and reports from the SAFPCR and other agencies served to feed into the analysis.

This comparative analysis of budget appropriations vis-à-vis NAFPCR priorities and costs identified, highlights issues related to inter-sector composition of spending. The analysis coincides also with the medium term budgeting process, thus the project team is also providing assistance to the line ministries with identification of resources and budget planning for new Medium Term Budget Program (2015-2017). Additional input was gathered through engagement of the CSOs and children/CLGs all over Albania through Save the Children, as lead partner for this project.

Methods used:

Defining the Programs: Spending on children is scattered across a diverse array of government programs, and many of the programs serving broader populations required estimations of the share for children. Few questions were raised on conceptual issues related to the portion of a benefit for children but as there are no direct answers for all, the team has made personal judgments on the methodological approach and available data.

In this analysis, childhood has been generally defined as the age group 0-18. As a result, spending on higher education spending or other programs targeting groups beyond the defined group are excluded. For deciding on the program selection for this analysis, a program must meet at least one of the following criteria:

Children are *direct* beneficiaries: direct benefits or services that are entirely for children (i.e., elementary and secondary education programs etc.), including also programs providing direct benefits for children (i.e., cash benefits for disabled children etc.);

Children are *indirect* beneficiaries: certain family benefit levels may increase when they have children (i.e. when applying for economic aid/cash benefits); However, not all the programs providing benefits to families have been included under our program definition for the scope of this analysis (i.e. unemployment benefits and other benefits where the amount of the benefit the adult receives is not related to presence or number of children). In this analysis other programs providing benefits to the population at large that may have children as indirect beneficiaries but they are not the conditionality for the program implementation, have not been taken into consideration.

Data collection: Estimating the children's share of public expenditures required data collection from multiple sources and making many assumptions and judgment calls. The first task was to select the relevant programs for children under each sector, mainly focusing on the programs directly benefiting children or benefiting households because of the presence of children. Secondly, we collected the expenditure data for each program, using *State Budget for 2012, 2013 and 2014* as the primary source, the detailed budgets from respective ministries and/or subordinated agencies, and their budget monitoring reports for the realized expenditures for comparing budget plan and execution. Significant efforts were put into estimating the portions of programs that go specifically to children. Interviews with budget experts from the respective agencies, with the Secretary General of the MSWY and head of the SAFCRP have provided clarity on the budget processes and its link with the policy priorities.

Calculating the Spending on Children: The programs that have assigned all their resources to children have been considered entirely in our calculations. There are also programs that allocate funds to children as well as older age groups, as a result, we have calculated the share of programs by estimating a children's share based on the number of children and adults in the family and assuming equal benefits per capita within the family.

Additionally, we have put significant effort into estimating the portions household expenditures for children on education, well-being and health, based on the existing data from the most recent surveys conducted from INSTAT. This cross analysis helped us to present a more complete analysis comparing actual needs of children based on household spending for the selected sectors and state budget spending. Further, it supported the articulation of key recommendations from a broader policy perspective and a regional approach, since the budget analysis is only focused at central level.

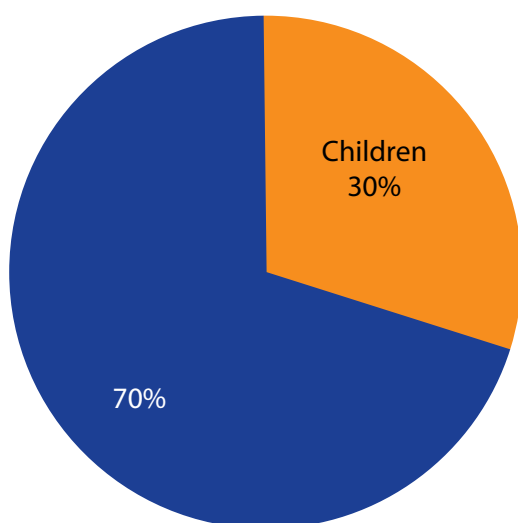
Additional notes on the methodology and programmes are elaborated under the main sections (section 2 and 3)

2. Situation of children in Albania

Brief overview based on existing policy framework and data

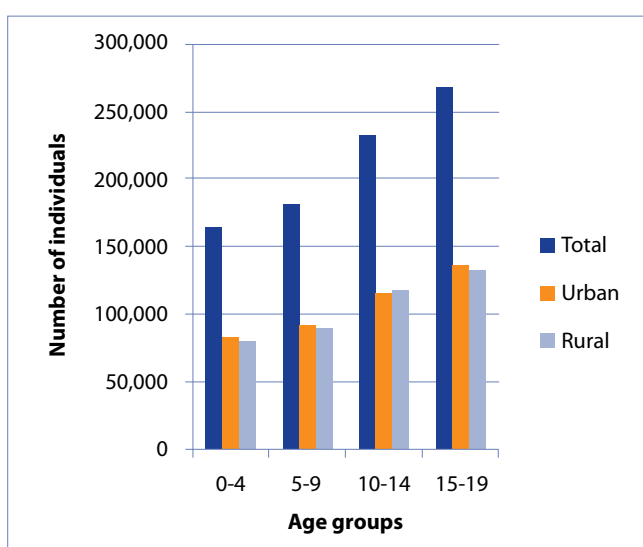
The Albanian population is quite young with an average age of 35.3 years in 2011. The substitution index, which shows the ratio of the population under the age of 15, is 21.0% according to the 2011 Census. More strictly speaking children defined as individuals between the ages of 0-17 years comprise less than 9%¹ 30%² of the total population (Figure 1). There are 847,312 individuals between the ages of 0-19³ in Albania (Figure 2). The concentration of children between the ages of 0-4 and 5-9 is slightly larger in urban areas, whereas the concentration of children between the ages of 10-14 is slightly larger in rural areas. Those between the ages of 15-19 also have a slightly larger concentration in urban areas. A visualization of children's age-group composition and concentration in areas is necessary to tailor policies according to their characteristics and the socio-economic characteristics of the places in which they live.

Figure 1: Share of children's population



Source: Census 2011

Figure 2: Number of individuals per age group



1. Census data by age group have grouped together the ages of 15-19, therefore an exact estimate of children ages 0-17 is unavailable. The value of 9% is downward rounded up as to come closer to the exclusion of individuals between the ages of 18-19, who are not part of the children population.

2. Census data by age group have grouped together the ages of 15-19, therefore an exact estimate of children ages 0-17 is unavailable. The value of 30% is an overestimate of children since it also includes individuals between the ages of 18-19, who are not part of the children population.

3. Ages 18-19 should be excluded for an exact estimate of children's population. As mentioned above grouping by the Census data does not allow for this estimate.

There has been a continuous availability of government strategies to protect children's rights. These strategies make provisions to reduce disparities among regions, social and ethnic groups, and children who are in special circumstances. Enforcing the law at the local level and establishing the necessary structure for implementing the law has been among the steps undertaken through the strategies. In this regard, the establishment of Observatory offices⁴ has helped to monitor children's rights, as well as to guide the provision of policies that match children's needs. In addition, the Child Protection Units serve as structures at the municipality level to assess and monitor the situation of children and families at risk, coordinate local level protection referral and response, and conduct identification and multi-disciplinary case management of the most urgent cases. The CPU also serves as a drop in center, where children and families can come to find more information or get referrals to other support services. All services are free, and target the most vulnerable children and families.

The law on "Protection of the Rights of the Child" provides the complete legal and institutional framework and sets the institutional mechanisms to guarantee the development and protection through a coordinated approach. The law strengthens child protection through establishment of Units for Protection of Children's Rights at the local level and coordination with a number of stakeholders in various areas. It also sets legal obligations for institutional cooperation and coordination at both central and local levels of government. It established the National Council for Protection of Children's Rights (NCPCR), and an advisory body to the Council of Ministers.

The Social Protection Sector Strategy (2007-2013) covers social protection policies, which aim to improve targeting of cash benefits, decentralization of social services, and further institutionalization of the relationship with CSOs. Some of the strategy's priorities include a move towards community-based services establishing community-based alternatives to residential care services. Furthermore, they include an increase of variety and geography of services based on the needs of the community, as well as an increase of local government involvement in terms of planning and delivery of social services. The role of local government in financing and guaranteeing sustainability and continuity of services is supposed to increase. The strategy calls for drafting, implementation, monitoring, and improving of standards of services for all groups in need to insure better quality and more efficient services. This includes respecting the rights of groups in need and in particular children, people with disabilities and the elderly, as well as promoting the involvement of social business practices in financing and delivering community services. It should be noted that the implementation period of the strategy has been reached and there is a new strategy currently being developed.

The Social Care Decentralization Framework and Action Plan aims at establishing a sustainable nationwide social care service system. One of the major challenges is

4. The "Observatory for Children's Rights" is an initiative between UNICEF Albania and the "Albanian Children Alliance", which has built up its mechanisms to collect information and to observe the situation of children's rights in regional level in all the regions of Albania. It is a structure of the civil society, which functions as a platform for opinion disclosures and new commitments, and as exchange of experiences between different local institutions and organizations. The project has been implemented since March 2009. The Observatory for Children's Rights has offices in 12 Regions of Albania. The information collected on the field and all the studies are put into service of the institutions, organizations and all interested individuals. Annual reports are produced which describe the situation of children's rights in Albania. These issues are under monitoring of the structures of the European Union and are part of the Albanian progress reports.

the social welfare reform as well as other complementary socio-economic policies to ensure reduction or elimination of disparities and tailor policies to the specific needs of children.

The Social Inclusion Cross-Cutting Strategy (2007-2013) focused on crosscutting strategies regarding poverty and social exclusion. It described strategies to assist vulnerable families and groups in the community paying special attention to vulnerable groups, such as children at risk, children with disabilities and Roma. It did so by setting targets in raising income, increasing access to services.

The GoA Action Plan for Children (2012-2015) focuses on issues regarding institutional structures and design to monitor and report on children's rights. Its provisions push forward legislative and institutional reforms that ensure a protective and inclusive environment for children. In addition, the Action Plan also aims to promote, coordinate and harmonize policies that are inclusive on children's protection and social inclusion. In this respect, the State Agency for Protection of Children's Rights was established in 2011, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the law and ensuring coordination of future strategies and policies in child rights. It also provides technical support to local government units, central government and CSOs involved with children's rights. It coordinates with central and local bodies to draft reports, submit information and statistics on the implementation of children's rights in Albania.

Household expenditures on education

Increasing public investment for children requires a dynamic analysis confined not only to budgetary and governmental analysis, but also within the household, as well as assess children's socio-economic situation. In this respect, allocation of education expenditures by households gives insights regarding categories that require the majority of expenditures, or are allocated the majority of resources by the household. This can serve to give an indication to policy makers regarding particular provisions that they may undertake in their budgeting or public provision analysis.

In regards to monthly education expenditures by households, overall, monthly education expenditures are greater for urban areas compared to rural areas (Table 1). Furthermore, urban areas have higher household monthly education expenditures on fees⁵, whereas rural areas have higher transportation expenditures. Lodging expenditures also occupy a larger portion of monthly education expenditures by households in both urban and rural areas. These findings reinforce the existence of different socio-economic conditions between urban and rural areas. Despite differences in cost of living between the two areas, which may explain differences in fees it also points to differences in returns to education between the areas and thus parents' decision on their children's education. On the other hand, since rural areas may be in more remote places and have a smaller number of schools, they may require more transportation for their children, hence higher education expenditures on this item. Consequently, there may be a need for public provision of transportation for rural children to relief the households from the higher expenditures as well as give

5. Fees may include any sort of money paid to the school for various functions. It may also include school fees for private institutions.

incentives and possibilities to parents in rural areas to send their children to school.

Preschool expenditures are another main item in terms of monthly household expenditures in both urban and rural areas. Similar to other education expenditures they are greater for urban areas. Besides what is mentioned earlier in terms of standards and cost of living differences between the two areas, households in rural areas may rely more on other household members to take care of their children of preschool age, which may not be the case for households in urban households. On the other hand it may also be the case that in rural areas, households have to rely on family members help to take care of little children in absence of child-care services. This may be another area that may require investment in terms of public provision by the state.

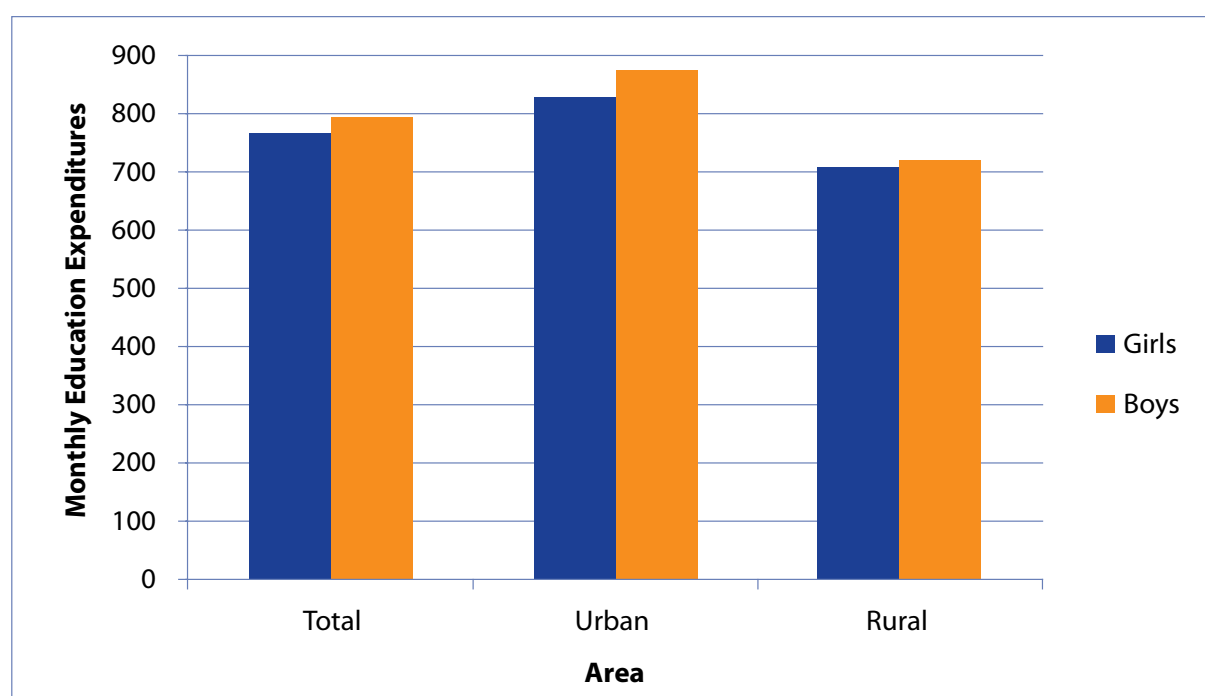
There is no clear evidence of differences at the household level in educational expenditures between boys and girls (Figure 3). Although overall boys have slightly larger educational expenditures the difference is quite trivial. The difference appears somewhat larger in urban areas, however it still remains very little (47.2 ALL/month). This is consistent with earlier findings by Miluka (2011⁶), where households do not differentiate between boys and girls in terms of educational expenditures once they decide to send their children to school, rather the differentiating mechanism is the decision of whether or not to send their children to school. Lastly, although at prima fascia educational expenditures for boys and girls appear to be quite the same, they may look different if we take into account different needs of the sexes. This however, remains subject to further studies with this specific focus.

Table 1: Monthly Education Expenditures by Households

	All	Urban	Rural
Preschool fees and tuition	2221.53	2476.22	1276.63
Preschool total fees, gifts, and services	2264.11	2512.77	1341.62
Transportation	1135.23	976.94	1332.20
Fees	1147.53	1339.64	908.47
Uniforms	115.16	121.07	107.80
Textbook	690.15	717.60	655.99
Supplementary textbook	64.40	83.18	41.03
Material	188.01	194.53	179.89
Lodging	1036.76	1036.72	1036.81
Excursion	129.75	136.30	121.60
Tutor	225.90	308.78	122.75
Gift	12.46	10.87	14.45
Other	172.12	181.37	160.60
Total Education Expenditures	3493.90	3747.20	3178.60

Source: LSMS 2012

6. Miluka, J. (2011). Education, Migration, and Labour Markets in Albania: A Gender Perspective. Proquest, Umi Dissertation Publishing. ISBN-10: 1243607211.

Figure 3: Monthly education expenditures by sex and area

Source: LSMS 2012

It is apparent that monthly education expenditures of households increase with child's age (Table 2). Children of school age between the ages of 6 to 14 require higher expenditures in terms of transportation, fees, uniforms, textbooks, materials, lodging, excursions, etc. compared to preschool age children. It is evident that as the child grows up, so do education expenditures since there are increased needs. Therefore, public provision should take into account age composition of children in order to direct public investment accordingly, since children of different ages have different needs and different financial constraints on the households. Furthermore, since education expenditures increase with age, parents of fewer incomes may face a decision of whether to continue sending their children into school or into labour. Consequently, it is essential to understand structure of children's age and education expenditure allocation within the households prior to taking public decisions on budgetary allocation for public investment.

Table 2: Monthly Education Expenditures by Children's Age Groups

	Children ages 0-5	Children ages 6-14
Preschool fees and tuition	395.98	
Preschool total fees, gifts, and services	409.25	
Transportation	236.42	697.29
Fees	276.86	464.75
Uniforms	46.04	114.38
Textbook	228.33	554.47
Supplementary textbook	20.16	52.34
Material	59.45	171.78
Lodging	100.48	502.31

Excursion	28.55	106.91
Tutor	21.20	178.43
Gift	3.52	10.70
Other	58.99	125.52
Total Education Expenditures	1059.89	2111.26

Source: LSMS 2012

Monthly household education expenditures by prefecture and children's age show that the prefectures of Berat, Kukes and Korce have the highest values (Table 3). The majority of these expenditures are allocated to children of ages 6 to 14 in Berat and children of ages 0-5 in the other two prefectures. Higher monthly education expenditures in the prefecture of Kukes, which is among the poorest in the country, may be as result of higher number of children in this area. Similarly, the prefecture of Diber also is another prefecture with high monthly household education expenditures. In this respect, higher monthly education expenditures among poorer prefectures may warn against the higher financial burden placed on households due to large number of preschool age children, which is sustained by higher monthly education expenditures of these prefectures for preschool age children. These areas may be in need or more public provision for preschool children.

Table 3: Monthly Education Expenditures by Prefecture and Children's Age Groups

Prefectures	All	Children ages 0-5	Children ages 6-14
Berat	5457.996	1640.51	3346.561
Diber	3790.396	3289.678	2508.226
Durres	2982.889	1858.661	2004.777
Elbasan	3580.65	1394.306	2117.259
Fier	3924.482	889.9474	2302.981
Gjirokaster	3940.009	1064.422	2250.854
Korce	4083.824	4080.304	2187.85
Kukes	4135.439	2647.228	2498.998
Lezhe	3620.403	1101.854	2847.447
Shkoder	2698.135	1765.296	1736.338
Tirane	2968.616	2055.616	2123.886
Vlore	3145.048	3352.904	2391.905

Source: LSMS 2012

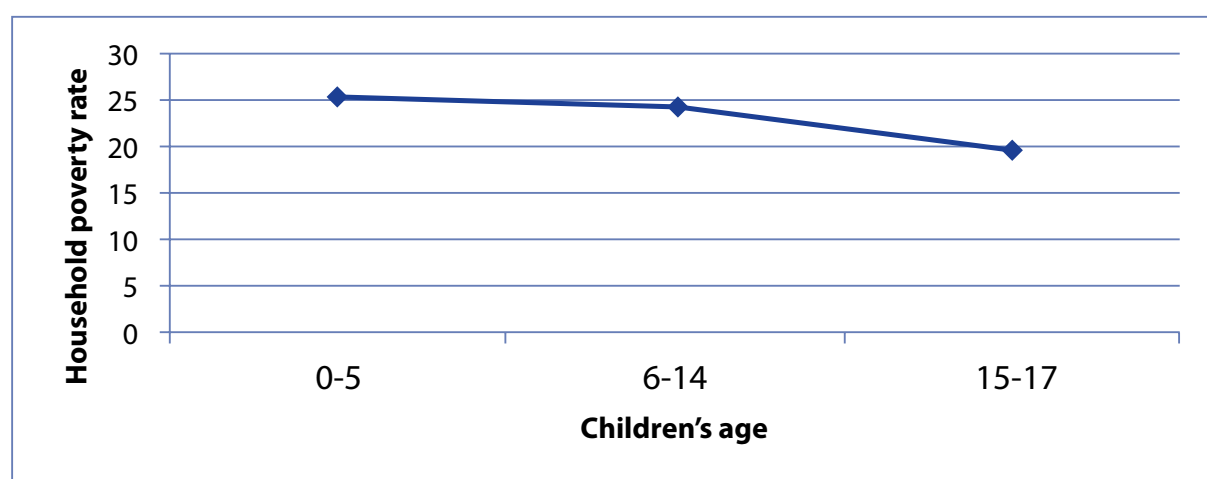
Social inclusion

Household poverty⁷ level appears to go down as children's age increases (Figure 4). Households with children between the ages of 0-5 have the higher poverty levels, whereas households with children between the ages of 15-17 have the smallest poverty level. Younger children are dependent on their parents and therefore they use household resources without contributing to them, whereas older children may

7. Poverty line is set at real per capita consumption of 4,891 ALL per month with 2002 prices.

contribute to household labour or may be sent out to work. The poorer the household the more prone it is to send out children to work as to relax budget constraints and increase household income, which on the other hand may be used for younger children. Therefore school-age children of poorer household are at a greater risk to be left out of the education system and work inside or outside of home. Provisions are required for poorer households as to minimize the risk of sending their children out to work. The data, which shows households with older children having lower poverty levels, may be indicative of children going to work as to reduce household poverty. It may also be that parents with smaller children stay at home to take care of the children, especially women, whereas those with other children work. On the other hand, households with younger children are more vulnerable to poverty and may later on also send their children to work. Therefore, household demographics and composition is essential to allocating public provisions.

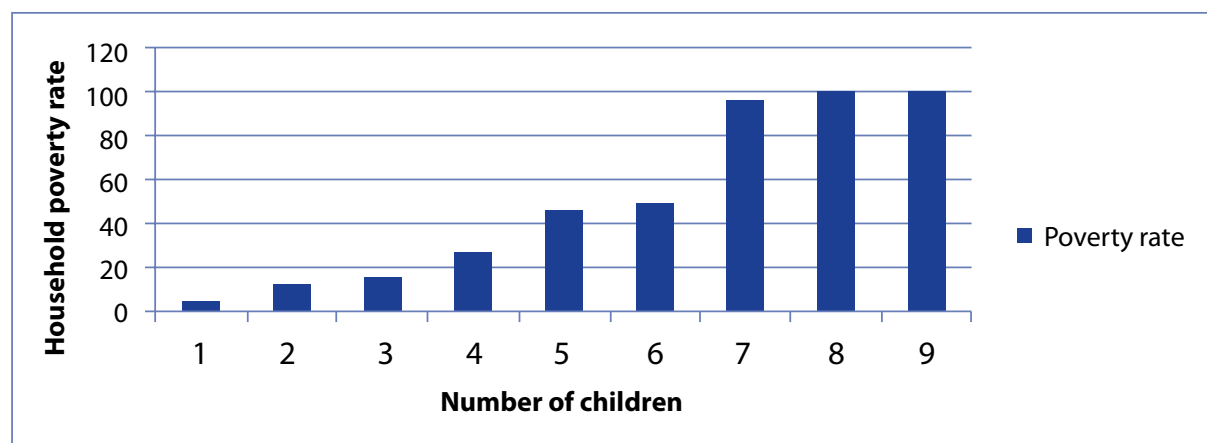
Figure 4: Poverty Rate by Age of Children



Source: LSMS 2012

Evidently, as number of children increases, the poverty level of the household increases (Figure 5 and Table 4). Larger households require larger resources, or require that existing resources are dividing among a larger number of persons. On the other hand,

Figure 5: Household poverty rate by number of children



Source: LSMS 2012

as mentioned earlier, larger households may have a larger number of dependent children therefore further constraining financial resources of the household. This points into the need of public provision in terms of day-care or other facilities and social support for young children so that mothers who are mainly the primary child-care giver may join the labour market and contribute to household income. Incentives should be provided so that more women join the labour market instead of having to send their children out. This requires an interaction and coordination of various policy-making bodies as to provide incentives that improve household livelihoods and consequently children's well being.

Symptomatic of what was discussed earlier, households with larger number of children that have larger poverty rates also tend to have lower levels of educational of the household head (Table 4). The problem is dynamic: on the one hand, the less educated the head of household and consequently the less educated the household, the larger the incidence of being poor, and therefore the higher the incidence of being less educated. On the other hand, less educated households tend to have more children thus increasing their incidence of being poor as well as sending their children to work as a way to increase poverty. This negatively affects education and increases the chances of becoming or remaining poor. As a result there is a need for public provisions as to increase levels of education, decrease child labour, and improve livelihoods.

