

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË  
MINISTRIA E MIRËQËNIES  
SOCIALE DHE RINISË

*From begging in the street  
toward protection and care*

## National Study on children in street situation in Albania

Prepared by:  
**ARSIS**  
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A report commissioned by:  
**UNICEF**  
Save the Children

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## **Study Report**

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1 National Association Education For Life  
2 In partnership with Municipality of Tirana and FBSH-DN



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## Abbreviations

ARSIS	ARSIS - Social Organization for the Support of Youth
FBSH-DN	Children of the World and of Albania
BKTF	United for Child Care and Protection
CRCA	Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ILO	International Labour Organization
INSTAT	The Institute of Statistics
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
MSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
NAPRC	National Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Children
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
ONAC	Office of National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ministry of Interior
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe
SC DiC	Save the Children Drop in Centre for Children in Street Situation
SSS	State Social Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SHKEJ	National Association Education For Life
TdH	Terre des Hommes
ToRs	Terms of Reference of the Study on Children in Street Situations
TLAS	Tirana Legal Aid Society
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WV	World Vision

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## Glossary

### Child

For the purposes of this document, a “child” is defined as anyone under the age of 18, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

### Children in Street Situation

Children in street situations are under 18 years old and have some connection to the street, usually due to living and/or working there even on a seasonal or transitory basis

### Child Participation

Anyone below the age of 18 taking part in a process or playing a role in a process at his/her level, according to their evolving capacities - children and young people thinking for themselves, expressing their views effectively, and interacting in a positive way with other people; involving children in the decisions which affect their lives, the lives of the community and the larger society in which they live.

### Child Protection

Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

### Child Protection Policy

A child protection policy is a statement and commitment by organisations to protect children from abuse, exploitation and violence.

### Drop-In Centre

A facility providing basic services aimed at meeting the emotional, physical and social development needs of vulnerable children.

### Outreach Programme

Programmes that reach out to children in street situation to empower them to express their needs and rights, and to link or refer them to the necessary available resources when required.

### Informed Consent

“Ensuring that the child understands what they are being asked to do” – by giving them all relevant information in a manner that they understand – “and that they have the right to say no to anything.” Where possible written consent should also be obtained from parents or habitual caregivers.<sup>3</sup>

### Confidentiality

Keeping data about children involved in the study securely, and ensuring that they remain anonymous in any study findings made public.

### Social Street Work

Street work is a method of approach with an objective to reach children, young people, adults and all local people in street situation. Social Street Work is a precursor to community work and is an approach that precedes individual support (social support and/or case management).<sup>4</sup>

3 [http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/children\\_and\\_participation\\_1.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/children_and_participation_1.pdf)

4 [https://www.childwatch.uio.no/research/research-methodology/So\\_you\\_want\\_to\\_research\\_apr2004%5B1%5D.pdf](https://www.childwatch.uio.no/research/research-methodology/So_you_want_to_research_apr2004%5B1%5D.pdf)  
International guide on the methodology of street work throughout the world - Dynamo International 2008, page 49

## Executive Summary

The Study on Children in Street Situation in Albania is conducted in the framework of Social Services Reform by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children. ARSIS, GFK and an international expert have been appointed to carry out the Study from May 2013 to February 2014.

This is the first national qualitative and quantitative assessment of children in street situation carried out in Albania, providing a baseline for this phenomenon. The main aim of the study is to give key stakeholders a thorough and extensive understanding of all issues and numbers surrounding this target group, for the definition and review of the policy agenda and to plan current and future interventions. This study is for the benefit of relevant government bodies/agencies, as well as civil society organisations<sup>5</sup> to support the development of new strategies regarding children in street situation and to improve service provision for these children and other support mechanisms needed in prevention and protection for them and their families.

From the numerical survey, based upon an observational count of children from 0 to 18 years old with some connection to the street, either living and/or working there on a seasonal or transitory basis, a total of 2014 children were identified in August 2013 (Wave 1, covering 8 districts of Albania) and a total of 2527 children were identified in October 2013 (Wave 2, covering all 12 districts of Albania).

Multiple techniques were applied within the methodology of the study aiming to capture and cross-check information from the largest number of relevant sources and consult as widely and inclusively as possible with informed stakeholders, including children themselves. This involved: initial interviewing of 782 children in the whole territory of Albania; the consultation of 111 children through focus groups on both a local and a national level; in-depth interviews of 30 children as key informants; the consultation of 40 community members; and consultations with 60 key informants.

Considering all sources of information feeding into the quantitative and qualitative assessment, the study brought to light basic profiles of children in street situation in terms of age, gender, ethnic group, as well as activities conducted and how they were conducted. It went on to understand the root causes and look at certain important aspects relating to mobility, families, health, education and the social services framework.