Table 4: Child Poverty linked to education

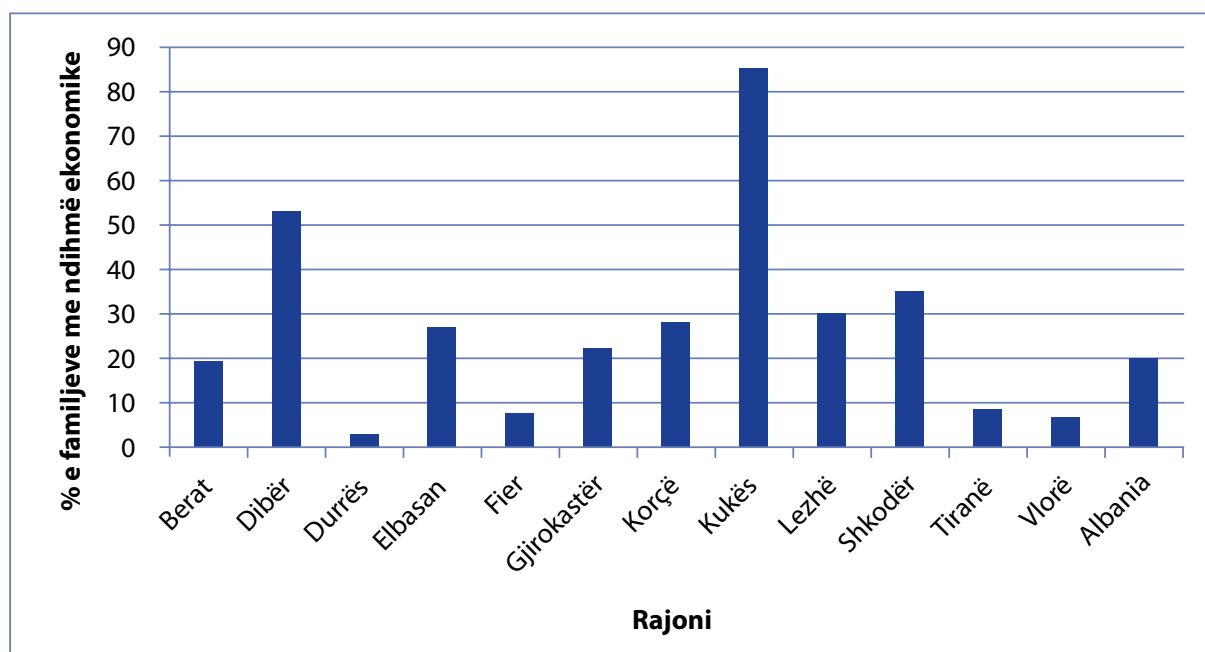
Number of children	Poverty rate	Education of head	Household size
0	4.5	10.0	3
1	12.29	10.3	4
2	15.39	10.1	5
3	27.36	9.7	6
4	45.79	8.7	7
5	49.77	7.9	8
6	96.33	10.3	10
7	100	8	9
8	100	12	16

Source: LSMS 2012

The vulnerability of households with children to poverty is also confirmed by the percentage of households with children under the age of 18 that receive economic aid (Figure 6). Approximately one fifth of households with children under the age of 18 receive economic aid. Regional differences are quite apparent. Kukes has the by far the largest percentage of households with children under the age of 18 receiving economic aid. The level in Kukes exceeds 85%. The next highest region is Diber with levels exceeding 50% followed by Shkoder and Lezhe with approximately 35% and 30%, respectively. The lowest levels are found in Durres, Vlore, Fier and Tirane. Regions with higher overall poverty rates tend to also have higher percentages of households with children receiving economic aid. In fact, the regions of Kukes, Lezhe, Diber and Shkoder are among the regions with highest poverty rates in the country. Poverty rates in Kukes are the highest in the country reaching 21.8%. Likewise they

are also high for Lezhe, reaching 17.5% followed by Shkoder 15.7% and Diber 13.0%⁸. This shows that having dependent children increases the likelihood of households falling into poverty.

Figure 6: Households with children under the age of 18 years receiving economic aid



Source: INSTAT, 2011 Census

Poverty in the households may lead children to be more prone of committing crimes. The percentage of children being charged compared to the total population is 8.21%. Boys have the vast majority of charges of 9.33% compared to the total population. 99 Girls on the other hand, have very insignificant percentage of charges of 0.94%. Out of 1,437 children who have committed crimes in 2013, the majority of serious crimes totalling to 227 cases are as a result of crimes related to drugs amounting to 133 cases. Regional differences show bigger cities have the highest numbers of drug crimes. The largest numbers of 69 cases of drug crimes are registered in Tirana, and the next highest of 12 cases are registered in Durres. It is obvious that there are large differences between Tirana and the other regions. This may come as a result of Tirana being the most populated area, with high migration inflows and socio-economic disparities between the center locations and peripheral areas. The demographics of the city are quite diverse in different locations.

Child Labour and Education

Household poverty as well as inability in terms of resources and transportation to send children to school, may affect parent's decision to send their children into labour. In developing countries children are often used as complementary labour to the household as a way to increase household income. If parents cannot afford to send children to school they will substitute by sending children out into labour. Therefore, it

8. Source: 2012 LSMS.

is very important to look into labour market statistics for working children as to provide a clear view in terms of where investment and public provision is needed for children so that they may substitute labour for education.

Boys of all ages (5-17) have a higher employment and labour force participation (Table 5). As expected, as age increases so does employment rate and labour force participation. Boys between the ages of 15-17 have the highest employment and labour force participation rate, 20.7% and 22.5% respectively. Girls of this same age-group on the other hand have an employment rate of 13.1% and labour force participation of 14.5%. This indicates that boys may be more prone to become working children or partake in child labour. Adhering to traditional roles, it may also be related to the fact that girls may contribute more to labour inside the household, whereas boys are sent out. Any sort of investment should take these dynamics into account.

Table 5: Distribution of boys and girls by age and labour status

	Ages 5 - 17		Ages 5 - 11		Ages 12 - 14		Ages 15 - 17	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Child population	357,800	340,800	189,700	164,600	79,600	84,000	88,500	92,100
Employed	32,400	21,600	5,400	3,000	8,700	6,600	18,300	12,000
Labour force*	34,000	23,000	5,400	3,000	8,700	6,600	19,900	13,400
Employment rate (%)	9.1	6.3	2.9	1.8	10.9	7.9	20.7	13.1
LFPR (%)**	9.5	6.7	2.9	1.8	10.9	7.9	22.5	14.5

*The labour force includes both employed and unemployed individuals: however, unemployment is recorded only for children ages 15 - 17

**LFPR: Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR).

Source: National Child Labour Survey 2010

Children mainly partake in agriculture (Table 6). Eighty percent of all employed children are engaged in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing. Girls' involvement is somewhat higher than boys in this activity. This may be related to their large participation in unpaid family labour (Table 7). Division by status of employment shows that 93.4% of employed girls work in unpaid family labour. Boys participation in this activity is also quite considerable, 87.2%, but less than girls. This is quite significant since it shows that girls and boys are put into their roles quite early. The onset of employment patterns follows them throughout their lives, where women are mainly found in unpaid family labour. It may also have further implications for children in rural areas since they mainly deal with agriculture. Consequently it calls for attention regarding educational opportunities for children and further provisions for those living in rural areas.

There is also some activity of employed children as wholesale and retail trade, which may mainly be related to children's selling in the streets. This activity often times takes them away from schools, or educational activities and doing homework. Consequently, information on children's activities in employment serves to tailor policies that secure and increase children's rights and takes them away from child labour and places them into the educational system.

Table 6: Distribution of children in employment by economic activity

Economic activity (NACE rev. 1.1)	All	Boys	Girls
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	43,200 80.0%	25,200 77.8%	18,000 83.3%
Manufacturing	1,000 1.8%	600 2.0%	400 1.6%
Electricity, gas, water	200 0.3%	200 0.5%	0 0.0%
Construction	1,100 2.0%	1,000 3.1	100 0.5%
Wholesale and retail trade	4,400 8.2%	2,600 8.1%	1,800 8.4%
Hotels and restaurants	2,200 4.1%	1,700 5.1%	600 2.6%
Transport, storage and communication	500 1.0%	200 0.7%	300 1.4%
Other activities	200 0.6%	0 0.0%	200 1.1%
Not classified (fetching water, helping at home)	1,200 2.1%	900 2.8%	300 1.2%
Total number of employed children	54,000	32,400	21,600

Source: National Child Labour Survey 20

Table 7: Distribution of boys and girls by status in employment

Status in employment	All	Boys	Girls
Wage worker (employee)	3,100 5.8%	25,200 77.8%	18,000 83.3%
Own-account worker	2,500 4.6%	600 2.0%	400 1.6%
Unpaid family worker	48,400 89.7%	200 0.5%	0 0.0%
Total number of employed children	54,000	32,400	21,600

Source: National Child Labour Survey 2010

Time in employment takes away from time in school (Table 8). Children who are not working are close to 100% school attendance. School attendance rates are the lowest for child labourers between the ages of 15-17. Time use patterns of boys and girls ages 6-17 show that girls who are in school are much more involved in unpaid household services compared to boys (Table 9). Girls reach 43.0% compared to 28.1% for boys. These patterns continue throughout their lives and show the importance of setting roles inside and outside of the household on an early age. Differences within the household are then carried out of the household and mark their position in the labour market in the future. Boys also have a higher percentage of their time in school only compared to girls. The difference is mainly due to girls' higher involvement in both school and unpaid household services. Therefore, gender differences between boys and girls should be taken into account when designing policy and having public

investment since it may affect them differently. Public investments should induce equality and equal opportunity in benefiting from them.

Table 8: School attendance of working and non-working children by age

School attendance	Ages 5 - 17		Ages 5 - 11		Ages 12 - 14		Ages 15 - 17	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Working children	28,400	16,600	5,500	3,000	10,100	6,700	12,700	7,000
	79.9%	73.7%	100%	96.5%	94.8%	96.3%	65.9%	55.8%
Child labourers	18,600	10,600	5,500	3,000	7,900	5,100	5,100	2,600
	79.2%	81.3%	100%	96.5%	95.3%	95.2%	53.4%	55.3%
Not working	300,500	293,000	169,400	150,000	67,300	74,600	63,700	68,800
	93.2%	92.3%	92%	93.1%	97.6%	96.7%	92.1%	86.4%

Source: National Child Labour Survey 2010

Table 9: Time use patterns of boys and girls ages 6-17

	All	Boys	Girls
School + Employed + Unpaid household services	28,200	14,800	13,400
	4.3%	4.4%	4.2%
School + Employed	12,500	10,500	2,000
	1.9%	3.1%	0.6%
School + Unpaid household services	232,300	94,100	138,300
	35.4%	28.1%	43.0%
Employed + Unpaid household services	9,400	3,900	5,500
	1.4%	1.2%	1.7%
School only	329,600	188,700	140,900
	50.2%	56.4%	43.8%
Employed only	3,900	3,200	700
	0.6%	1.0%	0.2%
Unpaid household services only	15,400	3,200	12,200
	2.3%	1.0%	3.8%
Inactive (Idle)	24,800	16,400	8,400
	3.8%	4.9%	2.6%
Total number of children aged 6 - 17	656,100	334,800	321,300

Source: National Child Labour Survey 2010

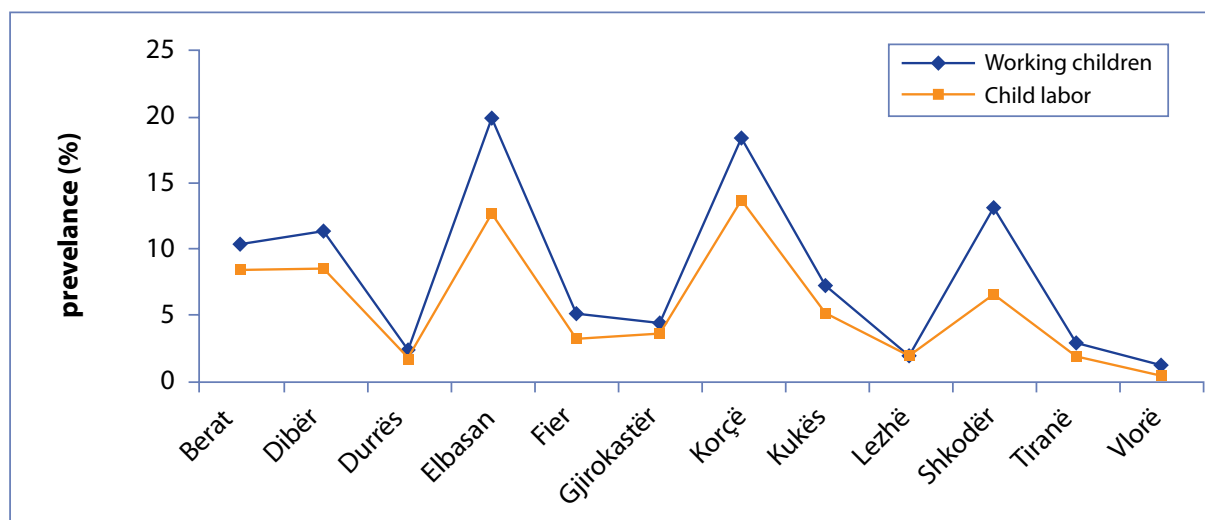
Lastly, there are more working children than child labourers⁹ (Figure 7). The prefectures of Elbasan, Korce and Shkoder have the highest rates of working children and child

9. **Children (aged 5-17) are defined as working** (or employed) if they worked for at least one hour during the reference period or if they had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent. The UN System of National Accounts (SNA) delineates what is and what is not an economic activity. Broadly speaking, all market-oriented activities, production for own-consumption and certain services rendered for and by household members (such as major household repairs, fetching water or carrying firewood for household use) are considered to be economic activities, and those engaged in them are considered to be employed.

Child labour in Albania is defined as children who are engaged in work unsuitable for their capacities as children or in work that may jeopardize their health, education or moral development. The national definition is based on ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age (1973) and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The minimum age for employment in Albania is 16 years; however, children aged 14 to 15 years can work during school holidays provided this employment does not negatively affect their development (Albanian Labour Code, Article 98).

labourers. The prefectures of Durrës, Fier, Gjirokaster, Lezhe, Tirane, and Vlore have the lowest rates of working children and child labourers. A further look is needed for these regions to investigate the underlying causes of high rates of working children and child labourers that go beyond the relation with the regional poverty rates.

Figure 7: Prevalence of child work and child labour by region

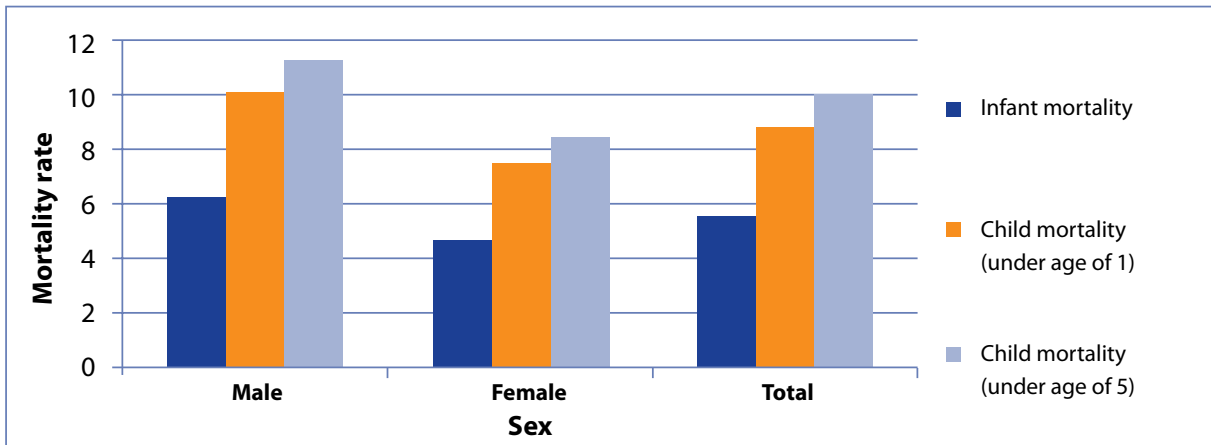


Source: National Child Labour Survey 2010

Child health

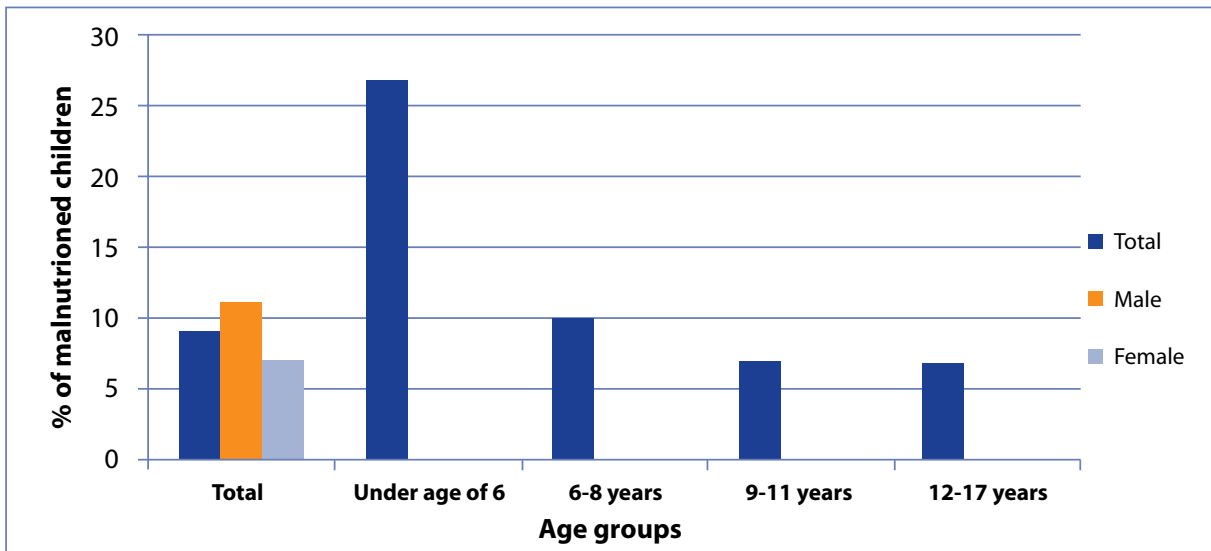
There are gender differences as well as differences by age groups of children in terms of health statistics. The best results appear in terms of immunization. In 2013 statistics from the Ministry of Health show that immunization rates come close to 100%. On the other hand, 71.2% of children with acute respiratory disease and 61.0% of children with diarrhea do get treated in health care facilities.

Child mortality appears relatively high for children under the age of five. Mortality rates for this age group approach 10%. The rates go down to approximately 9% for children up to one year of age, and further down to almost 6% for infants (Figure 8). Although these trends are maintained for both sexes, in each age-group boys have higher mortality rates compared to girls. The largest differences are for the older age groups.

Figure 8: Mortality rates by sex

Source: Ministry of Health, 2013

Malnutrition rates¹⁰, which are also, connected to household social and economic well-being display large differences among age groups (Figure 9). Gender differences are also present in terms of malnutrition. By far, the age-group under the age of 6 has the highest malnutrition rates. This rate reaches 27%. Malnutrition rates fall as the age of children increases. These differences are much lower compared to the differences with children under the age of 6. They range between 7 to 10%. The overwhelmingly higher percentage of malnutrition for children under the age of 6 may be linked to higher poverty rates and vulnerability to poverty of households with younger children. Likewise, older children may have more ways to get fed outside of the household as well as joining the labour market and providing for themselves. Malnutrition of children should be taken very seriously since it affects their educational performance in addition to direct negative implications to their health.

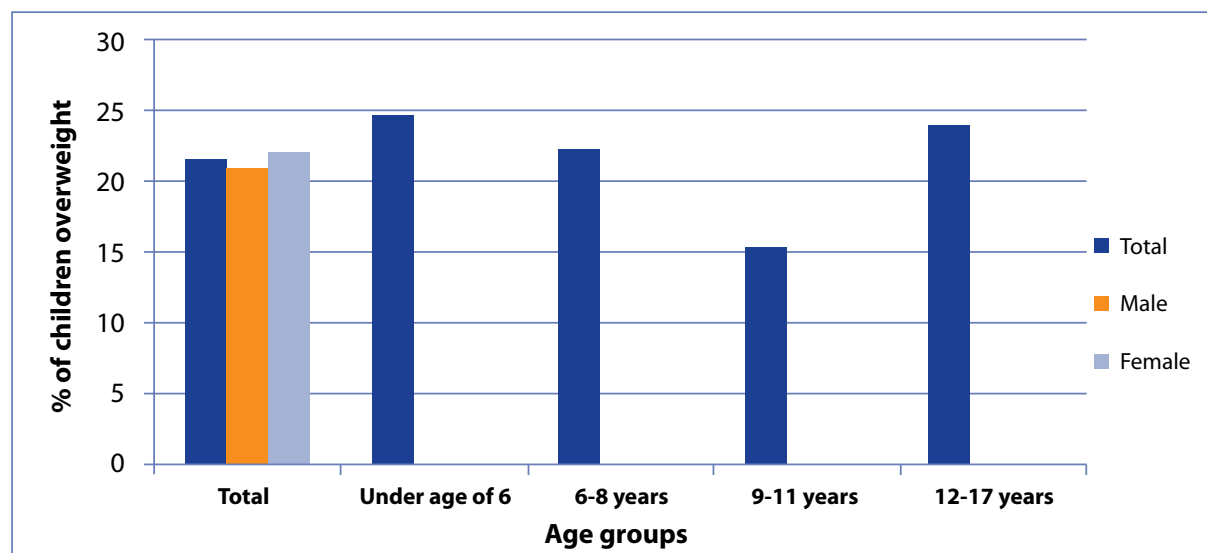
Figure 9: Percentage of malnutrition children

Source: Ministry of Health, 2013

10. Ministry of Health.

Overweight children are just as concerning, however statistics show less gender differences and differences by age-groups (Figure 10). Overweight tendencies are also linked to malnutrition and households socio-economic conditions. The percentage of overweight children approaches 22%. That means that 22 children out of 100 are overweight. Boys are slightly less overweight than girls. The age-group of children under the age of 6 and the age-group of children between the ages of 12-17 years have the highest overweight rates. The age-group of children between the ages of 9-11 years has the lowest rates of overweight.

Figure 10: Percentage of children overweight



Source: Ministry of Health, 2013

3. Public spending vs Children rights

This chapter reviews the policy and fiscal expenditure of the government of Albania, highlighting an interpretation of the impact of fiscal policy targeted at children. It begins with a description of Ministries and other public bodies whose mandate wholly or partially address child-related policy issues and expenditure. The ministries and sectors analysed for the purposes of this study include the following ministries with child-related expenditures:

- **Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth**

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth is the main Ministry responsible for coordinating the implementation of the government's social development objectives. This Ministry leads the social protection programme, which includes the cash benefit programmes on poverty alleviation (Social Assistance/Ndihma Ekonomike); as well as the disability benefit programme which is a categorical benefit. Social care services are also part of the social protection programme, including residential and day-care services for different categories of beneficiaries. The majority of these services are managed and/or delivered by local government units, but the Ministry of Social Welfare is in charge of policy as well as financing a large majority of these services.

The National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, under MSWY is a coordinating institution that is in charge of monitoring and ensuring respect of children rights. The budgetary programmes under the MSWY that are most relevant for children are the social protection programme and the social inclusion programme. The other programmes in the MSWY have not been analysed thoroughly in this report. These include the social insurance programme, which provides pensions and supplementary benefits. The social insurance programme delivered through the Social Insurance Institute (SII) also provides maternity and benefits to contributory women on maternity leave. The employment and VET programmes do not have direct linkages to children rights, given that they address the adult population. Indirectly however these programmes may benefit to the overall well-being of families (both through active and passive labour market measures).

- **Ministry of Education and Sports**

The Ministry of Education and Sports (MES) is responsible for education policies and delivery of education services in the country. Local government units have the responsibility of school facility maintenance and capital improvements in the pre-university schooling system, while the Ministry of Education is responsible for the management of the content of the education process, including curricula and teachers.

The study has analysed the programmes of primary and secondary education where children aged 3-18 are enrolled. Tertiary education has not been included in the study. The secondary vocational education programme was transferred under the responsibility of the MSWY starting from the budget year 2015, but it has been analysed as part of the education sector in this programme.