The main demographic findings were that the majority of children in street situation are boys aged 10-17 years old: in both counting phases, twice as many boys were seen than girls (70.1% or 1476 boys, and 29.9% or 538 girls in wave 1; 74% - 1882 boys and 26% - 645 girls in wave 2), however a more even distribution between the genders is seen amongst younger children. Almost a third of children in street situation are 15-17 year old adolescents (on average 29.5% or 745 children), while children from 4-14 years of age were 66.5% (1680 on average), and there were a significant number of infant children from 0-3 years old (102 children or 4% on average). Quite a number of younger children (0-5 year olds) accompany their mothers while begging found (wave 1: 11.66% or 235 children; wave 2: 13.9% or 381 children).

Based on responses in initial interviews, a quarter of the children identified belonging to the Albanian majority while 74.3% (581 out of 782 children) belong to the Roma and Egyptian communities. There is a twofold significance to this data: firstly, the number of Albanian majority children in street situation is higher than expected, and secondly, since the other ethnic minorities or language groups account for no more than 1% of the total Albanian population, the study confirms that the incidence of children in street situation from these ethnic minority groups is disproportionately high.

Children are involved in different street-related activities. The most common of these are selling different items (38% wave 1- 25% wave 2) such as cigarettes, lighters, water, farm produce and other foods, flowers, pens, pencils, car fresheners or other accessories, as well as begging for money (35% wave 1 - 21% wave 2), recycling plastic and metal (8% wave 1 – 20% wave 2), and informal jobs

<sup>5</sup> These are all non-profit organisations, comprising non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations, which for ease of reference, will be referred to throughout the document as either "civil society" or NGOs.

(12% wave 1 – 15% wave 2). Informal jobs include loading and unloading goods trucks, working in agriculture, cleaning roads, cleaning at cemeteries, looking after sun beds on beaches, working at entrances to mines, and busking. The trend in informal work is towards a greater diversity of activities and these jobs extend beyond the urban settings more than previously believed.

The two waves of counting and initial interviews of children confirmed trends noted in previous field experience by service providers that has seen children more active in tourist areas such as Durrës, during the summer. Other significant findings linked to different seasons show that Albanian majority children are more involved in selling items over the summer and informal work during the winter. The majority of children identified begging are from the Roma and Egyptian communities.

The study also revealed a new phenomenon encountered during the second wave of counting related to the cultivation of marijuana in Lazarat (Gjirokaster) involving 312 children. Even children in far away regions mentioned this as providing a high-earning potential, suggesting the likely movement of children and their families to that area. Mobility was confirmed as a common trait of children in street situation, but more particularly their families since younger children had a sense of belonging to just one city, not remembering their family's previous migration.

The study based its data gathering on an inclusive definition of children in street situations adapted to the Albanian context. However from interviews in Wave 1 with children, it was also possible to group them in terms of UNICEF's definitions: Children "of" the Street (4.3% or 19 children) – those who stay in the streets during the day and also sleep in the street, possibly due to loss or absence of parents, alcoholism, domestic violence, divorce and/or remarriage of parents; Children "on" the Street (79% or 347 children) who mainly stay in the streets during the daylight hours and return to their homes or residential care centres at night; and Street-Family Children (16.7% or 73 children) – those who live with their family on the street.

There are very few children in street situation living outside a family context. This was corroborated by focus group discussions which together with initial data showed that 84% (657) of Albanian children in street situation have a "home", with both parents alive and living with them. This is even more significant for holistic family-oriented policy recommendations of a socio-economic nature, considering that in discussing the reasons for children being in contact with the street, 96% (750 out of 782 initial interviews) of children cited earning income for their families as the main reason for being in the street. Furthermore, 30% (234) said they started working on the street because their parents forced them to do so, and 4% (32) claimed pressure from other adults.

Taking coercion as an indicator, though not an essential means for child trafficking (according to the Palermo Protocol) or exploitation, the conclusion may be drawn that over one third of children in street situation are at risk of trafficking. In fact, one service provider has referred 31 cases of trafficked children in street situation involving sexual exploitation and begging in Albania and Kosovo to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) on Anti Trafficking. Given the lack of information on internal trafficking and in particular, on sexual exploitation of children within Albania, this is an area that requires further in-depth study and attention to address these serious child protection concerns.

A specific area where action is needed is education, given the alarming number of barriers effectively violating children's rights and the strong desire expressed by children themselves to go to school and improve their future possibilities. From the initial interviews, the majority of children in street situation in Albania were identified to be of an age for basic compulsory education (up to 15 years), i.e. 83.8% (655 children), however approximately 62% (485) of the children were not currently enrolled in school, or they were enrolled but not attending. 21% (167) of the children had never been to school. There is a significant contrast between official statistics and the findings of the study.

Recommendations to tackle these issues have focussed on addressing risk factors emerging from children's lack of stability, which, aside from school enrolment, means a lack of access to many basic essential services. While we see a link between lack of registration in a city due to family mobility affecting access to services, case studies have also demonstrated how discrimination within the health system also affects access to services and can even lead to child mortality.