• **Ministry of Health**

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is responsible for health policies and finances a large share of public expenditures in the health sector. Expenditures are co-financed by the Health Insurance Institute (HII), a compulsory health insurance scheme for the active population. The most relevant programmes in the health sector are primary healthcare and public healthcare services, which affect the largest share of young population. Secondary healthcare services are also used by children but typically at lower rates and the latter have not been included in the study given the difficulty to obtain data on the number of children receiving services.

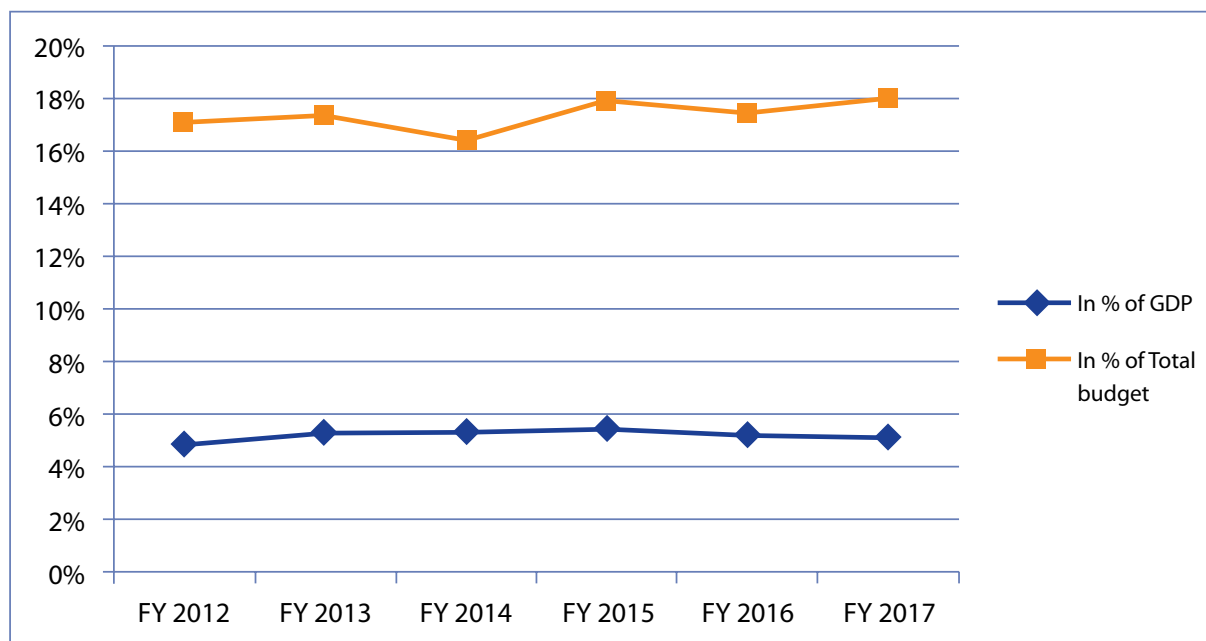
• **Ministry of Justice**

The Ministry of Justice controls the juvenile justice measures, including the probation service and correction facilities for young offenders. Other institutions involved in dealing with children in conflict with the law include police, prosecutor's office, and the judiciary. The Ministry of Justice controls the General Directorate of Detention Facilities and the Probation Service.

Brief sector budget analysis

Share in GDP and total public spending

This review has looked at budget data from four different sectors: Education, Health, Social policy and social protection, as well as Juvenile Justice, drawing on the four main pillars of the National Plan of Action on Children 2012 – 2015. The budget for the sector reaches 75 billion lek in 2014 (535 million Euros), marking an increase of 16.7% as compared with the sector budget for 2012. The share of the sector budget in GDP has increased from 4.8% in 2012, to 5.3% in 2014. The relative weight of the sector is expected to remain at steady levels (5.1% of GDP by 2017). The weight of the sector in overall public spending has slightly declined between 2012 and 2014, as sector expenditures grew at a slower pace than the overall budget. According to the MTBP 2015 – 2017, sector expenditures will account for about 18% of the total budget in 2017.

Figure 11: Share of spending in children related sectors in GDP and total Public expenditures

Source: Ministry of Finance, line ministries, MTBP 2015 - 2017

Composition of sector expenditures

The budget sector is dominated by education expenditure, which account for about 44% of the overall budget in the FY 2013 – 2014 and have been projected to remain at similar levels in the medium term. The second largest budget programme is social protection, with a relative weight of 32-33% in the overall budget in FY 2012, 2013 (outturn) and 2014 (revisited budget). However, the share of the social protection sector in the sector budget is expected to decrease both in nominal terms and as a share of total sector spending in 2015 – 2017; to about 26% in the 2015 – 2017 period. The size of spending in the health sector is expected to substantially increase

Table 10: Composition of sector spending by programmes, 2012 – 2014 and MTBP 2015-2017

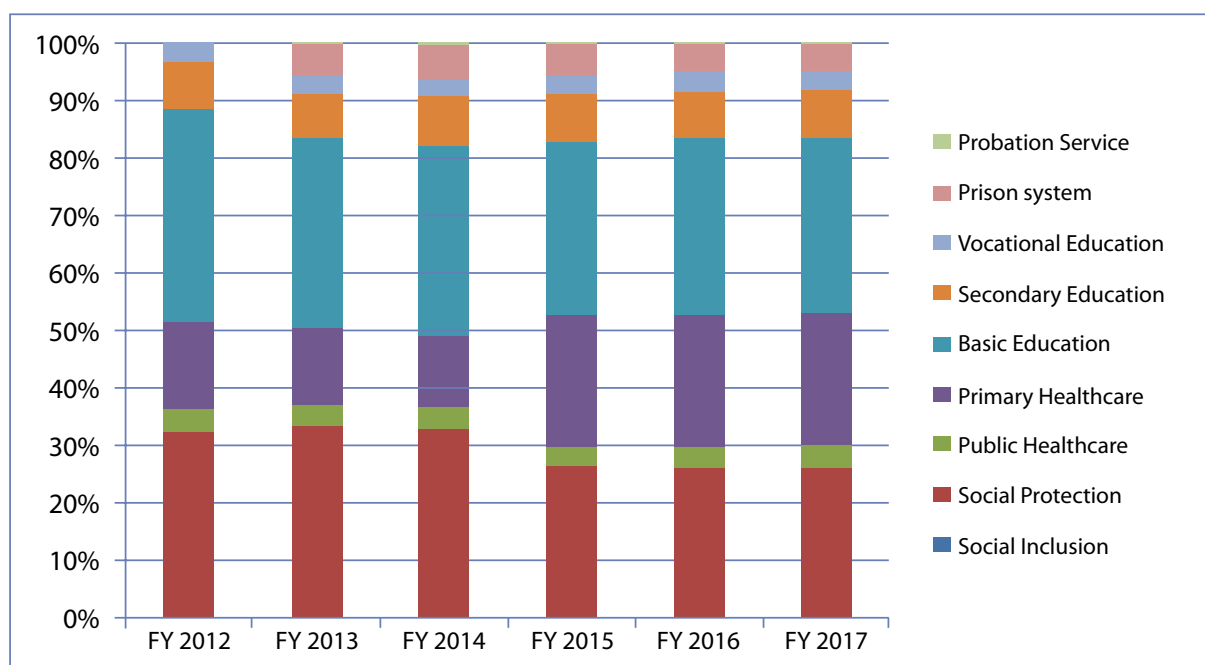
	Fy 2012	Fy 2013	Fy 2014	Fy 2015	Fy 2016	Fy 2017
Social Inclusion	23	139	36	34	34	35
Social Protection	20,705	23,647	24,703	21,741	21,768	22,970
Public healthcare	2,443	2,489	2,584	2,755	3,104	3,282
Primary healthcare	9,980	9,700	9,305	19,003	19,272	20,225
Basic education	23,707	23,603	24,950	24,948	26,100	27,125
Secondary education	5,158	5,494	6,398	6,899	6,705	7,161
Vocational Education	2,255	2,360	2,193	2,757	2,943	3,079
Prison system**	-	3,715	4,703	4,376	3,999	3,999
Probation Service *	-	101	106	166	176	176
Total	64,271	71,248	74,978	82,678	84,102	88,052

* Data for 2012 not available.

Source: Ministry of Finance, line ministries

both in nominal terms as well as in relative weight: spending in primary healthcare will account for approximately 23% of total expenditures in the 2015 – 2017 period, following the downward trend it had experienced in the recent years.

Figure 12: Composition of sector budget by programmes, 2012 – 2017



Source: Ministry of Finance, line ministries

Children share of spending

Estimating the children's share of public expenditures requires collecting data from multiple sources. A series of assumptions have been made at the start of this assignment. Programmes that were included in the review include only programs that benefit children directly, or benefit the households also because of the presence of children. Some programs devote all their resources to children, while other programs allocate funds to children as well as adults. Estimating the portions of programs that go specifically to children has been based on the following methods:

- For programs that serve children only, we assume 100 percent of program expenditures (benefits and associated administrative costs) go to children. This includes the programmes of basic and secondary education.
- For programs that provide direct services to children and adults), we calculate the percentage of program expenditures that go to children. This includes the programs of healthcare and public health. Because we do not have detailed data on the usage of services by children as opposed to adults, we have allocated to children a share of total expenditures that is equal to the weight of children in the overall population (approximately 30%).
- For programs that provide benefits to families with children, we

- For other programs where benefits are provided to families without any delineation of parents' and children's shares, we generally estimate a children's share based on the number of children and adults in the family and assuming equal benefits per capita within the family (e.g., TANF, SNAP, housing).

We put significant effort into estimating the portions of large programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or SSI, that go just to children. For these calculations, the most frequently used data sources are unpublished tabulations of survey and administrative data generated by the authors or other researchers at the Urban Institute (including tabulations generated by the Transfer Income Model) and reports from the agencies that administer the programs. In some cases, we scour government web sites or contact federal agency staff directly to obtain program participation information. Further information is provided in the data appendix.

Table 11 Spending on children in the four sectors 2012 - 2017

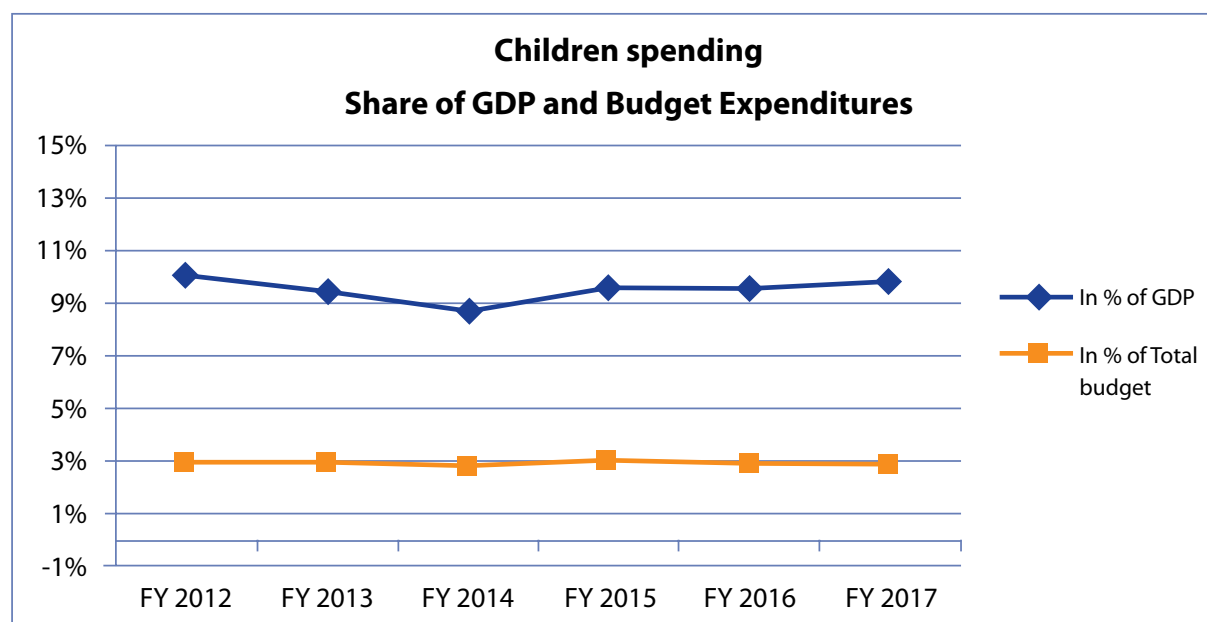
	Fy 2012	Fy 2013	Fy 2014	Fy 2015	Fy 2016	Fy 2017
Social Inclusion	23	139	36	34	34	35
Social Protection	2,878	3,345	2,141	3,342	3,390	3,553
Public healthcare	733	747	775	826	931	985
Primary healthcare	2,994	2,910	2,792	5,701	5,782	6,068
Basic education	23,707	23,603	24,950	24,948	26,100	27,125
Secondary education	5,158	5,494	6,398	6,899	6,705	7,161
Vocational Education	2,255	2,360	2,193	2,757	2,943	3,079
Prison system*	-	68.35	86.54	80.53	73.59	73.59
Probation Service*	-	4.41	4.62	7.23	7.66	7.66
Total	37,748	38,670	39,375	44,595	45,966	48,086
Children share of sector	58.7%	54.3%	52.5%	53.9%	54.7%	54.6%

* Data for 2012 not available.

Source: Ministry of Finance, MTBP 2015 – 2017, line ministries

Table 11 indicates the share of direct spending on children in the overall budget programmes that have been included in the analysis. Data indicates that spending on children is increasing in nominal terms. 2% more funds have been spent on average on children in the given budget programmes. The overall share of spending on children in the total budget programmes has however declined from 58.7% in 2012, to 52.5% in 2014. The weight of direct spending on children has been projected to increase again starting from 2015. The weight of children spending in the selected budget programmes is forecasted to be about 54.6% in 2017, at still lower levels than in 2012.

The weight of children spending to GDP will decline from 2.8% and 3% respectively in 2014 and 2015 back to about 2.8% of GDP by 2017 despite the increase in nominal terms, given that GDP is forecasted to grow at a faster rate than spending on children.

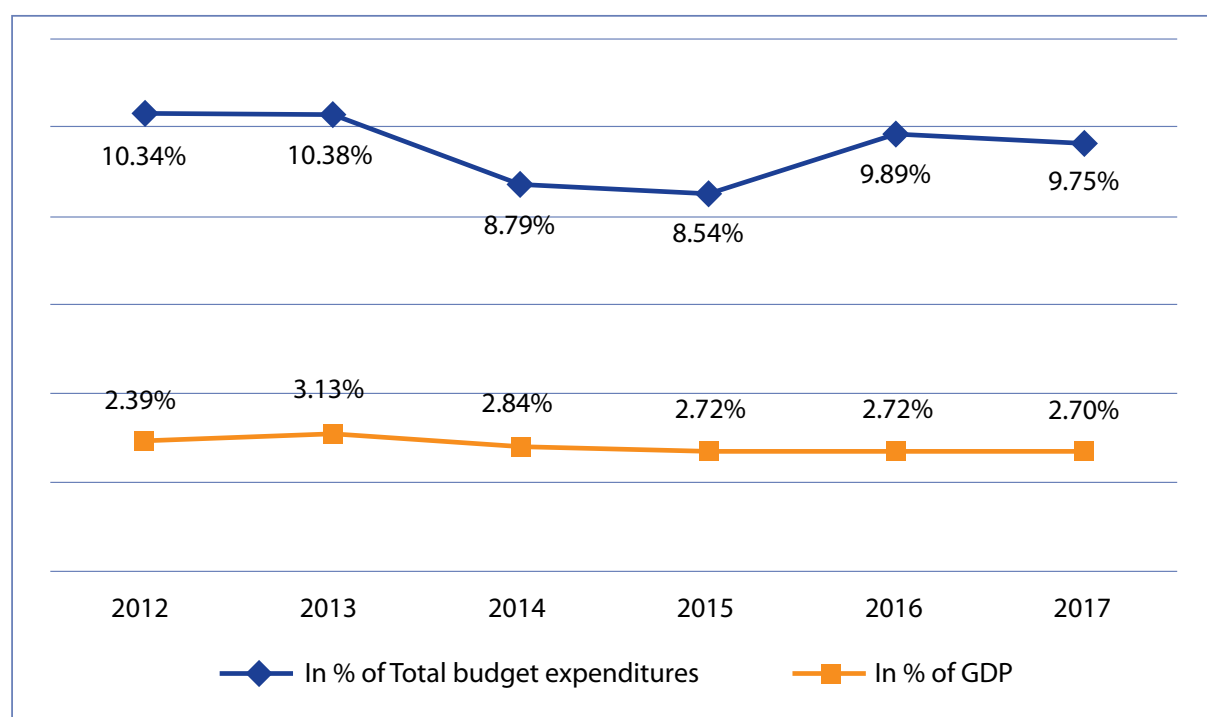
Figure 13 Share of GDP and Budget Expenditures of direct spending on children in the selected budget programmes

Education spending for children

Public spending on education, at around 2.8% of GDP is low compared to the region and neighbouring countries. In comparison, other countries in the region such as Serbia and Croatia spend an average of 5-6% of GDP on education¹¹, and OECD countries spend an average of 6.3% of GDP. Current spending levels are well below the target of 5% of GDP set by the current government programme. Albania's expenditure on education as a share of general government expenditures has fallen from 11.3% in 2005, to 10.3% in 2012 and 8.5% in 2015.

Funding for the education sector has increased in nominal terms, but its share of GDP will continue the downward pattern throughout 2017. Expenditure on education as a proportion of total budget expenditures will slightly increase from the planned 8.5% in 2015, to 9.7% in 2017.

11. World Bank, <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/views/reports/tableview.aspx>, data for Serbia (2011) and Croatia (2010). Data on OECD countries from OECD: Education at a Glance, 2013.

Figure 14: Education expenditure as a share of total budget expenditures and GDP 2012 - 2017

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Finance

Table 12: Spending in education by programme: 2012 and 2013 (actual), 2014 - 2017 (budget)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total ¹²	38,905,135	42,490,733	40,118,801	40,578,473	43,480,832	46,406,357
General Public Services	769,574	672,450.40	787,500	805,730	844,182	887,783
Basic education (including preschool)	23,707,160	23,602,617	24,950,000	24,947,628	26,099,988	27,124,524
Secondary education (general)	5,158,339	5,493,546	6,398,188	6,899,263	6,705,420	7,160,944
Secondary education (vocational)	2,552,423	2,288,681	2,369,613	1,951,262	2,943,312	3,079,135
Higher education	6,250,519	10,019,540	5,436,500	5,797,590	6,587,930	7,793,971
Research and Science	467,120	413,899	177,000	177,000	300,000	360,000

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports

The lion share of public resources invested in education has been allocated to primary education, in line with the objectives for universal primary enrolment. Secondary education has received around 20% of public spending (Table 4). More than two thirds of resources is allocated to general secondary education; while the share of spending in vocational education has declined between 2012 and 2015 and is expected to rise again starting in 2016. The higher education and science and research programmes account for approximately 14% of total education expenditures in 2014.

12. The responsibility for vocational education was passed to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth beginning in budget year 2015. The Budget for MES also includes the "Sports development" programme, which is not included in this analysis

Table 13: Expenditure shares by programme and year

	Actual			Budget		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
General Public Services	2.0%	1.6%	2.0%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Basic education (including preschool)	60.9%	55.5%	62.2%	61.5%	60.0%	58.5%
Secondary education (general)	13.3%	12.9%	15.9%	17.0%	15.4%	15.4%
Secondary education (vocational)	6.6%	5.4%	5.9%	4.8%	6.8%	6.6%
Higher education	16.1%	23.6%	13.6%	14.3%	15.2%	16.8%
Research and Science	1.2%	1.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.8%

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports

Teacher wages consume a high proportion of total public education expenditure in all the three programmes in this analysis, crowding out spending on non-wage items, which may affect quality of teaching. This problem is most acute in the basic education, where only 4% of current expenditure is available for non-wage items in 2015 (Table 5). This ratio has remained steady throughout the recent years and for all three programmes¹³.

Table 14: Economic allocation of public education spending in three main programs (in%, 2015 budget)

	% Current expenditure	% Capital expenditure	Wages as % of current	Other current as % of current
Pre-primary & basic	94.6%	5.4%	96.0%	4.0%
Secondary general	89.3%	10.7%	95.2%	4.8%
Secondary vocational	68%	32%	83%	17%

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports

Basic education

The main programme in the budget of the Ministry of Education and Sports is the basic education programme, which includes the pre-school program (kindergarten and grade 0 for children aged 5-6 years) and the primary education program (years 1-9). Spending on primary education is relatively high at more than 60% of the overall budget of the Ministry of Education. Local government units also have the responsibility to maintain school facilities. Expenditure incurred in education by local government authorities is not captured in this report.

Spending in basic education is dominated by teachers' wages, which make up for approximately 96% of total current expenditure in the basic education programme. Spending in non-wage items is extremely limited and may affect the quality of teaching.

13. Please note that the major responsibility for maintenance of education facilities in the pre-university education system lies with local government units. Hence, non-wage recurrent expenditures under the budget programmes of MES are mainly expenditures for educational material and other transfers.

Table 15: Spending in basic education/economic classification

Article	2012		2013		2014	2015
	Budget	Outturn (cash)	Budget	Outturn (cash)	Budget	Budget
Salaries & Insurance	21,092,866	21,045,656	21,719,027	21,440,423	22,240,000	22,642,920
Operational expenditures	518,351	512,514	636,057	623,559	670,000	704,000
Transfers to households and individuals	300,467	300,098	283,545	277,289	240,000	246,000
<i>Current expenditure</i>	21,911,684	21,858,268	22,638,772	22,341,413	23,150,000	23,592,920
Capital expenditure	2,075,341	1,976,687	1,293,091	1,245,335	1,800,000	1,354,708
TOTAL	23,987,025	23,834,955	23,931,863	23,586,748	24,950,000	24,947,628

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports

Expenditures in basic education have increased by 3% in 2014 as compared with 2012. The budget for 2015 has planned for a very slight decrease in total resources allocated to this program. The budget is however expected to increase at an average of 4% in 2016 and 2017.

Capital expenditure in basic education has remained at fairly modest levels, at approximately 5% of total expenditures. This ratio has further declined in the budget for 2015, which projects a decrease of 30% in capital investments for this programme (1.3 billion lek in 2015 as opposed to 1,8 billion in 2014). The financial year 2013 was the last year of the implementation of the World Bank supported project on “Quality and Equity in Education”, which had allocated the majority of its resources to capital improvements for school facilities. The medium term budget programme however has projected a significant increase in capital expenditure in basic education in 2016 and 2017, at 2,87 and 3,66 billion lek respectively, which will be partially financed through foreign financing. Improvement of physical condition of school facilities is a priority in the medium and long term, as the lack of investment may imply larger class sizes, greater use of dual shifts, and other efficiency measures at basic education level.

There were approximately 356,347 students enrolled in basic education in 2013, and 76,416 children attending pre-primary education. Expenditures incurred for pre-primary education amounts to approximately 17% of total expenditures in the basic education programme, indicating that the education unit costs are similar. On average, the Government of Albania spends 51,625 ALL (510 USD) for expenditures related to the education service for children and students enrolled in the basic education programme (2013 figures). The spending per student in 2012 was approximately 5% lower, at the level of 490 USD. This figure is very low as compared to the average for OECD countries, at approximately 7,974 USD per primary student. However, education spending per student is affected by a number of factors, including teachers’ salaries; the number of students enrolled, teacher – student ratio, etc. Enrolment rates in basic education are close to universal, while the Ministry of Education aims to increase enrolment rates for children in the age group of 3-5.

Secondary education

The Ministry of Education and Sports is responsible for the general secondary education. Beginning in 2015, responsibility for vocational secondary education has been transferred to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, in order to ensure better orientation towards the labour market.

Expenditures for secondary education amount to 8,8 billion lek in 2015, marking an increase of 16% as compared with 2012. The increase is primarily driven by a rise in expenditure in general secondary education: the budget for 2015 is planned at 6,9 billion lek, or 25% higher than 2012 (5.5 billion).

Table 16: Spending in secondary education/economic classification

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Secondary education	5,518,857	5,493,537	6,398,188	6,899,263
Wages	4,596,862	4,798,528	5,005,000	5,865,805
Operational expenditure	55,631	116,382	156,450	230,166
Transfers to households and individuals	96,638	82,475	65,000	66,000
Capital expenditure	764,046	490,512	1,171,738	737,292
VET secondary	2,123,442	2,274,216	2,269,613	1,951,262
Wages	1,630,946	1,707,099	1,800,000	1,095,570
Operational expenditure	205,639	213,537	270,000	220,000
Transfers to households and individuals	5,229	8,590	6,000	8,000
Capital expenditure	281,628	344,949	193,613	627,692
Total secondary	7,642,299	7,767,754	8,667,801	8,850,525

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports

Enrolment rates in secondary education are relatively high and improving: in 2013 92% of students completing basic education were enrolled in secondary schools. The average spending of the Government of Albania on education related services for children in general secondary education (excluding capital investment) was 45,037 in 2013 (410 USD). This amount is 20% lower than the spending on children in elementary education and may be an indicator that the secondary system is underfunded. In OECD countries the level of spending on students increases at each level, with average spending on secondary students was 9,014 USD, or 13% higher than spending in basic education.

Spending per children in vocational education is higher, due to higher costs associated with the programme. Indeed, non-wage costs in vocational secondary education amount to 17% of recurrent expenditures. There are approximately 25,837 students attending vocational secondary schools in Albania in 2014. On average the cost of education per student in vocational schools was 80,350 ALL in 2014 (730 USD). The government has committed to increasing the quality of curricula, teaching and enrolment rates in vocational education schools in order to achieve a better linkage with the labour markets, but without planning for substantial increases in the resource allocation for this programme.

Equity in education

The Ministry of Education and Sports manages several measures that aim at ensuring inclusive education. These measures in the basic and secondary education programmes include expenditure for the:

- o Compensation of textbook costs for students from poor families and/or students from Roma community in the basic and secondary education
- o Transport service for students and teachers in rural areas
- o Scholarships for students in need, particularly in vocational education
- o Costs associated to “community schooling” project, including the training of school psychologists and social workers on inclusive education, teacher training on special needs students, etc.

The Ministry also supports similar measures (i.e. scholarships) in higher education and research. These expenditures have not been described in detail given that students in tertiary education are adults. Table 7 below indicates expenditures aiming at achieving equity in education. The largest share of expenditure is composed of spending in the basic education programme. MES supports the transport to school for over 30 thousand students in basic education (or close to 9% of total students enrolled) and over 11 thousand teachers to reach schools in rural areas.

The textbook compensation programme is extended across all three programmes, but funding has decreased as opposed to 2012 levels.

Table 17: Outputs in social inclusion in education (MES)

	Actual			Budget		
	Fy 2012	Fy 2013	Fy 2014	Fy 2015	Fy 2016	Fy 2017
Basic education						
Transport service for students and teachers	393,803	523,000	560,000	580,000	600,000	640,000
Textbook compensation	300,098	277,289	246,000	252,000	256,000	270,000
Education service for special need students		118,374	113,113	119,400	125,760	133,400
Community schooling/social workers trainings	2,400		4,800	6,000	7,000	8,000
Secondary education¹						
Textbook compensation	96,638	82,475	65,000	66,000	66,000	66,000
Vocational education						
Scholarships for students in need	143,700	113,719	160,000	180,000	186,000	205,000
Textbooks and transport			22,634	29,720	32,970	37,020
Total	936,639	1,114,857	1,171,547	1,233,120	1,273,730	1,359,420

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports

Health spending for children

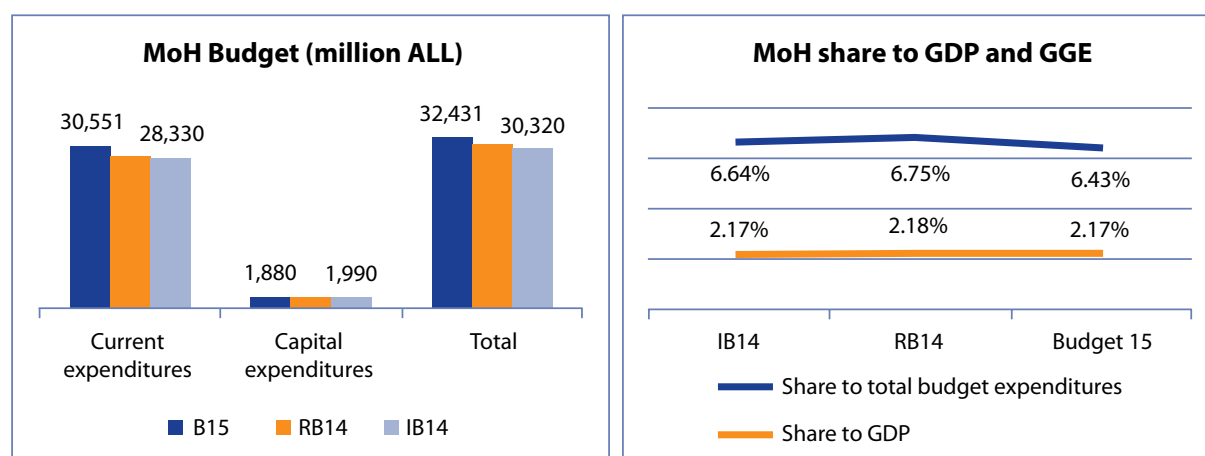
Total expenditures in the health sector for the budget 2015 amount to 41.23 billion lek. The budget for the Ministry of Health is 32,4 billion lek in 2015, or 1.6 billion lek higher than in 2014; while contributions to the mandatory health insurance scheme are projected to increase by 500 million lek in 2015 (8.8 billion lek in 2014). Table 8 below shows the projected level of expenditure in the health sector and their share to general government expenditure and GDP.

Table 18: Financing for MOH and revenue from health insurance in the budget 2015 and revisited budget 2014

	B 2015	RB 2014	PB15 - BR14
Ministry of Health	32,430,542	30,816,020	1,614,522
Revenue from HII	8,800,750	8,319,000	481,750
Total health sector financing	41,231,292	39,135,020	2,096,272
In % to total budget expenditure	8.7%	8.6%	
In % to GDP	2.76%	2.77%	

Source: Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance

Figure 15: MoH budget by main articles and its share to GDP and total budget expenditure



Source: Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance

Among the five programmes of the Ministry of Health the programs that have experienced the most considerable growth are “Primary healthcare” and “Secondary healthcare”. Funds for primary healthcare have increased by 916 million lek, or 9.9% more than the revisited budget 2014. Funding for the “Secondary healthcare” program has increased by 927 million lek, or 5% more than in 2014. The “Public healthcare” program has slightly increased in 2015 as opposed to 2014, while for the first time the programme for the “National Emergency Service” has been established in the Ministry of Health, amounting to 120 million lek for 2015.

The overall budget of the Ministry of Health has increased, however capital expenditure in the sector has shrunk by 14% (307 million lek) compared to the revisited budget

2014. The most significant reductions in capital expenditures are in the primary and secondary healthcare programmes.

Table 19: Composition of spending of the Ministry of Health by program and main articles 2014 - 2015

	2015			2014		
	Current Exp	Capital Expenditure	Total	Current Exp	Capital Expenditure	Total
Ministry of Health	30,550,900	1,879,642	32,430,542	28,629,500	2,186,520	30,816,020
General Public Services	224,000	13,210	237,210	226,500	3,500	230,000
Primary Healthcare	9,932,000	240,172	10,172,172	9,003,500	252,108	9,255,608
Secondary Healthcare	17,667,800	1,495,260	19,163,060	16,880,500	1,900,912	18,781,412
Public Health Services	2,696,900	41,000	2,737,900	2,519,000	30,000	2,549,000
National Emergency Service	30,200	90,000	120,200			

Source: Ministry of Health

Primary Healthcare

The most relevant programme for children is primary healthcare, which covers primary healthcare facilities around the country and the service of the family doctor. Healthcare services in Albania are co-financed by the Health Insurance Institute (HII), a health insurance fund that collects contributions from all active population and the Ministry of Health. Healthcare services are free of charge for several categories of the population, including beneficiaries of the NE program, war veterans, war disabled, children aged 0-1 years and orphans, as well as people with specific medical conditions. Children older than 1 and women who are pregnant/on maternity leave are accepted in the healthcare system with co-payment (health insurance).

The main objectives of the primary healthcare are related to the management and expansion of the pool of reimbursed drugs (there are currently over 420 different types of drugs that are fully or partially reimbursed by the Health Insurance Institute). Furthermore, the primary healthcare program aims at targeting infant mortality rates and maternity mortality rates, which at 19/100 thousand in 2012 are relatively high compared with the average 16/100,000 in developed countries (WHO).

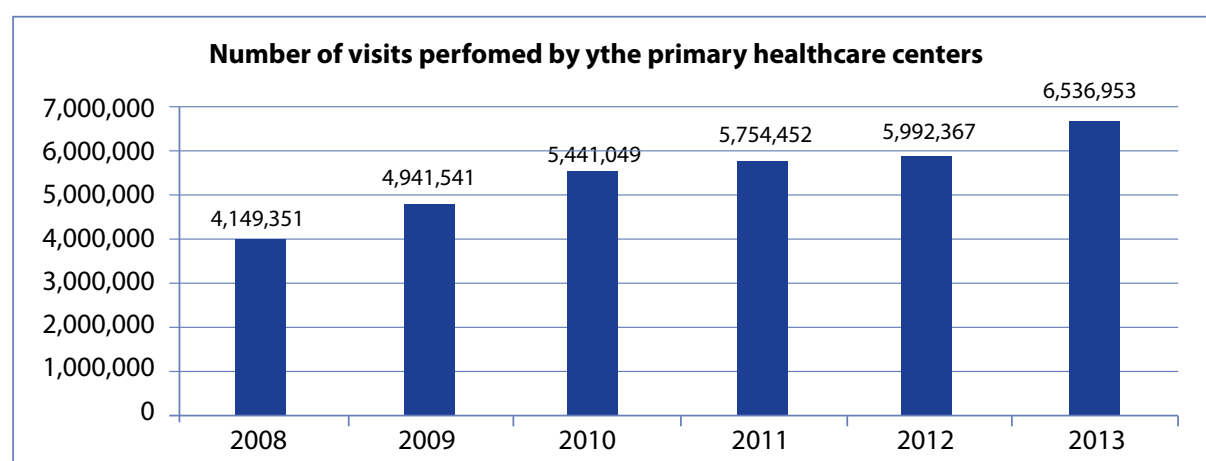
Outpatient visits to primary healthcare are still low at 10-11 visits per day/doctor, which indicates reduced efficiency of the primary healthcare service, as well as increases strain on secondary healthcare visits along with increased costs for families. Table 9 below shows the distribution of general practitioner doctors by region and type of competency in 2014: there was a total of 1,592 general practitioners in Albania in 2014, with 214 doctors specializing in children general practice. The distribution of GPs varies by region in accordance with the population, with the region of Tirana having the highest numbers of doctors. The Tropoja region seems to not be covered by GP services, along with a number of communes in remote areas of Kukes. The number of support medical staff was 1,794. There were about 109 doctors specialising in healthcare services for infants and mothers (in the primary healthcare centers for infant and maternity care), of which 67 were infant specialists.

Table 20: Distribution of general practitioners by region in 2014

No.	DRSKSH	GP1 Children	GP2 Adults	GP3 All ages/ urban	GP4 All ages/ rural	Total
1	Berat	15	29	2	46	92
2	Diber	2	5	15	35	57
3	Durres	30	64	20	87	201
4	Elbasan	16	42	19	88	165
5	Fier	18	34	23	97	172
6	Gjirokaster	2	4	15	33	54
7	Korce	11	38	9	73	131
8	Kukes	0	0	13	31	44
9	Lezhe	10	19	13	42	84
10	Shkoder	16	28	11	63	118
11	Tirane	71	171	20	90	352
12	Vlore	19	30	12	33	94
13	Sarande	4	5	5	14	28
14	Tropoja	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	214	469	177	732	1,592

Source: Health Insurance Institute

The number of primary healthcare visits is low, but growing: the number of visits in 2013 was 8.6% higher than in the previous years. The majority of visits are performed in urban centers (68%).

Figure 16: Visits performed in primary healthcare centers 2008 – 2013

Source: Health Insurance Institute Annual Report 2013

Expenditures in the primary healthcare programme amounted to 34% of total MoH expenditure in 2013. This share is relatively low, when bearing in mind the objective of the government to expand and strengthen primary healthcare services in order to improve coverage and efficiency of healthcare services.¹⁴

14. The budget data does not clearly identify the number of children as a proportion of total healthcare system users, hence it is not possible to calculate the share of children costs in total healthcare expenditures.

Public healthcare services

The public healthcare service covers the immunisation programme for children of all ages in Albania. The immunisation programme coverage is almost universal at more than 99% of children reached, including children from less advantaged families and or/ children from the minorities. The vaccination service is provided through the primary healthcare service and it is offered free of charge to all children. There are no data available on the ratio of children from dependent (non-contributory) families receiving immunisation, given that financing is universal.

The public healthcare programme also aims at preventing epidemiologic disease, monitoring the quality/pollution of environment agents as well as carries out awareness activities on health related issues. Expenditures of the public healthcare programme amount to 2,7 billion lek in 2015. Around 12% of funds in the programme are spent on the vaccination programme for about 240,000 children.

Social protection for children

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) which is responsible for pursuing the county's social and employment policy has the largest budget among budgetary institutions in Albania in the recent years: 76,6 billion lek were allocated to MSWY in the budget for 2015, as opposed to 72,8 billion in the revisited budget 2014. However, the budget is dominated by social insurance outlays: 46 billion lek or 62% of total MSWY funds finance the fiscal deficit of the pension fund as well as supplementary benefits supported by the government.

The budget on social protection has decreased by 10% as opposed to the revised budget 2014 and it accounts for 29,5% of the MSWY budget in 2015 (22,4 billion lek in the budget 2015 as opposed to 24,7 billion in the revisited budget 2014).

Social Protection

The social protection budget programme is composed of two main sub-programmes: cash benefit payment for poverty alleviation (social assistance – ndihma ekonomike NE); and cash payment benefits for people with disabilities. The third component of the programme includes activities in the realm of social care services; however its relative weight to the overall programme budget is very modest. Table 10 below shows the share of the main social protection budget components to GDP and total budget expenditures.

Social assistance spending is rather low at less than 1% of GDP, down from 1.4% of GDP in 2012 and has been projected to remain at similar levels until 2017. Social assistance benefits have significantly dropped in 2013 as opposed to the previous years, despite an increase in poverty rates following the economic slowdown of the recent years. In 2013 the NE programme covered about 106,000 households. The NE program coverage needs to improve, in particular in order to avoid errors of exclusion. Furthermore, NE has not been very efficient in lifting people out of poverty (World Bank); its very modest payments account for only about 16% of post-transfer payments to

beneficiaries. Albania does not have any cash transfer benefits that target children – the NE program is allocated by household and the maximum size of benefit per household is 8,000 LEK, calculated at a maximum 3200 lek per each parent and only 700 lek per child in the household. The NE program supports about 20% of the families with children under 18 years of age – 77,444 families out of the total 390 thousand families that have children in the country; or 85 thousand children out of the 144 thousand children living in poor families.¹⁵ The structure of NE benefits has not been designed with child well-being in mind. Children living in larger poor households are more likely to suffer poverty than those in smaller households and there are limited instruments that could address this issue. As presented in the first section of this report, poverty rates are likely to be higher for families with more children and with younger age children. Reforms in the NE program are undergoing with the introduction of a Unified Scoring Formula that aims at improving targeting accuracy and the size of benefits depending on the degree of poverty. As a result, the number of families targeted by the NE program has decreased and the average size of NE benefits has increased for the eligible families. However the NE program still needs to be adjusted to correct for significant errors of both inclusion and exclusion.

Disability benefits have steadily expanded at the expense of the NE program. In 2013 they constitute about 1,4% of GDP; but have been projected to go down to about 1% in the 2015 – 2017 period, a level comparable to that of 2012. The disability support scheme covers about 143,000 beneficiaries and about 23 thousand guardians in 2014 and pays about three times more on average than NE. Disability benefits are not means tested. Targeting and coverage problems are expected to be addressed soon with the introduction of a new system of determining eligibility and a MIS system similar to that of the NE (supported by the WB).

There are about 17,698 children with different kinds of disabilities in Albania in 2014, of which 28% (5,018 children) are aged between 0-5 years; 48% (8,573 children) aged between 6-15 years of age and 23% (4,107) aged between 15 and 18 years of age. More than half of children with disabilities live in urban areas (municipalities); however a considerable 48% (8,479 children) live in rural areas. Social services in rural areas are extremely limited, if non-existent.

15. Poverty line is set at real per capita consumption of 4,891 ALL per month with 2002 prices, see section above

Table 21: Share of main social protection budget components in GDP and total public expenditures

000 ALL	Fy 2012	Fy 2013	Fy 2014*	Fy 2015	Fy 2016	Fy 2017
Social Assistance (poverty)	5,403,604	3,842,854	5,584,018	4,700,000	4,700,000	4,900,000
Disability benefits	12,659,503	18,548,394	20,597,034	15,579,400	15,579,400	16,600,000
Social care services of which	560,175	788,166	903,232	621,340	644,440	628,940
In % of GDP						
Social Assistance (poverty)	0.41%	0.28%	0.39%	0.31%	0.29%	0.28%
Disability benefits	0.95%	1.37%	1.45%	1.04%	0.97%	0.96%
Social care services of which	0.04%	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%
In % of Pub Exp						
Social Assistance (poverty)	1.4%	0.9%	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Disability benefits	3.4%	4.5%	4.5%	3.4%	3.2%	3.4%
Social care services of which	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
In % of budget programme						
Social Assistance (poverty)	25%	17%	39%	22%	22%	21%
Disability benefits	60%	80%	145%	72%	72%	72%
Social care services of which	3%	3%	6%	3%	3%	3%

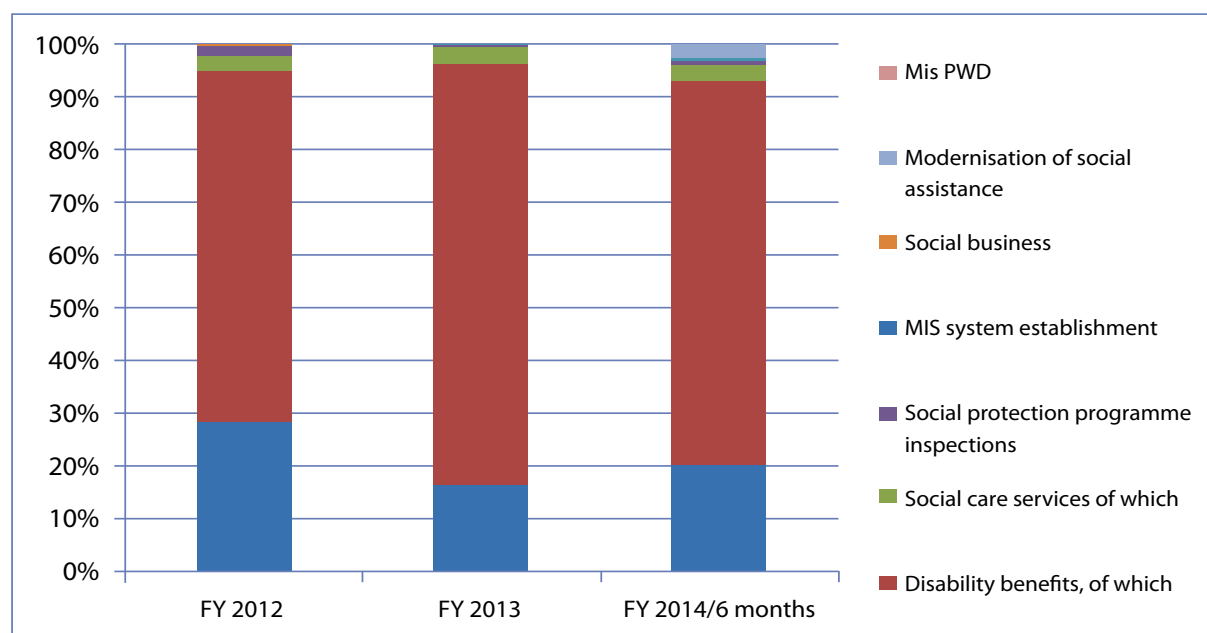
* Projection based on 6 month budget outturn, 2015 – 2017 figures based on MTBP 2015 - 2017

Source: Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and Ministry of Finance

Table 22: Social Protection Budget Programme & Outputs

	Fy 2012	Fy 2013	Fy 2014/ 6 months	Fy 2015	Fy 2016	Fy 2017
Social Assistance (poverty)	5,403,604	3,842,854	2,792,009	4,700,000	4,700,000	4,900,000
Disability benefits, of which:	12,659,503	18,548,394	10,298,517	15,579,400	15,579,400	16,600,000
Blind		5,815,326	1,584,133	2,788,250	2,788,250	2,992,762
Paraplegic & tetraplegic		4,240,229	2,251,139	2,943,728	2,943,728	3,166,914
Work invalids		5,412,114	2,003,017	2,566,093	2,566,093	2,694,929
Mental disability		90,677	4,460,228	7,281,329	7,281,329	7,745,395
Politically prosecuted	1,700,000	2,990,048	134,210			
Social care services of which	560,175	788,166	451,616	621,340	644,440	628,940
Children in residential care	138,681	247,233	142,339	195,490	239,490	236,290
Elderly in residential care	145,202	153,221	103,934	147,550	150,550	152,550
PWD in residential care	219,323	166,989	165,972	201,000	171,000	173,000
Trafficked women in res. care	48,485	122,600	15,133	37,500	39,500	20,500
Battered Women in res. care	8,484	98,123	9,467	16,800	18,900	20,500
Roma Center Operation		-	14,771			
Emergency Center				23,000	25,000	26,100
Social protection programme inspections	295,040	33,992	65,463	114,060	111,060	105,060
MIS system establishment	-	63,923	92,386	500,000	500,000	500,000
Social business	70,000	na				
Modernisation of social assistance MIS PWD			335,570	225,700	233,100	235,500
TOTAL	21,248,497	23,277,329	14,169,771	21,740,500	21,768,000	22,969,500

Source: Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

Figure 17: Composition of social protection spending

Source: Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

Spending in social care services is fairly insignificant at about 3% of the overall social protection budget programme. Indeed, this sub-programme is expected to decrease further during the 2015 – 2017 period, both in nominal terms and as a share of the total budget. This is surprising, giving that MSWY has stated social care services a priority in the framework of the new social protection strategy, in an attempt to complement cash assistance for those in need with comprehensive services. Indeed, the government is contemplating a comprehensive reform in social services that is expected to entail strengthening of staff capacities in social service delivery, establishment of new services as well as a move towards community based services. While the strategy is still under preparation and there is no costing in place for social services; it would appear that a wide scale reform would need to be backed by substantial funding in support of new structures and services.

Social care services for children are very limited: there are currently only 14 public social service centres that offer services for about 511 children overall. The majority include residential services for children without parental care and/or children with disabilities, but there are also some day-care services. The capacity of these centres is extremely limited: the total number of children receiving services is less than 3% of the children with different types of disabilities. The latter would all benefit from some kind of support and service. In addition, ancillary services for children from less wealthy families are also largely non-existent. Nurseries for children aged 0-3 are only available in cities, at limited capacity and there are no childcare support services in rural areas. Furthermore, social inclusion programmes for children from less wealthy families are concentrated in direct compensation of education related expenditure (i.e. transport costs and textbook compensation)¹⁶, while the government has passed new

16. Average monthly expenditure on education for children aged 6-14 that attend compulsory education is over 2 thousand lek, while the NE program allocated only 700 lek per child in poor families to cover for all consumption. A rough estimate indicates that the budget for social inclusion in education should at least be doubled to improve targeting and coverage of children from categories in need.

regulation to ensure that children from families in the social assistance programme attend school and participate in the compulsory vaccination programme. It is not realistic in the medium term to expect establishment and expansion of social services throughout the country. Furthermore, establishing social service centres to provide for children from poor families or from minorities could be associated with a social stigma for attending children that would most likely contribute to further exclusion. Instead, the government could consider expanding social services in the school system, to ensure better coverage as well as better efficiency in terms of facility and maintenance costs. The Ministry of Education and Sports has started a new pilot project on “community schooling” that is concentrated in some pilot schools typically situated in suburban and disadvantaged areas. Providing children with after-school services such as food and homework programmes is likely to have good results in increasing the families’ interest in enrolling children in schools as well as improve their educational attainment. Furthermore, longer school hours would also substitute for childcare support needs for the families, hence families would be able to join the labour force. The same reasoning goes for the need for additional nursery facilities and increased capacity throughout the country. A recent World Bank study shows that there is a rise in the percentage of inactive population in recent years in Albania: young women who leave the labour force in order to care for children and other family members constitute a considerable share of that inactive population.