Overall, key stakeholders consolidated common understanding on the socio-economic factors behind the phenomenon of children in street situation, but also mentioned other contributing factors including: rapid recent urbanisation, changes in family make up and dynamics, and the poor quality of the current education and social services system. Case studies show how failings in the system mean that children living in critical situations are more likely to enter the social welfare system because they get into conflict with the law rather than through direct interventions from institutional actors responsible for their welfare. Finally, the study details recommendations for the social services system, including improving current approaches for effective protection by regarding children as agents for change, rather than a problem.

It is expected that results from of this study will play a significant role in the National Reform of Social Services, undertaken by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, and will be used for the finalisation of Albanian National Action Plan and Guideline Working Procedures for children in street situation. The results of the study will serve as the first baseline for children in street situation in Albania for future research projects at national level and inform the design of interventions across the country for their benefit.

## Chapter I: Introduction

### I.1 Country Context



Picture 1: Geographical map of Albania

to ensure that social protection also works for the most vulnerable members and groups in society. Meanwhile, interventions by civil society organisations fill part of the vacuum. Civil society has helped to develop programmes and models protecting children by reducing risks and providing child-friendly services. Although the coordination between central, regional, and local levels and NGOs has improved, the division of responsibilities between the partners are not clearly defined or delineated. Disadvantaged groups, such as children in street situation, have lower access to much needed services and continue to fall outside the margins of society. As a result their physical condition, health and personal development are affected.

Albania is a small country situated in South Eastern Europe. It has a population of around 2.8 million inhabitants of which a third are children.<sup>6</sup>

The phenomenon of children in street situation has affected Albanian society for the last 23 years.<sup>7</sup> Prior to the transition in Albania in 1990 from a communist system to democracy it was not acceptable for children to work in the streets and engage in begging, cleaning car windscreens, assisting in car parking or peddling. The transition caused such restrictions to disappear, creating a grey zone where children can be involved in street activities.

Although there have been efforts from state institutions to improve the efficiency of the social protection system and the quality of social services for vulnerable groups, no effective state mechanisms exist to identify, protect and enhance the rehabilitation of these children.

The situation seems to be never ending and out of control. This is due to multiple factors including the absence of functioning structures and mechanisms from both policy and decision-making bodies, the limited authority of NGOs, and gaps in the legislative framework. There is a lack of coordination and implementation of preventative activities among stakeholders and this hampers progress towards the elimination of the phenomenon.

MSWY is continuing to reform the social care and social services system. The aim is

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/census/census-2011.aspx> - INSTAT, Census 2011

<sup>7</sup> Alma Maksutaj & Altin Hazizaj, Child Labour and Street Children in Albania-A research into economical exploitation and forced child labour in Albania, CRCA, November 2005

Achieving lasting changes, challenging disparities and reaching the “most marginalised” segments of the population continue to be a key challenge for Albania in its effort to fully reach its human rights goals. A law for the protection of children’s rights was approved by the Albanian Parliament in 2010 and though some of the mechanisms established under the legislation have started to function (e.g. The National Agency for Child Protection, Children Rights Units and Child Protection Units), most are not yet fully operational, and cannot cover all local needs.

Estimates from various government and non-government partners about the number of children in street situation used to vary from 1,500 to 3,000 nationwide. Reliable official statistics were lacking for a number of reasons, including:

- Children being counted only under the aspect of child labour;
- Children being seen mainly as members of the Roma or Egyptian community;
- The difficulty to separate children in street situation from the overall case load of social service providers;
- The difficulty to separate children in street situation in data systems related to children in conflict with the law;
- Groups of children in street situation that were not previously studied, such as children placed in residential care but still connected to the street;
- Lack of information on children who are at high risk of being in a street situation, such as unaccompanied children identified at the borders.

Beyond focussing on small groups or specific categories of children, policy interventions rarely identified children in street situations as a phenomenon linked to poverty - or a survival strategy - and hence did not make them part of an overall protection framework.

## 1.2 Study Objectives

The above deficiencies have led to this nationwide research. The project combines systematic, observation-led data collection with casework analysis, interviews and focus groups. The goal was to outline the most accurate picture possible of the phenomenon of children in street situation in Albania, and to provide recommendations based on evidence. This study offers an in-depth analysis to better understand the situation of children in street situation nationwide and evidence-based recommendations on appropriate interventions for children in street situation in Albania. This study will be shared with relevant government structures to support the development of new strategies, improve service provision and assist other support mechanisms needed for these children and their families. The study will also serve to inform all actors, such as donors and NGOs, for the development of their future interventions to support the Government in this regard.

This study, through qualitative and quantitative analysis, aims to understand the magnitude of the phenomenon of children in street situation in Albania and to identify which parts of the child/family protection system should be reinforced. It provides valid and reliable data on the prevalence, characteristics and needs of children in street situation in Albania. It also recommends pertinent and appropriate programmes to reduce the number of street children and to address their needs.

The study was conducted at a national level, using all possible avenues for data collection at other levels. This included a coordinated effort with institutions to collect data from all possible sources all over Albania, at local, county and national level.

The study estimates the number of the children in street situation in the 12 administrative counties of Albania: Berat, Diber, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korca, Kukës, Lezha, Shkodër, Tirana and Vlora.

It was evident from the literature and initial consultations with key stakeholders that there were a large number of children who were not present in Albania during the time of the study. This is due to the constant movement of these children in and out of neighbouring countries. While it was not the scope of the study to make quantitative assessments of the number of children in street situation that were outside the country during the period the study was undertaken, some data was gathered on cross-border movements from NGOs working in the sector and the Border Police. In this way, the study addresses possible phenomena of trafficking and exploitation towards Kosovo and Greece, as well as critical issues in prevention and protection regarding forced movement or trafficking of children to Western European countries, as some Albanian girls are subject of sex trafficking or forced labour following arranged marriages. The study compiles reliable data about children in street situation in the following areas:

- Characteristics of children in street situation (including various overlapping groups that make up children in street situation and groups who have not previously been studied in depth);
- Reliable figures and structured data collection;
- Demographic characteristics;
- Family background and circumstances;
- Living conditions and street conditions;
- Education and administrative status;
- Health issues and social services;
- Knowledge and the use of services; and
- Income generation and quality of life.

### 1.3 Definitions

Until now, children in street situation in Albania have been typically represented as being of Roma or Egyptian origins, aged from 5-14 years old, and commonly getting married at an early age. In addition, they are further represented as coming from families in which their parents are either unable or unwilling to engage in formal employment, are addicted to alcohol and are resistant to change. These children are viewed either as victims or delinquents.<sup>8</sup> These stereotypes fail to present a clear picture of who children in street situation are and the range of activities they are involved in.

Various publications have addressed children in street situation in Albania. These publications have focused specifically on: children in street situation,<sup>9</sup> children involved in related activities such as begging or illegal activities,<sup>10</sup> and on other relevant target groups.<sup>11</sup> However, children in street situation are made up of these and other various overlapping groups, some of which have not previously been studied in depth.

Examples of the groups which have not previously been studied include:

- Children who are not from a minority group but who are engaged, for example, in street peddling or car washing;
- Children, both female and male, who are being sexually exploited on the streets and who are not protected under Albanian legislation by the NRM for Victims of Trafficking or by case law and for whom the few services available are not necessarily appropriate;

8 UN Human rights/UNICEF/Consortium for Street Children/AVIVA: Protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the streets, 2012

9 Save the Children & CRCA: Legislation and public services for children in street situation, Save the Children 2011

10 Ecorys Nederland bv Ecpat Austria, Save the Children Europe Group, Salvati Copiii (Save the Children Romania), Save the Children Denmark, Save the Children Italy, Terres des Hommes: Report for the Study on Typology and Policy Responses to Child Begging in the EU. Project Financed by the European Commission, 2012

11 UNICEF & MSWY: "Mapping of services for Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF, 2012, www.sidalbania.org

- Children in street situation responsible for other children in street situation, in particular girls forced into underage marriages who take their children onto the streets;
- Children living in orphanages or residential care institutions who are at risk of becoming homeless when they leave the State's care on turning 16 years of age.

The term "street child" was first defined by the Commission on Human Rights in the 1990s as "any girl or boy [...] for whom the street [...] has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults".<sup>12</sup> This definition was understood as comprising three categories of street children (known as the "early UNICEF definitions"):

- Children 'of' the street (street-living children), who sleep in public spaces, without their families;
- Children 'on' the street' (street-working children), who work on the streets during the day and return to their family home to sleep;
- 'Street-family children' who live with their family on the street.<sup>13</sup>

The term "street children" has evolved over the years. This is due to an overlapping of the above-mentioned categories, as well as in response to the phenomenon of runaway children in richer countries and the movement of children between the street, shelters and homes, due to seasonal/family issues. Furthermore, negative connotations have been associated with the terminology "street children". This was superseded by clearly stating that the problem was the "situation" the children are in and not the "children" themselves, hence the Human Rights Council's resolution 16/12 in 2011<sup>14</sup> to refer to children working and/or living on the street as "children in street situations", (not as "street children"). Subsequently the Committee on the Rights of the Child has also adopted this terminology.

There is a global debate on the definition of a "child in street situation"<sup>15</sup> and the term has evolved in the past few years. There is limited local literature in Albania attempting to establish a solid definition. The broad range of definitions of children in street situation has led to increased tension between policy-making, interventions and study. Although some definitions and approaches are more popular than the others it is important to understand the new ideas and new realities related to the context of each country.

In Albania it is evident that there is a lack of consensus on the definition of children in street situation among key informants and stakeholders. So, putting the international debate on definitions aside, it cannot be ignored that in the context of Albania, the label of 'street children' is a socially constructed category that in reality does not represent a clearly defined, homogeneous population or phenomenon.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, contested definitions and terminologies have made it difficult to make clear estimates of the scale of the phenomenon.<sup>17</sup>

There is a Social Work degree in tertiary institutions in Albania, but there is no full course on Social Street Work or children and families in street situation: it is limited to a small part of the general Social Work course. This means a lack of qualified persons to intervene, which, together with the lack of definitions/indicators for children in street situation in Albanian national law,<sup>18</sup> results in children in street situation often being detected and assessed only in terms of high-risk or emergency situations.