Table 23: Social protection budget compliance - budget vs outturn

	Budget			Outturn		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
Social Protection	24,702,700	23,647,042	20,704,527	14,202,087	23,271,230	20,649,441
Staff costs	475,500	484,640.00	474,884	213,133	473,061.72	464,542
Op expenditure	298,000	242,000	306,436	130,584	240,816	306,557
Subsidies	0					
Internal transfers	20,000	56800	95,000	0	56800	95,000
Foreign transfers	0			13,015		
Transfers to households	23,900,000	22,402,152	19,763,107	13,818,155	22,361,300	19,709,920
Capital investment	9,200	461,450	65,100	27,200	139,252	73,421

Source: Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

Social Inclusion

The budget for the social inclusion programme is fairly modest and includes mostly staff activities related to the monitoring of strategies and action plans, as well as awareness activities that are primarily centred on the topics of gender equality and domestic violence. Other social inclusion activities are however included in other budget programmes, such as scholarships in primary education, subsidies for the price of textbooks, etc.

Table 24: Social Inclusion budget programme

Output	Fy 2012	Fy 2013	Fy 2014/ 6 months	Fy 2015	Fy 2016	Fy 2017
Monitoring report on gender equality	1,919	1,634	1,308	2,590	2,590	1,860
National awareness campaign	6,527	6,279	2,117	11,995	11,995	12,560
Workshops and publications for community awareness	1,605	1,663	954	2,160	2,115	2,150
24 hour line	1,634	1,688		1,660	1,260	700
Legal and institutional mechanisms		1,679	1,540	1,680	1,600	1,280
Monitoring report Roma decade	1,650	1,612	26,653	1,015	990	1,590
Assessment report PwD strategy	1,658	2,618	1,002	2,790	2,490	3,260
Monitoring report Social inclusion strategy	1,583	292	960	4,100	3,660	2,600
Monitoring report Children action plan State Agency for Children	1,478 3,288	1,611	1,079	5,510	6,800	8,500
Total	21,342	19,075	35,613	33,500	33,500	34,500
In % of total sector budget	0.017%	0.015%	0.025%	0.021%	0.020%	0.020%
In % of public expenditure	0.006%	0.005%	0.008%	0.007%	0.007%	0.007%

Source: Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

Juvenile Justice

Albania has recently adopted a series of measures in the field of the reform of the juvenile justice sector, aiming at improving the situation of children and young adults that are victims of violence episodes, and especially directed at the detention of juveniles committing crimes. Some of the most significant measures and progress in the field includes the creation of an awareness and knowledge with decision makers and professionals on the JJ reform path – through advocacy and training – that has resulted in adopting recommendations for improvement of administration of JJ system in Albania; the approval of legislation on alternatives to detention, establishment of probation system, and the provision of free legal assistance; the development of a range of functioning of alternatives to detention that fully reflects the reintegration principle, and addresses prevention of recidivism. The probation service law provides for the establishment of the mediation services and through the mechanism of the rules of engagement of the NGO in implementation of alternatives and mediation, has the potential to gradually be part of the system throughout the country. “Minor’s sections” have been established in the courts and office of the prosecutor in several districts and specialized police acts on domestic violence and Juvenile Justice. The Institute for Reintegration in Kavaja was designed with a modern concept for the treatment of juveniles in the penitentiary, focusing on the reintegration and education programs;

However, despite the good progress achieved so far, a series of challenges lay ahead in order to enable the Albanian administration implement the legal and administrative measures, including the need for the review of the broader national plan and policy on juvenile justice following the development of the Juvenile Justice system and the progress in humanizing the treatment of juveniles, as well as the increase on

use of alternative to detention. In addition, a permanent coordination mechanism of government agencies to respond better in particular to prevention and social reintegration of juveniles, to monitor progress and make recommendations regarding policy concerning juvenile justice would be necessary, on top of the work performed by the MSWY. Further support is needed for the institutionalization of alternatives to detention into the system, in particular supporting probation, mediation and the provision of legal and psychosocial support. Enhancing capacity for reintegration programs in the penitentiary and strengthening internal capacity to monitor and safeguard juveniles' rights and a proper complain mechanisms. Government agencies need further support for better coordination and planning, including the budgeting of different components of the Juvenile Justice system. There is immediate need to strengthen capacities on data gathering and budget analysis; in order to enable the authorities monitor the situation and make informed decisions on the allocation of financial and human resources, as well as on the assessment of future needs and priorities.

The budget of the Ministry of Justice was 5,57 billion lek in 2013. The budget is projected to fluctuate each year, with over 8 billion in 2014 (44% increase) due primarily to a substantial increase in the property restitution fund; and decrease again in the period 2015 – 2017. The budget projected for 2016 and 2017 is projected at 6.44 billion lek, 15.7% higher than in 2013.

The budget for the prison system follows the same trend as the general budget of the MoJ, with a substantial increase to 4.7 billion lek in 2014 and a slightly declining path throughout 2017. However, the budget for 2017 will be 7% higher than in 2013. The Kavaja correctional facility is a penitentiary institution that hosts minors exclusively and was recently built with EU financial support. Other penitentiary institutions that host minors are Korca (pre-trial detention); Jordan Misja Tirane; Durrës; Lezhe and Vlore (pre-trial detention).

The budget for the probation service is quite low at 101,4 million lek in 2013. However, resources allocated to this service are projected to steadily increase through 2017, with the budget for 2017 projected at 176,17 million lek, or 73.7% higher than in 2013. This reflects the government priorities to allocate more resources to alternative system.

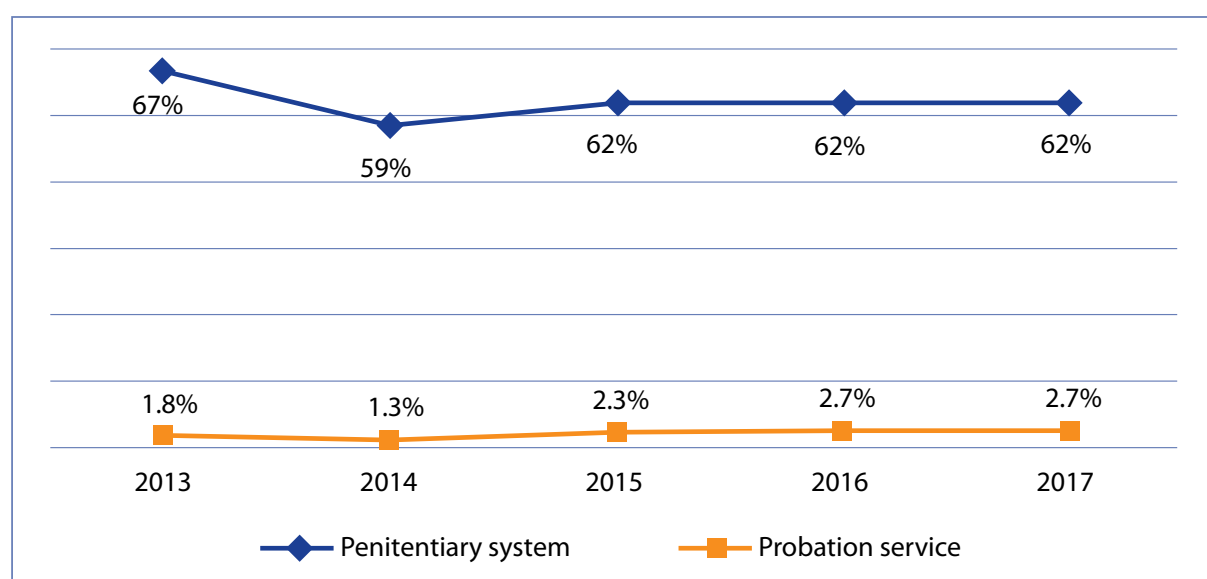
Table 25: The budget of the Ministry of Justice 2013 (actual) and budget 2014 - 2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Ministry of Justice	5,567,966	8,034,220	7,087,250	6,443,860	6,443,860
General Public Services	1,082,501	1,568,270	1,726,690	1,509,660	1,509,660
Official Publications	49,135	44,850	56,950	49,950	49,950
Forensics Medicine	48,165	62,500	62,500	60,500	60,500
Prison system	3,714,916	4,703,240	4,376,420	3,999,420	3,999,420
Judiciary Bailiff Service	105,460	108,980	104,800	104,500	104,500
Adoption service	12,317	11,200	12,700	12,700	12,700
Property restitution	425,317	1,428,880	581,020	530,960	530,960
Probation Service	101,420	106,300	166,170	176,170	176,170
Politically persecuted	28,735				

Source: Ministry of Justice

There were approximately 9 convicted minors serving their sentence in the country's correction facilities in October 2014, and 97 minors in pre-trial detention out of the overall figures of 2658 convicts and 3110 individuals in pre-trial detention¹⁷. Total expenditures for the prison system in 2014 amounted to 4,7 billion lek. The share allocated to children would be in average 1.84% of total expenditures, or approximately 86,4 million lek in 2014. This figure is an average as it does not take into account the differentials in costing for correctional facilities for children and for adults¹⁸ Furthermore, costs are associated with factors such as the total number of children in the juvenile justice system as well as fixed costs. In addition, in 2013 there were approximately 2085 persons that had received alternative sentences and were under the probation service. Of these, about 9 were children, which indicates that approximately 437 thousand lek were spent on children in probation services.

Figure 18: The share of the prison system and probation service to the overall MoJ budget 2013 - 2017



Source: Ministry of Justice

17. Source: Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Prisons

18. There are no indications of any differences in policy with regard to costs per adult and child prisoners.

4. Main findings and Recommendations

Main Findings and Recommendations Based on the Social Statics Analysis

Education: Monthly education expenditures are greater for urban areas compared to rural areas. Urban areas have higher household monthly education expenditures on fees, whereas rural areas have higher transportation expenditures. It is noticed that lodging expenditures occupy a larger portion of monthly education expenditures by households in both urban and rural areas. While, urban areas seem to have greater preschool expenditures. There is no clear evidence of differences at the household level in educational expenditures between boys and girls; however the differentiation mechanism may work through school enrolments.

Monthly education expenditures of households increases with child's age. Children of school-age between the ages of 6 to 14 require higher expenditures in terms of transportation, fees, uniforms, textbooks, materials, lodging, excursions, etc. compared to preschool age children. Data from INSTAT shows that prefectures of Berat, Kukes, and Korce have the highest values of monthly household education expenditures. The majority of these expenditures are allocated to children of ages 6 to 14 in Berat and children of ages 0-5 in the other two prefectures.

Child Poverty: Household poverty level goes down as children's age increases. Households with children between the ages of 0-5 have the higher poverty levels, whereas households with children between the ages of 15-17 have the smallest poverty level. As the number of children increases, the poverty level of the household increases. Households with larger number of children that have larger poverty rates also tend to have lower levels of educational of the household head. Approximately one fifth of households with children under the age of 18 receive economic aid.

Juvenile Justice: Children charged with crimes account for 8.21% of the population. Girl's rates do not exceed 1%. Tirana has the highest number of committed crimes by children, while, the majority of committed crimes are related to drugs.

Child Labour: Employment and labour force participation rate increases with the age of children. Boys between the ages of 15-17 have the highest employment and labour force participation rate, 20.7% and 22.5% respectively. Girls of this same age-group, on the other hand, have an employment rate of 13.1% and labour force participation of 14.5%. Boys appear to be more prone in becoming working children, or partake in child labour compared to girls. Girls, on the other hand, are more involved in unpaid agricultural labour within the family, where they tend to stay well into their adulthood.

Children mainly partake in agriculture. Eighty percent of all employed children are engaged in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing. Girls' involvement is somewhat higher than boys in this activity. Division by status of employment shows that 93.4% of employed girls work in unpaid family labour. Boys participation in this activity is also quite considerable, 87.2%, but less than girls.

There is some activity of employed children as wholesale and retail trade, which may mainly be related to children's selling in the streets.

Children who are not working are close to 100% school attendance. School attendance rates are the lowest for child labourers between the ages of 15-17. Time use patterns of boys and girls, ages 6-17, show that girls who are in school are much more involved in unpaid household services compared to boys. Girls reach 43.0% compared to 28.1% for boys.

There are more working children than child labourers. The prefectures of Elbasan, Korce and Shkoder have the highest rates of working children and child labourers. The prefectures of Durres, Fier, Gjirokaster, Lezhe, Tirane, and Vlore have the lowest rates of working children and child labourers.

Health: Child mortality rates are the highest for children under the age of 5 approaching 10%. In every age-group, boys have higher mortality rates than girls. The age-group under the age of 6 has the highest malnutrition rates by far reaching 27%. Boys have higher malnutrition rates compared to girls. The percentage of overweight children approaches 22%.

Main Findings and Recommendations Based on the State Budget Analysis

National budget spending on children amounts to 39,4 billion lek in 2014, marking an increase of 4 percent over spending on children in 2012. Forecasts for the medium term indicate that spending on children is expected to increase to 48 billion lek by 2017, or 22% more than the annual financing for 2014. Children spending in 2014 accounts for 8.6% of the overall national budget and 2.8% of GDP. The share of children spending in GDP is expected to remain at steady levels in the 2015 – 2017 period, despite significant increases in nominal terms, given that the projected rate of GDP growth is higher than the increase in the children sectors.

State budget spending on children increased by 1,6 billion lek, or 4.3 percent, in 2014 as compared with the 2012 budget. Forecasts through 2017 show state budget spending on children increasing as a share of the total budget, from 8.6% percent to 9.8% percent of total outlays. Total state budget spending is projected to increase over the next three years by an average of 2% annually, but children's programs will increase at an average pace of 7%.

Public spending on **education**, at around 2.8% of GDP is low compared to the region and neighbouring countries. In comparison, other countries in the region spend an average of 5-6% of GDP on education, and OECD countries spend an average of 6.3% of GDP.

Funding for the education sector has increased in nominal terms, but its share of GDP will continue the downward pattern throughout 2017. Albania's expenditure on education as a share of general government expenditures has fallen from 11.3% in 2005, to 10.3% in 2012 and 8.5% in 2015. Expenditure on education as a proportion of total budget expenditures will slightly increase from the planned 8.5% in 2015, to 9.7% in 2017.

60% of education funds are allocated to basic education and about 20% to secondary education. The average spending in 2013 of the Government of Albania on education related services for children in basic education was 51,625 ALL, and for children in general secondary education (excluding capital investment) was 45,037 ALL, or about 20% lower. This may indicate underfunding of the secondary education – data on OECD countries indicates that spending on students increases at each level.

Total expenditures in the **health sector** for the budget 2015 amount to 41.23 billion lek. The budget for the Ministry of Health is 32,4 billion lek in 2015, or 1.6 billion lek higher than in 2014; while contributions to the mandatory health insurance scheme are projected to increase by 500 million lek in 2015 (8.8 billion lek in 2015). The overall budget of the Ministry of Health has increased, however capital expenditure in the sector has shrunk by 14% (307 million lek) compared to the revisited budget 2014. The most significant reductions in capital expenditures are in the primary and secondary healthcare programmes.

The most relevant programme for children is primary healthcare, which covers primary healthcare facilities around the country and the service of the family doctor. Healthcare services are free of charge for several categories of the population, including beneficiaries of the NE program, war veterans, war disabled, children aged 0-1 years and orphans, as well as people with specific medical conditions. Children older than 1 and women who are pregnant/on maternity leave are accepted in the healthcare system with co-payment (health insurance).

The public healthcare service covers the immunisation programme for children of all ages in Albania. The immunisation programme coverage is almost universal at more than 99% of children reached, including children from less advantaged families and or/ children from the minorities. The vaccination service is provided through the primary healthcare service and it is offered free of charge to all children. There are no data available on the ratio of children from dependent (non-contributory) families receiving immunisation, given that financing is universal.

Social assistance spending is rather low at less than 1% of GDP, down from 1.4% of GDP in 2012 and has been projected to remain at similar levels until 2017. Social assistance benefits have significantly dropped in 2013 as opposed to the previous years, despite an increase in poverty rates following the economic slowdown of the recent years. The NE program supports about 20% of the families with children under 18 years of age – 77,444 families out of the total 390 thousand families that have children in the country; or 85 thousand children out of the 144 thousand children living in poor families.

Funding for **social care services** accounts for less than 3% of the overall spending on social protection, while children services make up about 24% of social care service

costs. Social care services for children are very limited: there are currently only 14 public social service centres that offer services for about 511 children overall. The majority include residential services for children without parental care and/or children with disabilities, but there are also some day-care services. The capacity of these centres is extremely limited: the total number of children receiving services is less than 3% of the children with different types of disabilities. Ancillary services for children from less wealthy families are also largely non-existent. Nurseries for children aged 0-3 are only available in cities, at limited capacity and there are no childcare support services in rural areas.

Albania has made progress in the field of **juvenile justice**, with improved legislation and increased awareness and knowledge on juvenile justice. Specialised institutions for juvenile detention have been built with international donor support. The probation service has been established in the recent years and its budget has been doubled for the financial year 2015. There are no specific indications of special spending policy on minors in detention or the probation service.

From the institutional point of view, there are a number of public agencies with different functions for children – i.e. for social issues is the MSWY the main responsible agency for the overall policies targeting children, while the SSS is responsible for the social care, NAFPCR for advocacy and advice on child rights, NLI for child labour, NES for employment and NAVETAQ for VET services, MoJ for Juvenile Justice, MoUD&T for social housing, MoES for education in general, but also for specific programmes on inclusive education, etc. Additionally, there are the CSOs as service providers and also advocates of child rights and the international agencies with their agendas for child rights and conditionalities such as EC. This busy playground highlights the **need for an inter-agency collaborative mechanism**, either through the Agency or the MSWY, which would ensure information sharing and harmonized synergies and relationships among involved agencies. At the same time, there is also **need for rationalization of functions by type of organization** since some functions seem to be isolated in certain agencies whose mandates are otherwise focused and they work in silos.

Experience from other countries that have initiated child friendly budgets, usually through the support of UNICEF consisted of: budget legislation, the budget system structure, basic budgetary process stages including preparation, adoption and control of budget execution, inter-budgetary equalization system. While Child National Funds have been established in some countries accompanied with a clear formulation and the use of such a fund. Additionally, assessments of social services in the interest of the family and children have also been conducted, also analyzing the distribution of expenditures in education between budgetary system levels and local budget education expenditure and the disproportionate per capita allocation among regions. A similar assessment covering also **local expenditures** in all priority areas of the Action Plan, would have been really useful for the Agency, but also for the CSOs that promote child rights, in order to be able to articulate better their efforts towards child friendly budgets.

Attention should focus also on **assessing the quality of services, projects and programmes** provided by the government by taking into consideration the poor outcomes for the key sectors (education, health etc.) in comparison with regional and international standards. There is a need to switch from the general discussions based

only on the amount of funds spent for children, towards a qualitative analysis of the spending for children. Quantitative and qualitative assessments need to be conducted periodically by independent experts.

Data collection needs to be strengthened at all levels of governance while ensuring consistency and standardized reports produced as well as timely statistical reports for the monitoring of public expenditures, which should also be publicly available.

Governments, driven by fiscal constraints cut back expenditures that support the well being of children. As a result, even though budget allocations may seem to be increasing, allocations for children have not been significantly increased. From this first review on child budgeting some of the main observations are that: **the national economic agenda does not necessarily reflect a focus on children and families** (besides cash transfers as part of the economic aid scheme); **limited attention is given to impact assessments of expenditures on children and outcomes in the policy and fiscal environment; limited knowledge on child friendly budget and weak capacities to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of public spending for children; missing link between policy and spending priorities for reaching out to the most vulnerable children; absence of a child benefit and family benefit programme and a weak social care system to protect children.**

Stepping up investments in children requires a vision that guarantees child rights regardless the affordability, such as **ensuring adequate resources that support equal access to quality health care or education** despite their economic status, location, ethnicity etc. **Lobbying alone for child rights to be at the top of the government's priorities is not enough as these priorities need to be linked to adequate budget allocations and resources.**

There is a need to establish a suitable check and balance systems for ensuring accuracy of utilization of allocated budget for children, as well as putting in place effective monitoring and evaluation systems. Additionally, assessments of the effectiveness of budget spending and impact on child rights are important elements to include in future assessments.

Child budgeting needs to become an integral component in planning processes. Taking into account the variations in performance of government towards achieving national targets relating to children and development, much work needs to be done to improve the allocations for, expenditures on and performance of programmes that are directly aimed at improving outcomes for children. NAFPCR, MSWY and MoF need to work closely together in partnership to strengthen the planning process for the 2016 budget and beyond.

During the analysis, it was also noticed that the term children's budget causes some confusion, due to limited budget analysis available in Albania, leading to misunderstandings as the project is advocating for introducing a separate budget for children. Furthermore, during the analysis skills of organizations were strengthened on linking budget analysis with the working practice with children.

Regional targeted policies: Differences in expenditures between urban and rural areas as well as the difference in their socio-economics conditions and characteristics

call for specific policies that take into account these differences and that may successfully appeal to the different needs in these areas. There is room for more or better *public provision of transportation for rural children* to relieve the households from the higher expenditures as well as give incentives and possibilities to parents in rural areas to send their children to school.

Investment in preschool: There is a need for more public investment for preschool children, which appears increasingly important in *urban* areas, where there is less reliance on household members and family support. In this respect, higher monthly education expenditures among *poorer prefectures* warns against a higher financial burden placed on households due to the large number of preschool-age children, which is sustained by higher monthly education expenditures of these prefectures for preschool-age children. On the other hand, a greater and improved provision of preschool provides *social support to mothers*, who are mainly the primary child-care giver, increasing their likelihood to join the labour market and contribute to household income. This requires an interaction and coordination of various policy-making bodies as to provide incentives that improve household livelihoods and consequently children's well-being.

Public provision on demographic basis: Policies on public provisions or investments should take into account *age composition* of children in order to direct public investment accordingly, since children of different ages have different needs and place different financial constraints on the households. Furthermore, since education expenditures increase with age, parents of fewer incomes may face a decision of whether to continue sending their children into school or into labour. Consequently, it is essential to understand the structure of children's age, and education expenditure allocation within the households prior to taking public decisions on budgetary allocation for public investment.

Increased efforts on education and household poverty: Provisions are required for poorer households as to minimize the risk of sending their children out to work. Households with younger children are more vulnerable to poverty and may later on also send their children to work. Therefore, *household demographics and composition* is essential to allocating public provisions as is increased efforts in terms of *education provisions* to increase education levels, decrease child labour, and improve livelihoods.

Gender sensitive policies: Gender differences between boys and girls should be taken into account when designing policy and having public investment since *it may affect them differently*. Public investments should induce *equality and equal opportunity* in benefiting from them. Girls and boys are put into their societal roles quite early. The onset of employment patterns follows them throughout their lives, where women are mainly found in unpaid family labour. It may also have further implications for children in rural areas since they mainly deal with agriculture. Consequently, it calls attention regarding *educational opportunities for children* and further provisions for those living in rural areas. Availability of information on children's activities in employment serves to tailor policies that *secure and increase children's rights and takes them away from child labour placing them into the educational system*. Boys appear to be more prone to become working children or be in child labour, while girl partake in unpaid family labour, where they continue to stay in their adulthood.

Micro-level studies: Studies should be conducted not only at the macro level taking into account large scale factors, but also at the household level trying to understand children's needs and budgetary allocations within the household. This way macro scale efforts may be more inclusive and better targeted.

Improving results – oriented planning: Resource allocation should respond to specific needs and aim at specific outcomes. The budgeting process in some of the sectors

CHAPTER II

Midterm Review of Progress Indicators of the 2012-2015 National Plan of Action for Children

Expert:

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Table of Content

Introduction	56
Methodology	57
Progress according to indicators	60
Right to protection and social inclusion.....	60
Right to protection from violence, abuse and economic exploitation.....	68
Right to development and education.....	75
Right to health care	82
Right to legal protection.....	91
Discussion on progress indicators	96
Summary of categorisation.....	96
Status of fulfilment.....	96
Categories of change	97
Approach to measurement of change.....	98
Issues related to definition of indicators	99
Issues related to collection of information.....	100
Findings and conclusions.....	101
Annex	104

Abbreviations

NAIS	National Agency for Information Society
SAFPCR	State Agency for Protection of Children's Rights
DARs	Regional Educational Directorates
GDSSS	General Directorate of State Social Service
NCFPCR	National Council for Protection of Children Rights
AAC	Albanian Adoption Council
MSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
NDM	Novel disciplining manners
CRU	Children Rights Units
CPU	Children Protection Units
LGU	Local Government Units
NGO	Non Government Organizations
NAPfC	National Action Plan for Children
EO	Education Office

Introduction

The Mid-term Review of Progress Indicators of the 2012-2015 Action Plan for Children (NAPfC) is undertaken upon the initiative of Save the Children, Albania Office, with the support of the State Agency for Protection of Children's Rights (SAfPCR). In parallel to this report, the mid-term review on budget allocations and spending for the NAPfC was also concluded in the context of the same programme supported by the European Union¹. Despite of the use of various approaches, the two reports are closely inter-twinned and serve a better overview of the situation of the children rights in Albania. Upon completion of NAPfC in the due time (2015), final assessments shall be undertaken in the context of the same programme regarding the budget and expenses, and indicators, to better assess the progress and address the needs for intervention in the upcoming NAPfC.