Finally, this situation of inappropriate intervention is compounded by lack of information or usage of common terminology in academic circles, particularly in researches. It has created a gap in study and policy-making, inhibiting a shift from a traditional approach to a new, more child-centred, approach of dealing with children in street situation (see table 1).<sup>19</sup> This gap reinforces the old perspectives of viewing

12 UN OHCHR, Protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street, 2011 <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf> pg.8

13 <http://streetchildren.org/content.asp?pageID=31>

14 [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/16/12](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/16/12)

15 Panter Brick, Catherine; "Street Children, Human Rights and Public Health" in Children, Youth and Environments Volume 13 No.1 Department of Anthropology, University of Durham Publication, 2003

16 <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf> pg.9

17 <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/Study/OHCHRBrochureStreetChildren.pdf> pg.10

18 Council of Ministers – Decision (12.04.2012) Nr. 267, on Indicators for Child Protection System in Albania

19 Ennew, Judith and Jill Swart-Kruger. "Introduction: Homes, Places and Spaces in the Construction of Street Children and Street Youth." Children, Youth and Environments 13(1), Spring 2003



children in street situation as victims and survivors and fails to recognise them as capable social actors, as was concluded during the Round Table with national stakeholders held for the purpose of this study.

Table 1: Matrix showing the key elements of a paradigm shift in research and work with and for children in street situation

Shifting from ideas that:	Through ideas of:	To the following consequences:		
		Theory	Research	Practice
Street children are homeless and abandoned victims	Space	Street children create meanings for using street spaces and form supportive networks	A variety of triangulated methods is required to research street children's lives	Use the street as a space for programming; build on existing strength and networks
Street children's lives are chaotic; they will become delinquents	Time	Street children have changing careers on the street, and their increasing age is an important factor	Longitudinal studies are vital	Age-sensitive, long term programming with follow-up to ensure the development of potential
Adults know best; adult control and supervision is necessary to ensure children's welfare.	Social construction of meaning	Children are active agents in their own lives; they construct meanings and are subjects of rights	Children-centered participatory research is not only a necessity, it is also a right for children	Take a right-based, children-centered approach; children should be involved as partners in all aspects of programming

One of the biggest challenges of this study was to work on a common definition of children in street situation and establish a unified understanding around this common definition. This was done in order to address the issues of all children in street situation, and also to carry out a comprehensive assessment of current interventions.

In this study the definition of children in street situation is children under 18 years old who have some connection to the street, usually due to living and/or working there even on a seasonal or transitory basis.

This definition of children in a street situation includes:

- Children in begging situations, who are either on their own or are with others, including being carried, who may be offering objects or services for a token fee;
- Children working informally on the street, in activities such as collecting plastic or metal for recycling, or as street peddlers;
- Children on the street either selling items to members of the public at places such as at traffic lights, in bars/cafes or in fixed spots by the side of the road, or selling services such as parking, carrying luggage (porter) or shoe shining;<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Though in the past children used to be involved in this type of street activity, the point-count estimate identified no child being involved in shoe shining in both waves of counting (during summer and fall).

- Children involved in sexual activities for economic gain;
- Children in conflict with the law who are involved in street crimes such as drug transportation or sales.

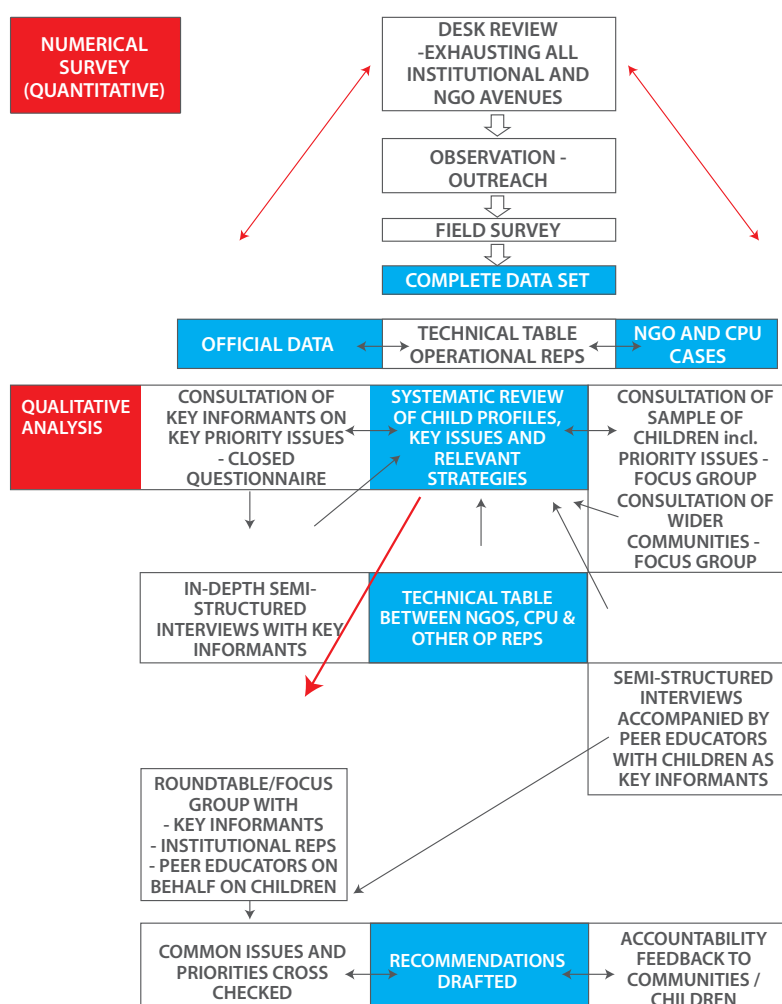
This range of activities and situations, identified from constant outreach work, has been used to define when a child is considered to be in a “street situation” in the Albanian context. This phenomenon is continuously evolving with changing needs and vulnerabilities of children and their families, and it is important ensure children are directly involved in all future studies to support policy makers and service providers in defining their ambit of intervention.