Also, the Mid-term Review of Progress Indicators of the 2012-2015 Action Plan for Children follows-up on the 2013-2014 on the situation of children rights, published by SAfPCR with the support of UNICEF². The mid-term report aims at documenting the hitherto fulfilment (2012-2014) of the progress indicators identified in the NAPfC, and at dwelling on some of the problems related to it, while producing recommendations to improve such indicators in the future.

The focus on these indicators has served as an exercise to better understand such indicators and the information available on them and to facilitate measuring of the success of the action plan as a political document. This approach, despite of its focus on narrow framing of the indicators, undertaken in cooperation with the SAfPCR staff, has facilitated joint understanding of problems on the data and systems collecting and reporting them. Hence, beyond documentation of the situation of progress, the initiative for drafting this document has served as an activity for developing institutional capacities to improve reporting on child-related issues.

The 2012-2015 NAPfC is an important political document supporting children rights in Albania. Involvement of different stakeholders in this document, such as the Government, donors, civil society and community, conveys the message that respect for the child rights is the task of all and, above all, effective cooperation of all may bring the expected outcomes in establishing a safe environment for the children.

The 2012-2015 NAPfC was drafted as an answer to Recommendation 11 of EU on the European integration of our country. It follows-up the improvement of the legal framework, namely the approval of Law No. 10347, of 4.11.2010 "On the Protection of the Children Rights", and the institutional improvement, namely establishment of SAfPCR.

1. "Unlocking the Pot of Resources for Children's Rights in Albania" - EIDHR/2013/38; Implemented by Save the Children and the Institute for Contemporary Studies

2. SAfPCR /UNICEF. 2014. National Report on the Situation of Children Rights in Albania 2013-2014. Tiranë: SAfPCR /UNICEF

The 2012-2015 NAPfC focuses on two main directions: *a.* strengthening institutional structures established to monitor and report on the application of the children rights at the national and regional level; *b.* encouragement of drafting of inclusive, coordinated and streamlined child protection and social inclusion policies.

In the context of these rights, NAPfC includes the right to protection and social inclusion, the right to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation; the right to development and education; the right to social care; and the right to legal protection. Organised in separate chapters for each of the rights listed above, every right is given in the perspective of strategic objectives, specific objectives, activities, responsible institutions, deadlines, financial indicators and indexes.

The SAfPCR, as a coordinating and monitoring institution for the protection of children rights, does also supervise the progress of NAPfC. The hitherto reports drafted by SAfPCR³ have followed a general methodology, sometimes reflecting the progress according to the activities specified in the NAPfC, and sometimes providing an overview of general efforts realised for and about children in various sectors. Hence, the focus has mainly been on the activities, not on the outcomes expressed in indicators.

The novelty of the information contained in the mid-term reporting of achievement of indicators is the methodological approach focused on the progressive and systematic measurement of each indicator. This becomes particularly important if we consider the indicators as necessary instruments to improve accountability of different institutions in the context of NAPfC for promoting and protecting the children rights.

Methodology

This document is drafted based on a wide range of information, focused specifically on the indicators of the 2012-2015 NAPfC fields of action, according to the rationale explained in the introduction of this document.

In the absence of a systematic report providing previous data on these indicators, the information collected in the context of this report shall be considered as initial in efforts to serve as a ground of comparison for the information to be collected in the context of final progress report on NAPfC in 2015.

The information analysed is mainly the one reported by the relevant institutions to SAfPCR, according to legal provisions⁴ in force. Some information was collected through additional requests addressed by SAfPCR and Save the Children to relevant institutions. Additional information was fundamental, because sometimes the data provided by the relevant institutions did not match with the information related to the indicators.

3. <http://www.femijet.gov.al/raporte>

2011-2012; 2012-2013; 2013-2014 reports.

4. CoMD 267, of 12.04.2012 "On the Kinds, Manner or Exchange of Information and Statistical Data required from the Agency and Relevant State Structures at the Central and Local Level".

In order to have a better coverage of information, different reports related with relevant fields were also consulted. Focus groups with NGOs, active in the field of protection of children rights were organised to collect perceptions and concrete information on different aspects of the indicators. In order to fulfil one of the children fundamental rights coined by the present report, the authors have as well taken into account the opinion of children, organised in focus groups⁵.

Progress of indicators subject to this report were also discussed with the interested stakeholders. A series of challenges were identified, also related to collection of information. In the best scenario, information on each of the indicators would allow for a continuous progress analysis of (2012-2014), enabling a comparative approach analysis to identify either strengthening or failure of these indicators in the context of deadlines established in the NAPfC.

Indicators are defined to enable monitoring of outcomes of planned objectives/programmes/interventions. They serve as *signals* of what has happened, but are not enough to show why the programme/intervention has brought change (if any), and why and how such change has occurred.

To address the above constrains, the indicators in the *progress section* are accompanied with all the information we could collect for the respective years (2012-2014), with both numeric and narrative information. Relevant references add information if available.

In addition, the report contains information on the status of fulfilment of each objective:

Fulfilled indicators – are the indicators information on which shows that these indicators have seen the light.

Indicators in progress – this category includes indicators showing mostly fulfilled activities. The progress of such indicators is arguable because of the lack of specific targets both in numerical values and in time. These are indicators to be monitored in continuum by the SAFPCR. They shall also be subject to final reporting, using the collected information as an initial comparative base.

Unfulfilled (indicators) – this category includes indicators for which no activity is organised, or for which deadlines for their fulfilment, according to NAPfC, have already been concluded.

No reporting/no information/invalid or unclear indicators – this category is rather broad, but interaction between factors leads to the same situation of incapacity to conclude on the status of their progress.

The section on *discussions on the progress indicators* comes in an effort to classify the indicators according to their special characteristics and identifies issues related to the NAPfC indicators. The conclusions are conceived as a summary of recommendations that might become handy during the process of improving the indicators' system.

5. Focus group composed of 30 young adults, convened on 4 November 2014, in Elbasan, facilitated by Save the Children.

Recommendations from European Union documents on the indicators of children rights are attached to this report in efforts to serve as orientation guidelines.

Progress according to indicators

Right to protection and social inclusion

An increased role of local government units in assessing the children needs vis-à-vis fulfilment of their rights and alleviation of poverty.

Objective: Drafting and assessment of regional policies for each region for fulfilling the children rights, taking into account the socio-economic situation of the region.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Number of regions approving regional strategies for children rights.	7 regions have approved regional strategies for children, three of which concluded in 2013 (Dibër, Vlorë, Shkodër). The strategies in the region of Beratit and Lezha are in progress. No strategy has been approved in the region of Gjirokastra, Korçë and Durrës ⁶ . <i>In progress</i>
Number of progress reports and evaluations of implementation of strategies.	Evaluation reports have been carried out only in two regions, Fier and Shkodër for the years 2013, 2014 ⁷ . <i>In progress</i>
% of increased budget allocations for children in the field of education, health, and social protection in every region .	<i>No information at the regional level</i>

Objective: drafting of policies for alleviation of poverty and social exclusion of the children in need.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Number of piloting local government units for the new economic assistance scheme	3 regions are involved in piloting (Tiranë, Elbasan and Durrës) ⁸ <i>not fulfilled</i>

6. Information as reported by SAfPCR.

7. Ibid.

8. MSWY.

Drafting of by-laws in implementation of amendments of Law No. 9355, of 05 December 2006	Council of Ministers' Decision (CoMD) No. 904, of 12 December 2012 "On the Establishment of Criteria, Procedures and Documentation for Benefitting Economic Assistance in the Pilot Areas" and Instruction No. 9, of 23 June 2014 in its implementation provide for all the criteria and procedures to benefit economic assistance in the pilot regions. Fulfilled
Number of CRUs and of the trained Economic Assistance staff	No information

Reformation of the social services for children

Objective: De-institutionalization – transformation of residential services in new service typologies

Indicator	Fulfilment
Number of new services for children	2014: 1 The State Social Service Administrative Council has decided on 18 March 2014, at its Decision No. 166/5, the approval of opening the National Transitory Emergency Centre for Categories in Need. Under this context, the national services structures managed and administrated by the SSS have received a new service typology ⁹ . In progress
Transformation of residential centres in Sarandë, Shkodër, Tiranë, Vlorë, Korçë	2012-2013 Tirana 38 children live in this institution. They are placed in apartments, respectively divided according to the different age-groups and gender ¹⁰ . In progress
Number of family-houses in residential services and number of children treated there.	2014: 2 "Public residential family house" ¹¹ "The residential center for children aged 0-6 in Durrës", where 20 children are treated in two "family-houses" and "Zyber Hallulli Children House for children aged 6-16" – Tiranë, transformed in

9. The GDSSS.

10. Ibid.

11. GDSSS

four apartments for 46 residential children. Part of the children residential services network are also the NGO non-public residential centres providing services in the form of “family houses” for the children in need; more information follows below:

1. SOS – the children village - Tiranë - 69 children
2. SFI- Rreze Dielli – Tiranë 8 children
3. “ Orët Faltume/Happy Hours” – Elbasan, 29 children
4. Vatër e Ngrohtë/Warm Hearth – Gjirokastrë, 14 children
5. Fillimet e Reja/Fresh Start – Tiranë 13 children
6. Catholic mission “Daughters of Love”– Mollas Elbasan , 7 children
7. Pope John XXIIIth Community- Shkodër, 20 children

In progress

Objective: Improvement of social service quality for children

Indicator	Fulfilment
Reports of service inspection	May 2012 - April 2013: 40 inspections in public and non-public institutions May 2013 - May 2014: 57 Inspections (17 residential and 40 day-care institutions) 70% of them observe the standards. <i>In progress</i>
New standards approved for new typologies of services for children	2012-2014: 0 <i>not fulfilled</i>

Objective: Enlargement of the service map for children. Cooperation between local government units and different donors for establishment of new services

Indicator	Fulfilment
Map of social services at the national level and according to local government units	2013: <i>fulfilled</i> ¹²

12. <http://www.sherbimisocial.gov.al/>

Zone plans identifying the community needs for services for children	2013: fulfilled only in Elbasan, Berat, Fier <i>In progress</i>
Number of contracts signed with provides of services for children	<i>Not reported</i>

Objective: Alternative protection for children deprived of parental care

Indicator	Fulfilment
Evaluation report on foster care service piloting	2013: Study supported by UNICEF ¹³ <i>Fulfilled</i>
CoMD on foster care approved	Council of Ministers' Decision No. 89, of 26 January 2012 and Instruction No. 6, of 01 August 2012 "On Setting the Criteria, Documentation, and Procedure of Foster Care" provides for services in foster families for the children in need and lacking parental care. <i>Not fulfilled</i>
Number of family evaluation committees established in 6 municipalities	No information has been collected or reported on this issue. <i>No information.</i>
Number of trained foster families.	No information has been collected or reported on this issue. <i>No information.</i>
Number of members of the committees involved in selection of a trained foster family.	No information has been collected or reported on this issue. <i>No information.</i>
Number of adopted children	2012-2013: 80 adoptions 2013-2014: 41 adoptions <i>In progress</i> ¹⁴

13. http://www.unicef.org/albania/Protection-Albania_fostering_evaluation-oct13.pdf

14. The Albanian Adoption Committee.

<p>Periodic monitoring in public and non-public institutions for application of legal deadlines for launching adoption procedures.</p>	<p>year 2013-2014:</p> <p>All the public and non-public institutions were monitored, while the institutions with a great influx of abandoned children were a priority. Amongst the most important ones are: Vlora, Durrësi, Korça, Shkodra and Tirana. There is no information on the periodicity of monitoring or reports related to this issue.</p> <p><i>In progress</i>¹⁵</p>
<p>Drafting of the adoption service standards.</p>	<p>Year 2013: The Committee has filed a draft proposal for the AAC Rules of Procedure, which aims at very clearly reflecting all the relevant procedures to be followed by the institution for observing the required legal deadlines.</p> <p>year 2014: in progress</p> <p><i>In progress</i>¹⁶</p>
<p>Monitoring of post-adoption periods.</p>	<p>Year 2012: 40 post-adoption reports Year 2013-2014: 50 post-adoption reports</p> <p><i>In progress</i>¹⁷</p>

Harmonization of children rights' policies through functioning of mechanisms for the protection of children rights at the central and local level

Objective: Monitoring and assessment of implementation of policies for the fulfilment of children rights.

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Annual reports of status of fulfilment of child rights in Albania</p>	<p>2012: 1 "Annual Report on Monitoring of Enforcement of Law "On the Protection of the Children Rights"¹⁸</p> <p>2014: 1 "Situation of children rights in Albania 2013-2014", supported by UNICEF focused on fulfilment of objectives.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>

15. ibid

16. ibid

17. ibid

18. <http://www.femijet.gov.al/al/ep-content/uploads/2014/02/RAPORTI-VJETOR-2012-2013.pdf>

<p>Meeting of the National Council for Protection of Children Rights (NCfPCR) to discuss on the children rights situation in the country every 6 months</p>	<p>2012: 1 2014: 1</p> <p><i>In progress</i>¹⁹</p>
<p>Recommendations issued from the NCfPCR meeting</p>	<p>Year 2014: taking into account the current situation in the country, recommendations of the Universal Periodic Report and of indicators of priority 5 (Roadmap for EU Integration), priority interventions related to empowering of the children protection system were identified, including the approval of the Protocol for Protection and Care for Children; budgeting focused on children; functional coordination of local structures²⁰.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Number of seminars per region regarding the new law on the children rights and its by laws</p>	<p>2013: 12 seminars (covering all the regions)²¹; activities supported by UNICEF. Considered fulfilled by the SAfPCR.</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i></p>
<p>Number of training for the SAfPCR staff.</p>	<p>2013: 1 In December of 2013, SAfPCR, in cooperation with the Legal Aid Office in Tirana and the Ministry of Health organised a training on “Improvement of the registration system and child birth rate”</p> <p>2014: 3 Orientation-based training for protection of children and capacity building for necessary skills of staff dealing with protection of children, combining both theoretical and practical information. Training on “Answer of Public Services to the Mobile Children Phenomenon”. Training related to the action plan on the identification, assistance and referral of street children.</p> <p><i>In progress</i>²²</p>

19. <http://www.sociale.gov.al/te-reja/deklarata-per-shtyp/mblidhet-keshilli-kombetar-per-femijet-veliaj-statusin-e-jetimit-e-leshon-vetem-sherbimi-social-shteteror&page=5>

20. *ibid*

21. SAfPCR.

22. SAfPCR.

Increase of the SAfPCR staff.

2012: 6 persons

2014: 7 persons

Increase by 1 person at the department of statistics.

In progress²³

Objective: Establishment of a unified statistical indicator system for evaluating the progress of fulfilment of rights and social exclusion of children at the national and regional level.

Indicator	Fulfilment
By-laws approved	<p>Council of Ministers' Decision No 267, of 12 April 2012 "On the kinds, manner of exchange of information and statistical data required from the newly-established agency and relevant state structures at the central and local level" specifies the level of cooperation with all the institutions involved both at the national and local level to exchange statistical data and information and to afterwards monitor relevant indicators. This decision has a great impact on monitoring and assessment of policies and programmes targeted at the children rights through collection of data on children abuse cases and collection of relevant indicators having a great importance in developing recommendations for support policies and programmes on protection of children rights.</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i>²⁴</p>
Responsible institutions convey the statistical information sought by SAfPCR	<p>2013-2014 78% of CPUs have provided regular reports in 2013.</p> <p><i>In progress</i>²⁵</p>
Number of training activities in the statistics section at SAfPCR and at the CRUs network	2012-2014: 0
List of indicators included in the legislation for collection of statistics	<p>2014: in progress the indicator list is now part of the 5-year INSTAT²⁶ plan</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>

23. SAfPCR

24. <http://www.femijet.gov.al/doc/VKMNr.267.pdf>

25. SAfPCR

26. Ibid

Objective: Establishment of a partnership and encouragement of cooperation between state institutions at the central and local level, non-for-profit organizations active in the field.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Approved CoMDs	<p>Council of Minister’s Decision No. 263, of 12 April 2012 “On Setting Detailed Rules for Coordination between Institutional Mechanisms and Non-For-Profit Organizations for Fulfilling Local Policies for protection of Children Rights” determines the cooperation mechanisms between local and central administration and non-for-profit organizations. Taking into account the importance of the work of non-government organizations in the last years on children referral and administration cases, strengthening of their cooperation with public institutions for application of local policies for protection of children rights is considered necessary.</p> <p><i>fulfilled</i>²⁷</p>
Agreements signed between state institutions and NGOs	<p>Year 2012: There is no agreement.</p> <p>Year 2013: Cooperation agreement between SAfPCR and the Children Observatory</p> <p>Year 2014: Agreements signed between state institutions and NGOs in the context of the intervention “Assistance for Street Families and Children”</p> <p>Between the MSWY and Mol “On the Identification and Protection of Street Children”;</p> <p>Between the SAfPCR , Municipality Unit No.1 and the World and Albania Children”</p> <p>Between SAfPCR, Municipality Unit No. 2 and ARSIS.</p> <p>Between SAfPCR, Municipality Unit No. 3 and Different but Equal.</p> <p>Between SAfPCR, Municipality Unit No. 5 and ARSIS.</p> <p>Between SAfPCR, Municipality Unit No. 6 and ARSIS.</p> <p>Between SAfPCR, Municipality Unit No. 10 and ARSIS.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
Number of seminars organised and participants in these seminars	<p><i>Not clear</i> – not related with a concrete activity of NAPfC, not clear who are the stakeholders involved in seminars.</p>

27. <http://www.femijet.gov.al/doc/VKMNr.263.pdf>

Right to protection from violence, abuse and economic exploitation

Prevention and protection of children from violence and abuse

Objective: Registration of all children with an Albanian nationality, born either in the territory of Albania or abroad

Indicator	Fulfilment
Approval of by-laws for registration of children	Not fulfilled
Keeping of the birth act for all the children born in the country	Not reported SAFPCR reports it is not clear how such information is collected.
Keeping of the birth/registration act for all the children born abroad	Not reported The SAFPCR reports it is not clear how such information is collected.

Objective: Establishment and operation of institutional mechanisms for protection of children and management of children at risk at the local level.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Number of meetings and participants at the local level for enforcing the law	2013: 12 meetings The SAFPCR reports that the indicator is understood as similar with the objective: <i>Monitoring and assessment of policies for fulfilment of children rights.</i> Fulfilled
Number of established CPUs and CRUs	2012: CPUs – 49 CRUs - 10 2014: CPUs: 196 (cumulative figure per annum) CRUs – 12 (cumulative figure per annum) In progress ²⁸
CoMDs approved for coordination of work	CoMD No. 266, of 12 April 2012 “On the Establishment and Operation of the Coordination Mechanism between Relevant State Authorities

28. SAFPCR

	<p>for Referral of Cases of Children at Risk and Manner of Proceeding” is aimed at helping the category of children at risk and determines all the procedures of intervention for the children at risk, coordination structures and the subjects entitled to case referral. Except for the child and parent/s, or the legal guardian, other subjects entitled to refer an abuse case include “any person, who, as a consequence of his/her work attests the case of violence against a child and violation of the rights of children”; “any person having a blood relation with the child;” and “any person attesting the violation of the right of the child or of anonymous subjects”²⁹.</p> <p>Not fulfilled</p>
<p>Instruction of the Minister on the Methodology of Operation of the Children Protection Units/Protection of Children Rights Units for treating cases of children at risk.</p>	<p>2012-2013: protocol of procedures of intervention for protection of children at risk approved</p> <p>2014: under approval Upon Order No. 158 of 6 August 2014, of the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, an inter-institutional working group was established for assessing the draft-procedures drafted so far and for coordinating the work for coming up with their final version³⁰.</p> <p>In progress</p>
<p>Meetings of multi-disciplinary groups for children-at-risk case management.</p>	<p>The CPUs can report narrative information on the number of multidisciplinary groups (if existing). So far, such information is not collected to be presented in a statistical fashion by SAfPCR, and neither has it been required as such by the CPU.</p> <p>No information</p>
<p>Regulations approved in the regions where the steering committees were established and in the local government units (LGU) where multi-disciplinary technical teams have been established.</p>	<p>2014: approved by any regulation suggested by SAfPCR.</p> <p>2015: undergoing approval by LGUs³¹</p> <p>In progress</p>

29. <http://www.femijet.gov.al/doc/VKMNr.266.pdf>

30. SAfPCR

31. SAfPCR

<p>Number of training activities and of staff trained in CPUs /CRUs</p>	<p>2013: 1 In December of 2013, SAfPCR, in cooperation with the Legal Aid Service in Tirana and the Ministry of Health, organised a training on “Improvement of children birth registration and reporting system”;</p> <p>2014: 3 Orientation-based training for protection of children and capacity building for necessary skills of staff dealing with protection of children, combining both theoretical and practical information. Training on “Answer of Public Services to the Mobile Children Phenomenon”. Training related to the action plan on the identification, assistance and referral of street children.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Status of social workers – approved</p>	<p>2014: Law No. 163/2014 “On the Social Worker Status”³² was approved</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i></p>
<p>Number of controls/monitoring exercises</p>	<p>2014: drafting of the methodology for the ground work monitoring (SAfPCR) Monitoring operations exercised - 10 CPUs³³</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>

Objective: Implementation of COMBI Programme: “For a friendly school pro positive attitudes”;

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Number of lawyers in all pre-university schools on novel disciplining manners (NDM)</p>	<p>2012-2014 Such institution is not reported by MAS to SAfPCR. Information on this matter was neither reported after a request sent via e-mail to SAfPCR on such indicator.</p> <p><i>Not fulfilled</i></p>
<p>Number of teachers and school principals trained on NDM</p>	<p>2012-2014 66 regional orientation sessions in all the DARs of the country.</p>

32. http://www.parlament.al/web/pub/ligj_nr_163_dt_4_12_2014_20659_1.pdf

33. SAfPCR

	2645 school principals and deputy principals, teachers, psychologists, staff from DARs/EOs ³⁴ are trained <i>In progress</i>
Number of promotional activities in DAR/EO level	2012-2014 There is a corner for the COMBI project, with awareness material on NDM ³⁵ in all the kindergartens and pre-university level schools <i>In progress</i>
TV features and radio programmes, different awareness raising articles in the daily press on NDM	2012-2014 information not collected from any institution on reporting; <i>no information</i>
Establishment of regional NDM alliances (DARs/Eos, parent community)	2012-2014 <i>Not fulfilled</i> ³⁶
Monthly reports on the discussion and implementation of the NDM in all the pre-university schools.	<i>Not fulfilled</i>
Evaluation reports on implementation of NDM at the beginning and at the end of the implementation of the COMBI programme	<i>Not fulfilled</i>

Objective: Establishment and consolidation of the psychological service in all kindergartens, schools of compulsory education and secondary education

Indicator	Fulfilment
Number of schools with a psychologist	Year 2014: 138 psychologists at the national level. Instruction for approval (information below) is expected to improve the existing structure <i>In progress</i>
Training of psychologists (250)	There is no manual on the tasks and work of a psychologist and of a social worker in schools. Unreported training. <i>Not fulfilled</i>

34. MAS

35. *ibid*

36. Reported by MAS to SAfPCR

Establishment of a coordination and supervisory system for the psychologist's service in schools

A new instruction is being drafted by a cross-sector institutional group; its purpose is to improve psychologists' and social workers' service in schools.³⁷

In progress

Objective: Safe internet for children

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>A National Code of Behaviour, Ethics, for all stakeholders</p>	<p>Year 2012: CoMD No. 182 of 13 March 2013 approved the Code of Ethics "On a Safe and Responsible Use of the National Electronic Communications Network by Operators of Electronic Communications"³⁸. The National Agency of Information Society (NAIS), in cooperation with the Ministry of Innovation, Information Technology and Communications (MITIK) coordinated the process of drafting and approval of the Code of Ethics. Currently Albania lacks clear standards and rules regarding classification of the commercial content; telephone communication or online operators accept they have no control over the content provided via internet, but pursuant to this Code they make sure that the commercial content provided by or through them shall be controlled and classified within a suitable context. Commercial content shall be "targeted" to mark whether the information is suitable for individuals aged under 18. According to this Code, entrepreneurs are committed to help children and parents regarding the use of the internet network or services, by reflecting the instructions for parents in their internet site. The Code of Ethics for these operators is a first step, but drafting of a suitable legal framework to ensure safe internet for children remains important.</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i></p>
<p>Cooperation agreement with internet service providers and mobile telephone operators, etc.</p>	<p>On 11 February 2014, the Minister for Innovation and Public Administration, in cooperation with NAIS, signed two memoranda of understanding</p>

37. Reported by MAS to SAfPCR

38. <http://www.akep.al/informacion/legjislacioni/245-ceremonia-e-firmosjes-se-kodit-te-sjelles>
<http://plus.al/download/Kodi-i-sjelljes-07-02-2013.pdf>

	<p>with the National Agency on Computer Safety, The Electronic and Postal Communication Authority, Commissioner for Personal Data Protection and the following mobile telephone operators: AMC, Vodafone Albania, Eagle Mobile, Plus, Albanian Association of Information Technology, as well as the following internet service providers: Albtelecom, Abcom, Abissnet, Tring Communication.</p> <p>Fulfilled</p>
<p>Signing of cooperation agreements between state institutions and businesses</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Fulfilled</p>

Protection of children from most serious forms of labour

Objective: Strengthening of prevention measures and guaranteeing an efficient protection for children exploited in the most serious forms of labour.

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Approval of amendments in the Criminal Code</p>	<p>2012-2014</p> <p>Amendments in the Criminal Code by Law No. 144/2013, of 20 May 2013, provide guarantees for the adequate protection of children from sexual crimes and economic exploitation. Amongst the essential amendments that can be mentioned is Article 1, where the following phrase is added “... for protecting the best interest of the child”. Also, the following amendments are reflected on Article 50: “e/1) ... commission of offences during or after court protection orders for domestic violence”. Inter alia, the lawmaker has decided to aggravate sentencing for the crime of sexual violence against children, a crime which is now condemnable with 25 years of imprisonment, instead of 15 years before the amendment. A new criminal offence is added in the Code, in Article 107, related to violence of a sexual nature, while Article 108 has been drafted anew to provide protection from sexual crimes for the children aged 14-18. Part of this criminal offence is also the attempt to meet with the child for the purpose of having sexual relations with him/her. Another addition in the Code is sexual harassment, including children, in</p>

	<p>the new paragraph C of Article 108 of the Criminal Code.</p> <p>Child pornography has now full legal coverage in Article 117 of the Criminal Code, which, in its last amendments, considers possession, recruitment and a number of other forms of child pornography a crime.</p> <p>An adequate solution was also found for protection of children from economic exploitation. Article 124, paragraph C of the Code has been improved including all the forms of exploitation of children. The new article reads: "Obligation, exploitation, pressure or use of minors to work, to ensure incomes, to beg or carry out actions harming his/her mental and/physical health, or education, shall be punishable with imprisonment of from two to five years."</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Awareness-raising activities in all the regions of the country against exploitation of children for labour</p>	<p>There is no measuring or reporting instrument for this indicator from different institutions for reporting to the CRUs or NAFPCR.</p> <p>2014: A awareness raising campaign is undertaken by NAFPCR /GDSSS and NGOs to raise the awareness of citizens on the phenomenon of exploitation of street children and to demonstrate this phenomenon. The starting point of the campaign was on 12 June 2014, World Day Against Child Labour, with the slogan of "No to Child Labour".</p> <p>To continue awareness raising and communication with the public opinion, the campaign is continuing every Thursday, including voluntary groups from all the levels, pupils, students from all faculties, young people, in cooperation with the Youth Directorate at the MMRS, and volunteers from organizations of the Roma community. This campaign is also aimed at familiarising the public with the work and the outcomes achieved from institutions on the child exploitation phenomenon and the assistance available to these children and their households.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>INSTAT study on the child labour</p>	<p>2013: published report³⁹</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i></p>

39. Dayiogly, M., 2013. Working children in the Republic of Albania. Tiranë: ILO/INSTAT

Objective: Increased role of the State Labour Inspectorate for protection of children and improvement of situation of working children

Indicator	Fulfilment
Institutionalization of cooperation in compliance with Law No. 10433, of 16 June 2011 “On Inspections”.	2014: reported as in progress <i>In progress</i>
Training of 120 PHI inspectors	2013: reported as in progress 2014: reported as in progress <i>In progress</i>
Drafting of the 2013–2020 Work Inspection Strategy giving a special focus to child labour	2014: Labour Inspection and Social Dialogue Inspectorate at the MSWR report that the strategy is currently under the drafting process. <i>In progress</i> ⁴⁰

Right to development and education

Establishment of an enabling environment for promoting child development at an early age

Objective: Local government has the capacities and necessary budget allocations to promote early development in children.

Indicator	Fulfilment
National study for early child development at the age of 0-3 has been developed and has identified problems and steps for future consideration	With the UNICEF support, assessment of services for early childhood in kindergartens, residential institutions and the health sector was realised, identifying also the problems in relevant areas ⁴¹ . <i>Fulfilled</i>
Standards for kindergartens for children of 0-3 years old have already been prepared and approved	Standards for kindergartens designing were drafted in cooperation with UNICEF, but they are not approved yet ⁴² . <i>In progress</i>

40. Information on the three indicators mentioned above is reported by the State Labour and Social Services Inspectorate as being in progress, while no further details have been issued.

41. Haxhiymeri, E., Hallkaj, E., Ndrio, M., Boci, A., 2013. Assessment of capacities for children services of 0-3 years. Tirane: UNICEF

42. <http://www.unicef.org/albania/Standartet-e-Cerdheve.pdf>

<p>Local state budget for children of 0-3 years old increased by 5%</p>	<p>No information reported by local government through any of the report instruments; such information is neither collected by any other agency and is not calculated in this level by any study.</p> <p>No information</p>
<p>Parental programme particularly, focusing on the people in need, have been established and implemented</p>	<p>The protocol/instruction of health-related visits in the community was drafted and approved by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with UNICEF, but applied only in the context of a project with Roma families⁴³.</p> <p>In progress</p>

Inclusive and qualitative education system for children

Objective: Continuous improvement and consolidation of a quality and free public pre-school education system, compulsory education

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Increase of 5-year-olds by 10% and of 3-4-year-olds in pre-school education</p>	<p>MAS assesses that about 70% of the 3-5 year-olds go to kindergarten. Percentage for 2012 is not available.</p> <p>In progress</p>
<p>Number of new kindergartens and of reconstructed kindergartens</p>	<p>Year 2011-2012 Total of kindergartens 1907 (1761 public and 146 private) Year 2012-2013 Total of kindergartens 1941 (1778 public and 133 private) Year 2013-2014 Total of kindergartens 1900 (1773 public and 127 private)⁴⁴ <i>Data analysis shows that the total number of kindergartens is not increasing, but in 2014 there were 12 public kindergartens more than in 2012.</i> <i>Number of reconstructed kindergartens is not reported.</i></p> <p>In progress</p>

43. Information reported by UNICEF to NAfPCR.

44. Ministry of Education and Sports.

<p>Review of the curricula of compulsory education.</p>	<p>The basic education curricular reform in 2013 tried to offer a new curricula, but, despite the reforms made, it was not possible to develop a competence-based curricula. A new reform has now started with the aim of transforming the curricula based on competencies⁴⁵.</p> <p>Order No. 323, of 07 August 2014 “For piloting of the new curricula in basic education and pre-university education system”.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Number of new schools of basic (compulsory) education</p>	<p>Year 2011-2012 Total of basic schools 1473 (1341 public and 132 private)</p> <p>Year 2012-2013 Total of kindergartens 1472 (1346 public and 126 private)</p> <p>Year 2013-2014 Total of kindergartens 1464 (1340 public and 124 private)⁴⁶</p> <p><i>Data analysis shows that the total number of basic schools is on the decrease and in 2014 there is one school less than in 2012)</i></p> <p><i>Not fulfilled</i></p>
<p>Percentage of state budget and percentage of funds to be allocated from incomes of local government units for opening of new schools and improvement of their existing infrastructure</p>	<p>For basic education 2012: ALL 1,976,687 in capital expenditures 2013: ALL 1,245,335 in capital expenditures 2014: spending unreported, planned budget ALL 1,800,000</p> <p>For secondary education 2012: no information 2013: no information 2014: ALL 1,171,738 in capital expenditures</p> <p>Vocational education 2012: ALL 281,628 2013: ALL 344,949 2014: ALL⁴⁷ 193,613</p>

45. Karameta, P. et al. 2014. Reforma e sistemit arsimior parauniversitar– Raport Vlerësues paraprak, Grupi i punës për reformimin e arsimit parauniversitar. Tirane: MAS

46. Ministry of Education and Sports.

47. Institute of Contemporary Studies. 2014. Mid-term Review of Budget Allocations and Spending for the Annual Action Plan for Protection of Children Rights 2012-2015. Tirana: ISB/EU

Information on local government units is not reported.

Existing information shows of more reduction of budget in infrastructure, but knowing that local government is responsible for the infrastructure of education institutions, it is not possible to reach a conclusion.

Incomplete information.

Establishment or rehabilitation of libraries; establishment of cabinets and laboratories; insurance of internet connection and of IT labs

No proper coordination between schools and DARs, as well as the lack of funds have led to a situation where libraries are not supplied with new titles not serving to the promotion, motivation and closer approach of students to books.

Regarding teaching infrastructure, public schools possess demonstrative laboratories of such subjects as physics, chemistry, biology and geography, but, in any cases they are not functional. Nonoperation of laboratories is due to the insufficient amount of laboratory equipment and material base and lack of proper venues for having laboratory classes. Laboratory equipment provided by DARs do not always comply with the requirements of school programmes, or with the real needs of these schools⁴⁸.

Public basic education schools report of 15731 PCs, of which only 11331 are in working conditions, while 4400 PCs are not working. The schools report of 1631 laptops, of which 432 are in working conditions. The ratio of number of computers in use for students is different from one school to the other; this ratio is on average 1:27, or even less. In more than 1/3 of schools, students have limited capacities for receiving online information⁴⁹.

In progress

Drafting and preparation of alternative models for treatment of teachers and continuous professional development of teachers compliant to their needs

Information on this indicator has not been reported; professional training of teachers is now offered from third parties, institutions outside MAS and, because of this situation, this information is not reported from any institution.

No information

48. Gjedia, R., et al (2013) "Evaluation Report on Climate and Ethics in Schools and Care for Students", IKAP.

49. Karameta, P. et al. 2014. The reform in the pre-university education system – preliminary evaluation report, working group for the reformation of the pre-university education. Tirane: MAS

Objective: Inclusiveness in teaching despite of social-economic situation, ethnic background, limited capacity or geographical location

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Increase of enrolment indicators by 4.5%, (or 160 children) for Roma and Egyptian children, by 2% for children with disabilities</p>	<p>If we take into account the statistics on Roma population of 3-18 years old, issued from the regionalization report of Roma population realised by UNICEF (2012), it turns out that: 87% of children of 6-18 years of age are in schools and 39% of children 3-6 years attend kindergarten⁵⁰. For the period of 2013-2014, 66% of children attending “the second chance programme” are Roma . <i>Current information does not enable a data analysis to show if the indicator was realised in this phase. Data disaggregation for Roma/ Egyptian children in education has started in 2013, rendering it impossible to draw a comparison with previous years⁵¹.</i></p> <p>In progress</p>
<p>Work programmes, curricula for children with disabilities studying in schools</p>	<p>The current curricula is reported to be very “burdensome” for children with various categories of disabilities, especially for children with intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, there are no adopted books, other facilitating materials and means for fulfilling the programme. Teachers have no instruction for adopting the curricula for children with disabilities⁵².</p> <p>Not fulfilled</p>
<p>Acts approved for education of children with special needs</p>	<p>Order of the Prime Minister No. 232, of 2 December 2013 “On the Establishment of an Inter-Institutional Working Group for Officialising the Sign Language in the Republic of Albania “. Order No. 66, of 18 March 2014 on “On the establishment of a technical working group for officialising the sign language in the Republic of Albania”.</p> <p>In progress</p>
<p>Continuation of distribution of free texts in compulsory 9-year education to ensure proper access in education of children</p>	<p>Compensation of free texts in basic education through expenses for this line⁵³: 2012: ALL 300,098</p>

50. <http://www.sidalbania.org/romacom.html>

51. Information from MAS.

52. http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/inclusive_education_in_albania_-_analytic_study.pdf

53. Institute of Contemporary Studies. 2014. Mid-term Review of Budget Allocations and Spending for the Annual Action Plan for Protection of Children Rights 2012-2015. Tirana: ISB/EU.

<p>belonging to households benefitting economic aid.</p>	<p>2013: ALL 277,289 2014: ALL 246,000</p> <p>The initiative has continued for the period of 2012-2014, given that the indicator highlights the continuity of intervention, it can be said that it is in progress despite reduction of expenditures in years.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Transportation for children and teachers</p>	<p>2012: ALL 393,803 2013: ALL 523,000 2014: ALL 560,000</p> <p>Data show of an increase of budget allocation for this service⁵⁴.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>

Objective: Reduction of school drop-out rate

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Reduction of school drop-out rate in basic education under 0.3%</p>	<p>According to MAS, the official indicator of school drop-out rate is assessed in 0.43% in 2013-2014</p> <p><i>Not fulfilled</i></p>

Increase of participation of children in the decision-making process in school and outside it

Objective: Encouragement of a continuous and qualitative participation of children in decision-making vis-à-vis the teaching process, and activities in the school and outside it.

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Drafting of instruments and modalities for participation of children in:</p> <p>a. information and decision-making together with the pedagogic staff.</p> <p>b. undertaking responsibilities vis-à-vis their selves, school, family and community.</p> <p>c. practicing forms of delegation and representation.</p>	<p>Functioning of the students' government in the pre-university education schools is applied in implementation of Article 37 of the provisions of the pre-university education instruments.</p> <p>Almost in all the schools inspected by IKAP in 2013⁵⁵, collegial bodies are established, such as: School Boards, Parent Councils, Pedagogic Councils, Student Governments and Disciplining</p>

54. Institute of Contemporary Studies. 2014. Mid-term Review of Budget Allocations and Spending for the Annual Action Plan for Protection of Children Rights 2012-2015. Tirana: ISB/EU.

55. Gjedia, R., et al (2013) "Evaluation Report on Climate and Ethics in Schools and Care for Students", IKAP.

d. taking part in school steering boards, monitoring of elections and functioning of the students governments.

Councils, but their operation keeps being a constant challenge. Lack of an efficient cooperation between them reflects a “broken chain” of proper functioning of education institutions.

Not in all occasions have the school directorates put at disposal grounds/conditions for a normal functioning of the Students Governments. The Students Governments are chaired by a coordinating teacher, who facilitates the solution of problems and realization of planned activities. He/she is not always chosen by students. The Students Governments are rarely involved in drafting the annual school plan and in decision-making processes. The Students Governments do in rare occasions keep regular documentation on their activities.

In progress

Objective: Promotion of children rights

Indicator	Fulfilment
Kind of distributed materials	<p>In general, such information is not collected or reported by any institution. It may be part of different programmes/projects. MAS and NAFPCR lack specific information on this indicator.</p> <p><i>No reporting</i></p>
Number of schools where distribution has occurred	<p>In general, such information is not collected or reported by any institution. It may be part of different programmes/projects. MAS and NAFPCR lack specific information on this indicator.</p> <p><i>No reporting</i></p>
Number of trained students governments	<p>In general, such information is not collected or reported by any institution. It may be part of different programmes/projects. MAS and NAFPCR lack specific information on this indicator.</p> <p><i>No reporting</i></p>
Kind of activities where children have exercised their right to participation (in schools, LGU decision-making structures)	<p>In general, such information is not collected or reported by any institution. It may be part of different programmes/projects. MAS and NAFPCR lack specific information on this indicator.</p> <p><i>No reporting</i></p>

Right to social care

Provision of essential health care for the mother and child

Objective: Monitoring and assessment of health services for the mother and newly born child

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Reduction of birth mortality rate by 3% in 2014 from the basic level of 2012.</p> <p>Reduction of maternal mortality rate by 2% in 2014 from basic level of 2012.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Year 2012: infantile mortality (up to one year) marks 7.9/1000 for living births. Year 2013: 7.3/1000 for living births.</p> <p>INSTAT: Year 2013: 8.84/1000 living births.</p> <p>Ministry of Health Year 2012: maternal mortality is reduced by 5.7 deaths in 100 thousand births. Year 2013: 11.8 for 100.000 living births. 2014: no reporting yet.</p> <p><i>In progress</i> for infantile mortality. <i>In regress</i> for maternal mortality.</p>
<p>Percentage of pregnant women receiving their first visit within the first trimester of pregnancy</p>	<p>2012: 62% (MoH) 2013: 57.7% (MoH) 2014: no reporting yet</p> <p>Although the percentage of women is on the decrease, in the absence of data for 2014, no conclusion may be drawn on the trend.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Percentage of women assisted from medical staff during labour</p>	<p>Year 2012: 99.06% (MoH) Year 2013: 99.95% (INSTAT) 99.97% (MoH) 2014: no reporting yet</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Number of protocols prepared for neonatal care.</p>	<p>2012-2014: 6 protocols approved for neonatal care and mother care following labour. The work in this direction has started in 2012, supported by UNICEF⁵⁶.</p>

56. Ministry of Health, Order No. 62/18.02.2014 and 157/26.04.2014.

	<p><i>Protocols</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits of control on the mother after birth • Post-natal care for the new born • Management of mother's health problems post birth • Management of health problems of the new born • Management of mother's issues/problems after birth • Threatening signs for the new born <p><i>Not fulfilled</i></p>
<p>Number of trained staff in the health care service involved in provision of obstetric and neonatal care, related to practices of holistic care for the mother and the new born</p>	<p>2012-2014</p> <p>Training of the health staff of maternity hospitals in the cities of Korçë, Vlorë, Kukes, Durrës, regarding the package of effective perinatal care treatment/care for pregnant women. Number of trained staff is 579, from 87 Health Centres⁵⁷.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>

Objective: Provision of effective and contemporary breastfeeding care by any health care institution for the mother and child, applying the 10 steps for a successful breastfeeding⁵⁸.

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Number of health institutions accredited for breastfeeding management</p>	<p>2012: 5 institutions 2013: 8 institutions 2014: 9 institutions (from 12 all over Albania)</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Number of health staff trained in breastfeeding and gender issues related to breastfeeding.</p>	<p>2013: 40 staff in districts of Gjirokastër, Delvinë, Sarandë, Shkodër 2014: 170 health staff, primary health care service</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Breastfeeding indicators aggregated according to gender, location and social-economic situation collected on a periodical basis.</p>	<p>Indicator fulfilled in 2013 (Public Health Institute).</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i></p>

57. The information is reported by UNICEF to NAFPCR.

58. Indicators of this objective are reported to NAFPCR by the Public Health Institute

Number of media campaigns regarding breastfeeding

Kind of activities for the period of 2013-2014:
 Website www.ushqyerjaefemijeve.com
 Social network
 Radio transmission
 10 TV talks
 10 articles in press
 Meetings and competitions with mothers

In progress

Prevention of malnutrition, obesity and overweight in children

Objective: Implementation of national programmes to promote healthy eating, physical “gender sensitive” activities for children.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Preparation of dietary instructions for children according to age and gender	<p>2012-2014: 6 guidelines have been drafted and approved⁵⁹</p> <p>Steps for successful breastfeeding in community; Micro-nutrient supplements in children Feeding of children with infant formula Start of supplementary nutrition of children Breastfeeding in mothers with HIV/AIDS Breastfeeding in case of sick mother or when she is under medication.</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i></p>
Protocols of growth and development of children for the primary health care.	<p>2012-2014: 6 guidelines have been drafted and approved⁶⁰</p> <p>visits for monitoring growth and development of 0-6 month-old children visits for monitoring growth and development of 6-24 month-old children visits for monitoring growth and development of 2-6 year-old children Monitoring of 0-6 year-old children Follow-up of growth according to growth curves Assessment of hearing capacity in 0-6 year-old children</p>

59. Ministry of Health, Order No. 62/18 February 2014 and 157/26 April 2014.

60. Ministry of Health, Order No. 62/18 February 2014 and 157/26 April 2014.

	Assessment of sight in 0-6 year-old children <i>Not fulfilled</i>
Number of breastfeeding-related indicators included in monitoring the healthcare centre performance system	<i>Not fulfilled</i>
Number of health staff trained in nutritional issues and nutrition counselling.	Based on the approved regulatory framework, accredited training modules were accredited for the training of service providers for monitoring growth and feeding. Training activities benefiting 579 service providers (87 health centres) in Kukës, Shkodër, Tiranë and Durrës are expected to be extended all over the country. <i>Reporting on this indicator is similar with reporting on the Objective above. Indicator: Number of trained healthcare staff included in the obstetrical and neonatal health care regarding holistic care practices during birth and for the new born.</i> <i>In progress</i>
Number of training completed	<i>No reporting</i>
School curricula on nutrition prepared and included in school programmes.	Students of classes 1-9 of basic education are presented with the curricula of education on nutrition, drafted by the Institute of Public Health and Institute of Education Development. Such education is part of cross-curricula modules. 20 schools have piloted modules in Kukes, Shkoder, Tirana and Durres. About 300 open education sessions and 10 events with the participation of teachers, students and parents were organised during the period of 2013-2014. Application of modules in all the schools of the country is expected in continuum ⁶¹ . <i>In progress</i>
Percentage of trained education staff on importance of feeding and physical activity	<i>Not valid</i> ⁶²

61. Reported by the Public Health Institute to NAFPCR.

62. Qualified as such by the Public Health Institute.

Number of promotional campaigns related to physical activity of children Year 2013-2014: 5 campaigns⁶³
In progress

Prevention of contagious diseases and reduction of main childhood diseases

Objective: Full timely vaccination for all children according to the national vaccination calendar. Monitoring of vaccine quality and surveillance for immunization of population.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Percentage of vaccinated children according to the routine calendar	2012-2014. Percentage of children vaccinated according to the routine calendar for the three-year period is over 97%. <i>In progress</i>
Number of new vaccines included in the national vaccination calendar.	2012-2014: 1 – the IPV vaccine for all the children born from 1 March 2014 the two first polio vaccine doses are taken by the inactive IPV vaccines. The IPV vaccine is not a new antigen, but a different kind of injection-based vaccine (different from the previous oral vaccine). <i>Fulfilled</i>
Percentage of Roma population vaccinated according to the routine calendar	Year 2012-2013: (MoH) From campaigns there are only additional vaccinated children -- that is children not vaccinated from the routine vaccination (75 children). Representatives of the Public Health Institute report that such indicator cannot be collected because there is no disaggregated ethnic information in the health system. The information may continue to be collected through campaigns, but fails to show the percentage of vaccinated population. <i>No information</i>
Number of health staff trained on immunization and reporting system	Year 2012: 500 Year 2013: 200 Year 2014: 600 <i>Source: Public Health Institute</i> <i>In progress</i>

63. This information was provided by UNICEF to NAFPCR, but with no details on campaigns

<p>Number of health staff trained for the cold chain</p>	<p>Year 2012: 500 75 persons re-trained on new appliances, such as new ice-lined refrigerators and fridge tags. These persons have provided continuous training for all the vaccinating staff in Albania.</p> <p>Year 2013: 200 Year 2014: Training for a new monitoring appliance for about 600 staff according to the scheme in the above comment has been planned for 2014.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Number of controls for infectious and non-infectious deceases.</p>	<p>Year 2012: 50 Year 2013: 30 Year 2014: 40 Representatives of the Public Health Institute raise questions on the invalidity of this indicator.</p> <p><i>Not valid</i></p>
<p>Number of promotional activities, community, household health education, focusing on importance of vaccination for children. Empowerment of the ALERT system.</p>	<p>Year 2013-2014: Regarding the importance of vaccination, a special TV feature was produced on the importance of vaccination, broadcast time after time based on our requirement; a video was produced on the electronic vaccination system, appearing frequently in the social networks.</p> <p>The alert system has not been changed; it continues having the same reporting rate in the three years (2012-2014) with 97%.⁶⁴</p> <p>Representatives of the Public Health Institute raise concerns on the capacity of measuring the indicators on the number of activities at the national level.</p> <p><i>Not measurable</i></p>
<p>Number of promotional and educational activities for prevention of infectious deceases/food, personal and environment hygiene, protection measures against contagious deceases, etc.</p>	<p>Year 2012: 3 Year 2013: 2 Year 2014: 2 Such indicator is not collected and reported by any institution. Representatives of the Public</p>

64. Public Health Institute

	Health Institute raise concerns on the capacity to measure this indicator at the national level. Not measurable
Number of topics/classes organised in schools on infectious deceases	Such indicator is not collected and reported by any institution. Representatives of the Public Health Institute suggest its omission from the health section. Not reported/not measurable
Health Observatory in the SHI	2012-2013: its operation and organization are under discussion 2013-2014: no development progress Not fulfilled

Objective: Regular monitoring of growth and development in children of 0-5 years old by the primary health care staff in health centres and child consultation centres

Indicator	Fulfilment
Unified protocols, regulations, etc. to ensure regular monitoring of growth and child development	2012-2014: 6 guidelines ⁶⁵ Steps for successful breastfeeding in community; Micro-nutrient supplements in children Feeding of children with infant formula Start of supplementary nutrition of children Breastfeeding in mothers with HIV/AIDS Breastfeeding in case of sick mother or when she is under medication. Fulfilled
Number of health centres providing monitoring of growth and development of children	2012-2014: 413 (all health centres) fulfilled
Percentage of children aged 0-1 receiving compulsory visits according to clinical protocols	Such information is not collected and reported by the Institute of Compulsory Health Care Insurance. Reporting is done only based on the number of visits. No reported /not measurable

65. Ministry of Health, Order No. 62/18.02.2014 and 157/26.04.2014

Number of training of staff for monitoring growth, development and improvement of advisory skills for the health of children.