## Chapter II: Study Methodology and Data Set

### II.1 Study Design and Phases

The study was conducted at a national level and aimed to gather information from as many reliable sources as possible, to corroborate this data and to ensure ownership by various stakeholders. The table below is a graphical representation of the study methodology and corresponding phases within the numerical survey and the qualitative survey, showing the diversity of sources and techniques used. The numerical survey included desk review, observation and head-count on the field (field survey), then discussion in light of casework and official data in a multiagency technical table, while the qualitative study drew on the same desk review to undertake initial interviews of children in street situation and closed questionnaires with key informants, then go further in-depth by consulting children and communities in focus groups, then semi-structured, in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and children, facilitated ideally by the involvement of peers. The study and analysis process was shared at technical/roundtables with service providers and key stakeholders, and upon conclusion will be fed back to children and communities involved.

Table 2: Research Process detailing Quantitative and Qualitative Methodologies



Estimating the number of children in street situation in Albania was a complex endeavour. The study methodology used combined social science analysis and capture-recapture techniques. Both these techniques had drawbacks due to the elusive and mobile nature of children to be surveyed.<sup>21</sup>

21 Sarah Thomas de Benitez, State of the World's Street Children Report: Research, Published by Consortium for Street Children in 2011, at pg. 5

In addition, the methodology drew on the theoretical approaches used in other studies such as Characteristics of Street Children in Tirana, Albania (World Vision, 2008)<sup>22</sup> and Urban Street Children in Georgia (Save the Children-UNICEF, 2009).<sup>23</sup> The latter study was referred to for its analogous objective of providing a numerical estimate of the phenomenon in a country of a similar population size to Albania.

Methodologies used in the study are:

- Time Location Mapping;
- Point Count Estimate (in two waves);
- Consultation of children and key informants through face to face interviews;
- Closed questionnaires with key informants; and
- Focus group discussions with children and community members.

The study subjects were reached through snow-ball sampling or respondent-driven sampling involving recruitment by peers. The highest international ethical standards of data gathering were applied throughout the process while working with children.

All staff involved in conducting the interviews, including interpreters or cultural mediators, were, properly trained in human rights principles and approaches and human rights study methodology. They were trained in and bound by ethical guidelines reflecting a child rights-based approach to study (see Appendix C).<sup>24</sup> Children were seen as the subject of this study, and not the object to be analysed and categorised. Their involvement in the development of the study questions was on voluntary basis, fully respecting their will to participate, and proved fundamental to the study. The children were fully informed about the people who were conducting the study, the purpose of the study and how the information collected would be used.

### II.1.1 Time Location Mapping

Time Location Mapping was conducted on 13 and 14 July 2013 and on 6 and 7 October 2013. The goal of this stage was to identify focal areas and time periods with the highest number of children in the whole territory. The reason that time location mapping was repeated in the autumn was in order to map the situation outside of the summer period, and also to gain a more accurate estimate of the overall number of children in street situation. The whole process helped gather data for further analysis, helped build an in-depth understanding of the city characteristics and build bridges for the next stage.

Observations were made from a slow-moving vehicle including an initial count of children on the streets and their locations. This helped to restrict the geographical area within the chosen cities for a Point Count Estimate, undertaken by well-trained teams counting children in the street at regular intervals over a 2 to 3 day period. They were trained to observe in an unobtrusive way, and not leave the car unless there were inaccessible areas to vehicles, such as public parks, cemeteries, city centres in the south of Albania, open markets etc.

The team involved in this process attended a one-day training session which covered a range of topics such as core ethical principles, procedures for the study stages and basic principles of observation. They were also trained to have a thorough understanding of the characteristics of a child in street situation through a pre-defined list of characteristics. An observation sheet with a list of characteristics was developed by the lead organisation and was further revised by the observers. The team was trained in gathering the information needed for this phase and on the importance of not mixing it with other phases, in order to establish the relationship of trust with children. They were also prepared to react

22 Tonya R. Thurman, Lisa Johnston, Bridget Lavin, Elizabeth Bunde, Nancy Mock (Tulane University, USA), Characteristics of Street Children in Tirana, Albania. A Quantitative Study, published by World Vision Albania, 2008  
 23 Katarzyna Wargan, Larry Dershem, Don't Call Me a Street Child - Estimation and Characteristics of Urban Street Children in Georgia, Save the Children and UNICEF 2009  
 24 Dr. Zosa De Sas Kropiwnicki, The Research Process: A Toolkit for child-centred research on trafficking prevention, July 2007

sensitively to different questions that might arise through the process, answer them appropriately, and to assess situations where they would need immediate help. They were given basic information about different services that the children could be referred to if it was needed.

The “street” is a wide concept and refers to places that the children are very familiar with; where they spend most of their time during the day or the night. During this stage there were a few inside areas in which children were not observed including cafes, restaurants, small business owned by their families.

### II.1.2 Point Count Estimate

The point-count estimate was conducted immediately after the time location mapping stage and used both available information possessed by service providers and the data gathered from the first stage, including the best time to identify children. This process was conducted at regular intervals for three consecutive days. Point-Count Estimates took place simultaneously in all cities (in selected locations), to reduce error and increase reliability.

Point-count estimate (wave 1) was conducted in 8 districts in August 2013, while (wave 2) was conducted in 12 districts in October 2013 (see Table 2).

Table 3: Number of city sections observed on both waves

Nr.	Wave 1	Wave 2
1	<b>Tirana</b> Towns of Kavaja	<b>Tirana</b> City of Tirana / Towns of Kavaja / Rrogozhina / Area of Kamza / Vora
2	<b>Durres</b> Areas of Golem beach / Lalzi Bay	<b>Durres</b> City of Durres / Town of Kruja / Fushkruja Areas of Shijak / Manz / Shijak
3	<b>Vlora</b> Cities of Saranda / Vlora / Areas of Borsh / Dhermi / Drimadhes / Ksamil / Himara	<b>Vlora</b> Cities of Saranda / Vlora / Delvina / Areas of Ksamil / Vriion / Himara
4	<b>Diber</b> Towns of Peshkopi / Burrel / Bulqize / Milot / Areas of Klos	<b>Diber</b> Towns of Peshkopi / Burrel / Bulqize / Klos Areas of Suc / Shupenza
5	<b>Elbasan</b> City of Elbasan / Peqin / Cerrik / Area of Paper	<b>Elbasan</b> City of Elbasan / Towns of Gramsh / Librazhd Peqin / Belsh / Perrenjas / Cerrik / Area of Paper
6	<b>Fier</b> City of Fier / Area of Divjaka Beach / Seman Beach	<b>Fier</b> City of Fier / Lushnje / Ballsh / Patos / Rroskovec Area of Seman
7	<b>Shkoder</b> City of Shkodra / Lezha / Areas of Tale / Shengjin / Velipoje / Border-pass of Murriqan	<b>Shkoder</b> City of Shkodra / Town of Malesi e Madhe / Puke / Fusharez / Areas of Tale / Border-pass of Murriqan
8	<b>Korca</b> Town of Pogradec	<b>Korca</b> City of Korca / Town of Pogradec / Devoll / Kolonje / Areas of Bilisht Leskovik / Maliq, pika doganore Qaf Thane, Tushemisht, Kapshtica
9		<b>Lezha</b> Town of Lezha / Mirdita / Rreshen / Rubik / Kurbin / Lac / Mamurras / Milot
10		<b>Kukes</b> Town of Kukes / Bajram Curri / Kruma
11		<b>Gjirokaster</b> City of Gjirokastra / Town of Tepelena / Permet Area of Kelcyra / Memaliaj, Kakavija
12		<b>Berat</b> City of Berat / Town of Kucova / Skrapar / Corovode / Polican / Area of Ure Vajgurore

In each city there was a team of observers made up of representatives of four organisations working with children in street situation in Tirana<sup>25</sup> and the Child Protection Unit. Each team was divided in smaller teams in order to cover all the areas of interest simultaneously.

During wave 1 (6-12 August), 18 staff were assigned to cover all the sub-sections (commercial areas; religious buildings and locations; main avenues; in the Roma settlements; border passes; motorways; national road segments/state highways etc.), identified coastal areas and those areas with a high percentage of Muslim population (due to Ramadan celebration).

During wave 2 (18-24 October), 29 staff were assigned to cover the areas of interest in the whole Albanian territory (12 districts).