In accordance with the approved regulatory framework, accredited training modules were drafted for service providers for monitoring growth and nutrition. Training activities benefitted 579 service providers (87 health centres) in Kukës, Shkodër, Tiranë and Durrës and are expected to be extended in other providers all over the country.

In progress

Same information is reported under three different indicators in the action plan due to wrong definition of indicators.

Objective: Extension of the Childhood Diseases' Integrated Management of (CDIM) model to monitor and treat children of 0-5 years in all primary child care services of

Indicator	Fulfilment
Number of trained staff	Year 2012-2013: 70 doctors and 40 nurses of the Primary Health Care in Korçë 45 medical doctors in Durrës Year 2013-2014: not reported <i>In progress</i>
Number of communes involved in the community CDIM model	Year 2012-2013: 5 communes in Korça having a total of 62045 inhabitants and 2766 children aged 0-5. Year 2013-2014: Not reported <i>In progress</i>

Control and prevention of IST, including HIV/AIDS

Objective: Prevention and reduction of number of cases of HIV/AIDS and IST in children

Indicator	Fulfilment
Number of children and mothers with HIV/AIDS	Year 2012: (28 cases in total) 4 new cases Year 2013: (34 cases in total) 6 new cases Year 2014: (38 in total) 4 new cases Specialists of the Public Health Institute report of concerns for formulating the indicators for mothers with HIV/AIDS. They suggest replacement

	<p>of these indicators with the indicator of “No of pregnant women resulting positive after HIV/AIDS tests”.</p> <p>Not clearly determined</p>
Number of reference centres in maternity hospitals, supplied with reagents and laboratory equipment for HIV/AIDS	<p>Year 2012-2014: 1</p> <p>The National Centre of Reference for Prevention and Transmission of HIV/AIDS from the mother to child at the “Koço Gliozheni” Obstetric-Gynaecological Hospital in Tiranë.</p> <p>Not fulfilled</p>
Number of health centres providing training for HIV/AIDS	<p>Year 2012-2014: 0</p> <p>Not fulfilled</p>
Number of informational materials prepared and distributed for HIV/AIDS	<p>Year 2012: 12 000 leaflets 8000 posters 2000 postcards Year 2013: 12 000 leaflets 8000 posters 2000 postcards Year 2014 – not reported</p> <p>In progress⁶⁶</p>
Examinations and treatment of children suffering of HIV/AIDS in a specialised centre.	<p>Treatment of children infected with HIV/AIDS is done only in 1 centre, namely in the Pediatric Service, “Mother Teresa” Hospital Centre in Tiranë.</p> <p>Fulfilled</p>
Number of campaigns for protection of rights of children suffering of HIV/AIDS	<p>Year 2012: 3 December 2012, discussion with the Parliamentary Health Committee on the issue of HIV-positive children in Albania. Meetings in Ishëm, Durrës with structures of Educational Directorate on HIV-positive case management; case of a child attending school in this village.</p> <p>Year 2013: Prevention of transmission from the mother to the child has started via the campaign</p>

66. Information reported from the National Programme of HIV/AIDS to NAFPCR

of the 1st of December.

Discussion in the Parliamentary Health Commission focusing on the prevention of transmission from the mother to the child and children with HIV.

Year 2014: Meetings in Tiranë and Vlorë on a HIV positive case management for an orphan, in cooperation with the State Social Service and Child Protection Unit at the Municipality of Vlora.

In progress⁶⁷

Right to legal protection

Protection of children in conflict with law

Objective: More efficacy in legal proceedings against minors and shortening of procedures/deadlines.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Reduction of time in pre-detention for minors (estimation: 5-7 months, aim: 2-4 months).	<i>Not reported</i>
President's Decree on Minors' Sections in first instance courts	<i>Not fulfilled</i>
Approval of amendments in the Criminal Procedure Code	Year 2013: establishment of a working group Year 2014: not reported ⁶⁸ <i>Not fulfilled</i>
Number of training activities for judges and prosecutors for minors on best practices of administration of criminal justice for minors.	<i>Not reported</i>

67. Information reported from the National HIV/AIDS Programme on NAFPCR.

68. Information sent from the Ministry of Justice to NAFPCR.

Objective: Use of alternative measures and efficiency of execution of criminal decision for minors.

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>Percentage of minors in conflict with law deviating court proceedings and referred to alternative measures to imprisonment (estimation: 20%, objective: 40%)</p>	<p>Fulfilment</p> <p>During the first half of 2014, number of children subject to alternative sentencing was 290, from whom 7 women and 234 boys. In 2013, the total number of sentenced children was 325, of whom 3 girls and 323 boys. On a comparative note with 2013 and 2014, during the first half of 2015 there is a growing tendency of the number of alternative sentencing issued by courts for the children in conflict with the Law.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Protocols, regulations for application of alternative sentencing for minors</p>	<p>The General Probation Service Directorate, with the UNICEF support launched in October of 2014 the “Google mapping” programme, which enables identification of local probation service offices and of the reception offices with which they may cooperate for the alternative sentencing for minors.</p> <p>With the Decision No. 100, of 21 February 2014 of the Prime Minister “On the Approval of the Structure and Organigramme of the Probation Service”, the number of staff of the probation service increased from 104 to 134; they hold a degree in justice, social work and psychology.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Establishment of the Chamber of Mediators</p>	<p>Pursuant to Law No. 10385/2011 “On Mediation for Dispute Resolution”, of 07 July 2013, under the auspicious of the Ministry of Justice and JUST-USAID, the first meeting of mediators licensed in the Register of Mediators⁶⁹ was signed on 07 July 2013.</p> <p><i>Fulfilled</i></p>

69. http://www.dhkn.gov.al/?page_id=5909

Objective: Rehabilitation and re-integration of children in conflict with law.

Indicator	Fulfilment
<p>% of minors in pre-detention and penitentiary institutions attending compulsory education (estimation: none, objective: 100% of the minors who have not finished compulsory education attend school).</p>	<p>Year 2012: According to the annual analysis of the General Prisons Directorate of 2012, during the period of September – November 2012, from the start of implementation of the Memorandum signed on 05 December 2008 between the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Education for opening the 9-year compulsory education schools in the prisons system, in addition to schools in 5 prisons of the country, for the first time in the academic year 2012-2013, 3 schools started operation in the pre-detention institutions of “Jordan Misja”, in Vlorë, and Lezhë IEVPs (Institutions for Execution of Criminal Decisions), in the section for minors and 1 school in the prison of Rogozhina for adults’ inmates. According to data from the month of December 2012, 228 inmates are enrolled in schools.</p> <p>Year 2013-2014: In the IEVPs, individuals deprived of liberty are subject of the 9-year compulsory education. The educational process there is organised based on an agreement signed between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education in cooperation on the education process in IEVPs. Teaching curricula, plans school register and other documents are similar with the public schools given that schools in prison depend on public schools. Registration of students in schools is done based on the documentation certifying attendance and finishing of school. Upon finishing of school, minors receive their diplomas from relevant school. In total 45 minors have finished the education cycle in the period of 2013-2014. Minors may also be employed according to the possibilities of institutions. In total, 9 minors are activated in a working activity⁷⁰.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>% of minors subject to vocational training and re-integration programmes (estimation: 50%, objective: 90%).</p>	<p>Year 2014: MSWY and MoJ are currently reviewing their Memorandum of Understanding so as to provide</p>

70. Information provided from the General Prison Directorate to NAFPCR.

	<p>better changes for re-integration to inmates, through vocational courses in IEVP, and to provide opportunities for better integration of these people from release from prison. Vocational training of inmates (held both in pre-detention and in prison) shall be realised through vocational training courses to be organised for teaching and vocational practice in the IEVPs. The vocational training courses in IEVPs shall be applied from the Regional Public Vocational Training Directorates.</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>
Indicators of quality assessment for approved services	<i>Not fulfilled</i>

Ensuring proper protection for children under the age of 14 found in conflict with law

Objective: Full legal framework for children in conflict with law who are under the age of criminal responsibility (14 years old).

Indicator	Fulfilment
Laws and by-laws approved for implementing educational measures for children under the age of criminal responsibility.	2012-2014: 0 <i>Not fulfilled</i>
50 % of minors committing crimes under the age of criminal responsibility included in educational programmes	According to the Albanian legislation, minors below the age of 14 are excluded from criminal prosecution, but may be subject to educational or corrective measures ⁷¹ . Such programmes have never been applied due to lack of proper infrastructure ⁷² . <i>Not fulfilled</i>

Objective: Direct impact on their rehabilitation in the society.

Indicator	Fulfilment
Drafting of a set of indicators	<i>Not fulfilled</i> (term of fulfilment to be set in 2015)

71. Article 12, 46 of the Criminal Code.

72. Xhafellari, M., Gjoni, O., 2013 Children under the age of criminal responsibility. Tirana: ARSIS/QSHPLI/Save the Children, p. 28

Protection of children, victims and witnesses of crimes

Objective: Improvement of the legal framework regarding protection of child victims and witnesses of crimes

Indicator	Fulfilment
Approved CPP, PC adjustments	Not fulfilled (deadline to be set in 2015)
Protocols and monitoring system of treatment of minors as victims and witnesses	Not fulfilled (deadline to be set in 2015)

Objective: Improvement of treatment of minors as victims and witnesses

Indicator	Fulfilment
Changes for a child-friendly police infrastructure environment	Year 2013 With the support of Save the Children, Albania, child friendly offices are established in 6 police commissariats in Tirana. In progress
Number of training activities and of the trained staff (courts, prosecutors, judicial police officers, etc.)	Not reported

Discussions on Progress Indicators

Summary of categorizations

This section shall focus on different potential categorizations of indicators. This approach facilitates our understating of the indicators used in NAPFC and guides us on current problems related to indicators.

Status of fulfilment

Following the principles determined in the methodology and on characterization of indicators, the following is a summary on the current indicator progress status according to the fields of rights.

Right to protection and social inclusion

Fulfilled indicators: **8**

Indicators showing progress (in different levels): **19**

Unfulfilled indicator: **1**

No reporting/no information/invalid or unclear indicators: **7**

Right to protection from violence, abuse and economic exploitation

Fulfilled indicators: **8**

Indicators showing progress (in different levels): **14**

Unfulfilled indicators: **5**

No reporting/no information/invalid or unclear indicators: **4**

Right to development and education

Fulfilled indicator: **1**

Indicators showing progress (in different levels): **11**

Unfulfilled indicators: **3**

No reporting/no information/invalid or unclear indicators: **7**

Right to social care

Fulfilled indicators: **9**

Indicators showing progress (in different levels): **18**

Unfulfilled indicators: **3**

No reporting/no information/invalid or unclear indicators: **9**

Right to legal protection

Fulfilled indicator: **1**

Indicators showing progress (in different levels): **5**

Unfulfilled indicators: **8**

No reporting/no information/invalid or unclear indicators: **3**

Categories of change

Categories of indicators are related with measurement of different levels/categories of change. In the event of monitoring of children rights a combination of indicators measuring structural changes, process and outcomes is recommendable.

Structural indicators reflect the ratification and adaptation of legal instruments; and the existence of basic institutional mechanisms and consolidated mechanisms that important for fulfilling specific children rights.

Process indicators measure the efforts at central, regional and local level to apply structural definitions. They include application of policy measures, specific action programmes, training initiatives, other campaigns and activities aimed to meeting specific children rights. They are often progressive in nature, thus being more fit for measuring progress in time.

Outcome indicators measure the individual and collective achievements reflecting fulfilment or failure of fulfilment of children rights in a certain context and in the range of benefits of children from fulfilled interventions/actions.

Combination of these indicators, embraced recently by different bodies dealing with the rights of children are aimed at achieving transition from focused indicators to outcomes, towards indicators that best reflect actions and policy impacts. Different fields of rights may be suited with the above-mentioned categories of indicators.

2012-2015 Action Plan contains indicators of the three categories, but does mostly focus on process indicators.

Right to protection and social inclusion

Structural indicators: **7**

Example: drafting of by-laws in implementation of amendments of Law No. 9355, of 05 December 2006 on piloting of the social assistance scheme.

Process indicators: **27**

Example: number of local government units for piloting the new economic assistance scheme

Outcome indicator: **2**

Example: number of adopted children

Right to protection from violence, abuse and economic exploitation

Structural indicators: **8**

Example: approval of by-laws for children registration

Process indicators: **21**

Example: Number of schools having a psychologist

Outcome indicator: **0**

Right to development and education

Structural indicators: **4**

Example: local government budget for children of 0-3 years is increased by 5%

Process indicators: **14**

Example: Establishment and rehabilitation of school libraries
 Outcome indicators: **3**

Example: increase of registration indicators with 4.5% or 160 children from the Roma and Egyptian communities, 2% for students with disabilities.

Right to health care

Structural indicators: **4**

Example: approved child care protocols

Process indicators: **28**

Example: number of campaigns for protection of rights of children suffering of HIV/AIDS

Outcome indicators: **3**

Example: percentage of vaccinated children

Right to legal protection

Structural indicators: **4**

Example: approved law on educational measures for children under age of criminal liability

Process indicators: **6**

Example: number of training activities and staff for treatment of children as victims and witnesses

Outcome indicators: **5**

Example: 50% of the minors committing a crime under the age of criminal liability included in educational programmes.

This specific definition for different categories of indicators according to fields is aimed at providing rationale on the conclusion on a lack of balance or coordination between structural, process and outcome indicators (chapter on legal protection makes a difference). Evident lack of outcome indicators is one of the reasons why the progress of the Action Plan for Children cannot serve to identify the situation of application of children rights in the country.

Approach to measurement of change

Indicators are also categorised according to the qualitative and quantitative approach of evaluation. *Quantitative indicators* are numerical (number, percentage); they contain information that can easily be represented in a numerical fashion.

Qualitative indicators contain information which cannot be easily presented in a numerical fashion. Descriptive or narrative delineation is used for qualitative indicators. These indicators represent two different paradigms to reflect the reality and help in understanding the reality regarding data collection (words against figures), and prospect of selection (perspective vs. objective), or discovery vs. explanatory.

The 2012-2015 Action Plan is entirely based on quantitative indicators in the conditions of full lack of qualitative indicators. Use of quantitative indicators is also expected due to the use of process indicators. Comparative approach could be an alternative related to outcome indicators to measure the change benefited from children in the framework of values. A qualitative methodology would above all ensure inclusion of children perceptions in fulfilment of such rights. Thus, their involvement would be subject to measurement as a component part of the Action Plan indicators.

On another note, in a certain field of action, use of the quantitative and qualitative data would ask for a very well specified methodology to avoid some of the mixed methodology changes.

Issues related to determination of indicators

This part of the report shall focus on some other issues, aiming at identifying problems of the indicators included in the NAPfC challenging the definition of their status of fulfilment.

- The NAPfC contains indicators lacking proper definition of measurement of progress level.

Example: Awareness raising activities in all the regions of the country.

Even though this is a formulation falling in the field of an indicator, it lacks sensitiveness to change to be measured. Indicators need concrete specifications, such as, for instance, number of campaigns, number of beneficiaries from the campaign, etc.

Example: transportation for children and teachers.

It would be highly valuable to have the indicator formulated from a result-based approach, for instance, to measure the number of beneficiaries from introduction of this mode of transportation, or from the structural approach measuring the budget made available for ensuring this type of transportation. Incomplete definition does not allow for an effective reflection of change and, above all, fails to be encouraging for the authorities charged with fulfilment of this indicator.

- The NAPfC contains indicators not meeting the requirements for referral or comparison.

A properly defined indicator can be found in the legal protection chapter: “Shortening of time for children kept in pre-detention (estimation 2012 5-7 month, objective: 2-4 months).

In some cases, such as in the example of the indicator of “reduction of drop-out rate below 0.3%”, even though the comparing element is present, there is no initial information to trace/understand the progress.

Most of the indicators reflect neither the referral nor the comparison element.

- Indicators not measuring change.

Example: Number of prepared and distributed information materials on HIV/AIDS.

Such indicators do not mean much, thus leading to one of the most important questions while defining the indicators – what purpose do they serve?

Generally, the NAPfC contains more indicator fields, but no benchmarking elements – that is no initial or progress indicators. The current frame lacks standard-related alarm signalling indicators. These indicators inform what determines regress yielding negative consequences for the situation of children rights.

- Characterised by fragmentarization in conceptualising its indicators, NAPfC asks for reporting for same, but differently formulated indicator, or for repetitive indicators.

Example: number of meetings of participants at local level for enforcement of the law.

and,

Number of seminars per region regarding the newly approved laws on the children rights and by-laws issued for its implementation.

- Indicators not corresponding to the certain field of law and responsible sector/ institution for reporting are present.

Example: Number of topics/classes in schools on infectious deceases (placed in the field of law for health care)

This example is a good illustration of the main deficiency of NAPfC – failure to name/ include responsible institutions for reporting according to each indicator.

- The NAPfC does not define actions and indicators on important developments related to certain phenomena, or vulnerable groups of children, such as, for instance, children isolated because of blood feud, etc.
- Indicators in the NAPfC are detached and not inherently connected. Thus, they fail to provide an overview of certain fields/components.

Example: Regarding foster care, even though five indicators have been identified, they fail to give an overview on the developments because there is no information about the number of children in foster care, divided according to the age-group, or of the ones dropping from foster care.

Issues related to collection of information

While collecting written information for this report, the following problems were identified:

- Budgetary allocations for fulfilment of NAPfC indicators were either not budgeted, or not spent by central and local government institutions during the reporting period;
- Different data collection and reporting formats are used by different institutions, such as in the case with the State Social Service, creating a gap of information for 2013;
- Failure of institutions to report specific indicators;
- Contradiction / incompliance of information received for the same indicator from different institutions – infantile and maternal mortality rates are reported differently from the Ministry of Health and INSTAT, because of the use of different calculation methods.

Findings and Recommendations

The 2012-2015 Children Action Plan lacks a strategic, holistic and well-defined frame to objectively measure the progress of implementation of activities, or the status of children rights in Albania. The report sheds light into unidentified indicators, which, is the best-case scenario, call for reassessment of intervention priorities in different sectors. However, the fact that no information was received on the reasons or factors contributing to their non-realization, or on their replacement with other more relevant indicators remains problematic.

Indicators in progress, as already highlighted at the beginning of this report, shall be the main focus of the work in the future. The SAFPCR and other partners should identify ways of collecting valid information on these indicators during 2015.

The fulfilled indicators shall not be part of the next up-coming indicator assessment (by the end of 2015).

The NAPFC should reformulate clear and valid indicators in cooperation with field experts so as the invalid or unreported indicators are replaced, whenever possible, with improved indicators. More work should be done with the unreported indicators in the future so that their status is better defined for the upcoming assessment.

The conclusions of this review shall be subject to a continuous assessment process next year focusing on the NAPFC indicators. This approach is different from the traditional approach of assessment of achievements as an activity happening in a limited/defined time. The institutional learning process shall include the review and improvement of NAPFC indicators, and shall be highly valuable in the process of drafting of the new action plan for children.

On this argument, this part of the report focusing on conclusions is submitted as a summary of recommendations on these processes. The NAPFC indicators should be considered as closely linked to the children-related data system in the country. Hence, recommendations shall be valid for the two cases:

- Drafting of a framework/holistic/inclusive system identifying the context of indicators, institutions/stakeholders involved in the identification, collection and reporting of indicators, mechanisms to coordinate and communicate with them, methodology of indicators' collection and reporting, as well as the relevant budgets to collect and report such data.
- Conceptualization of the framework/indicator system as a more radical approach that highlights outcomes in the fields of rights gained in time (for example, school enrolment, etc.); outcome monitoring itself would not provide explanations on trends and progress.

- Building of the indicator framework /system in harmony with the data systems that are officially collected by institutions.
- Formulation of indicators according to the following methodology and principles:
 - o Indicators should be inter-related so that the relations or changes in relations can be used to suggest potential explanations for the changes observed in the outcomes. For example, in the field of the right to development and education, in order to best understand the progress of implementation of the NAPfC, or the situation of rights of children, the indicators should reflect the context (demographic data, etc.); resources (human, material and financial resources, available for the education system); processes (the entirety of systems establishing an educational environment); and achievements. Within a framework/holistic system, the indicators would make up for a source to ensure useful information for complex phenomena/fields, like the ones related to children rights. Ideally, a system of indicators measures specific components of a system and ensures information on how the components interact to generate a general effect. In other words, all the information ensured from an indicator system is/should be bigger than the summary of its parts.
 - o The indicators should be:
 - *Real* – so as to reflect real aspects of functioning of the activity;
 - *Important* – so as to reflect important aspects of a certain function or activity; ensure information on important issues related to the field;
 - *Useful* – so as to measure factors that may influence policies/programmes, etc..
 - *Valid* – so as to reflect what they are supposed to mark/measure.
 - *Clear* – so as clearly express through their content the aim they seek to achieve.
 - *Objective* – so as to create the possibility for different users of indicators to come up with similar judgements.
 - *Possible* – so as to enable collection of possible information.
 - *Comparable* – so as to mark elements that resist time and bear same meaning in different contexts, enabling comparison in different times and levels.
 - *Acceptable* – so as they are accepted by all the stakeholders related with the field in question.
 - o Extension of measurement of change from indicators should be inclusive when it comes to measuring changes at the national, regional and local level.
- Strengthening of leadership and of managerial structures operating based on properly established and adoptable instructions.
- Constant indicator system monitoring and improvement
- Budgeting of the indicator system from central government to local government to invest in improving human capacities, means and processes necessary to transform the indicator system into a functional and effective system.

The above-mentioned recommendations may be valuable for different indicator systems, but, the system of the NAPfC framework should in particular reflect promotion, observance and protection of children rights. Specific articles of the Convention of the Child Rights guide the path to establishment of a necessary framework of indicators for the NAPfC and the relevant collection and information system:

Non-discrimination (Article 2 of the CCR)

Compliance with this principle asks for counting on the fact that children change according to age, ethnic background, socio-economic situation, gender dependency and other factors. Thus, indicators should reflect diversity in children. This is closely related with the principle of disaggregation of data, which is a substantial gap in the current CAP indicators.

Best interest of the child (Article 3 of the CCR)

The best interest of the child should be in the focus of planning and implementation of policies and decision-making processes. Implementation of this Article asks for child-focused indicators.

Right to life, survival and development (Article 6 of the CCR)

This right guarantees better conditions for the child individual development. Indicators related to this right go beyond the qualitative and quantitative indicators, or infantile mortality, and are related with the access to services and the living quality.

Child participation (Article 12 of the CCR)

Indicators reflecting this right show of participation of children. Fulfilment of these indicators asks for investments in participatory qualitative and quantitative research with children in different contexts and with different characteristics.

Annex

Criteria that might be taken into account when drafting specific indicators based on children rights⁷³:

- o Indicators consider children as a direct social observation group (not simply as part of a household, community or institution);
- o Indicators consider children as active competent social agents (not passive subjects, or simply beneficiaries of services);
- o Indicators are based on the CRC definition of ‘the child’ as an individual below the age of 18. However, indicators may show flexibility in determination of the age limits, sometimes including even the age-groups of youngsters;
- o Indicators use child-oriented data, disaggregated according to age and different characteristics to reflect the principle of non-discrimination;
- o Indicators address the generation dimension (of comparison of the child rights with the status of adult rights);
- o Indicators are based on the normative frame of children rights, including:
 - Observance of rights
 - Promotion of rights
 - Fulfilment of rights
- o Indicators reflect the principle of universality of standard (aiming comparison between countries or sectors);
- o Indicators reflect the principle of connection between rights, in order not to stay isolated/detached
- o Indicators contain the principle of empowerment of children as owners of their rights
- o Indicators contain the principle of fulfilment of obligations (institutions, including the family)
- o Indicators reflect the right of children to participation; they are described in a language understandable to children.
- o Indicators reflect division of responsibilities between parents/households/care-givers/institutions and the state.
- o Indicators are accompanied with a clear methodology: who collected/reports, for what purpose, based on what data/systems.
- o Indicators are suitable, valid, reliable, simple and concise.
- o Indicators are based on accepted concepts/definitions.

73. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (1020) “Developing indicators for the protection, respect and promotion of the rights of the child in the European Union”



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