Staff involved in the study phases helped to compile the first draft of the initial interview, to identify important themes and issues, and new questions that were relevant to the scope of the study. All the information gathered when piloting simple and basic questions to children encountered in the streets helped in the development of in-depth interviews. The information gathered in the two waves helped the organisations working with children in street situation fill any gaps in basic data they had. It also helped identify new trends and previously unknown information for the team conducting the study.

The second wave of counting revealed some previously unknown situations in cities like Gjirokastra, Kavaja and Shkodra, for example:

- Some Roma communities migrated from one town to another (seasonal workers e.g. in Gjirokastra more than 150 families have created a new community from 'Ura e Lumit till NSHN, beside the Drino river in order to work in Lazarat on Cannabis Cultivation).
- New patterns of work in some areas (working along the national road segments/state highways like: Levan-Tepelenë, Tiranë-Fushkrujë, Burrel-Klos).
- New vulnerable communities (e.g. in Shkodra, families forced to move to avoid revenge attacks arising from blood feuds, who created a new settlement).

### II.1.3 Initial interviews

A simple interview was conducted with children after the observation stage in which all the stakeholders involved in the process were consulted to crosscheck all the basic information.

A representative sample of 442 children, from a total number of 2,014 counted children during the first wave, was selected and the aim was to observe the activities they were involved in, in different cities. Special focus was placed on observing whether the children were accompanied or alone.

The second wave of point-count estimates indicated 2,527 children in street situation, and from them 340 children were randomly selected for the initial interview. (See Appendix C)

The team was well trained to answer questions about the survey openly and in child-friendly language, following ethical guidelines (refer to Appendix C). They were able to refer children to relevant local services and NGOs when they needed support. Throughout the whole process the children were approached taking into consideration Child Protection policies and procedures in order to ensure their wellbeing.

### II.1.4 Focus Group Discussions

Focus Group Discussions were conducted with children in street situation and community members in 6 different cities of Albania (see Table 4 and Table 5). A total of 16 focus groups were conducted involving 111 children in street situation and 39 community members. Focus group discussions were

<sup>25</sup> Social Organisation for the Support of Youth, Children of the world and Children of Albania, Save the Children – Drop in Centre for children in Street Situation, National Association Education For Life.

conducted by trained moderators or facilitators, within the presence of social workers associated with the groups involved and the context.

Focus group discussions were chosen as a methodology to ensure that as many points of view could be heard at one point in time, given the time constraints on all parties involved. The focus group discussions were held in cooperation with local stakeholders in drop in centres, daily centres, community centres, school cafes or community bars. Children attending focus groups were selected by age and willingness to participate. Consequently, in certain contexts, to be inclusive, some children who were not in street situation were also involved. In Elbasan, one young mother of 17 years old with a baby of 2 years old also took part in the focus group discussion.

The aim of the focus group discussion stage was to gather more accurate information on the key issues facing children in street situation in line with their maturity and ability.<sup>26</sup> Nationally, the 111 children consulted were aged from 6 to 17. The focus group discussion format was appropriately designed so that all the children were able to participate and have an equal opportunity to share their opinions. It was based on role playing, games and drawing, so that all children participating were not distinguished by age and/or gender. Focus groups had a maximum duration of 40 minutes and were supported by the experts at ARSIS. Key questions were shared with facilitators along with general indications on how the children's focus groups would be conducted (see Annex 3).

Table 4: Number of focus group discussions with children

Number of focus group	Group	Location
3	Children, 5-11 years old	Tirana
3	Children, 12-17 years old	Tirana
1	Children, 6-11 years old	Durres
1	Children, 12-17 years old	Durres
1	Children, 6-11 years old	Shkodra
1	Children, 12-17 years old	Elbasan
1	Children 12-17 years old	Korça
1	Children, 6-11 years old	Gjirokaster
<b>Total No. 12</b>		

Table 5: Number of focus group discussions with community members

Number of focus group	Group	Location
1	Community Members	Tirana
1	Community Members	Durres
1	Community Members	Shkodra
1	Community Members	Gjirokaster
<b>Total No. 4</b>		

Information obtained through the interviews with children and focus groups was analysed based on transcripts, notes and observation of the researcher that conducted the focus groups and interviews.

<sup>26</sup> Article 12 of the UNCRC grants a child who is capable of forming a view the right to express that view freely in all matters affecting him or her; and these views should be given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child

Focus group discussions also served as a bridge in the selection process of children that would be interviewed in the next stage.

### **II.1.5 Closed questionnaires with Key Informants**

Questionnaires were sent by mail and/or email to the key actors in different key public institutions and civil society organisations. In total 60 local level and 20 national level key informants were asked to give their informed opinion about the current phenomenon of children in street situations and rank main issues and intervention strategies in order of importance (see Annex 6).

### **II.1.6 In-depth interviews with Key Informants**

Semi-structured interviews, based on the key issues of the study and strategies identified through the closed questionnaire were conducted with 36 local and 10 national level key informants. All the key informants' work was directly or indirectly related to the children in street situation (see Annex 5).

Key informants were representatives of public and government institutions including the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, the MSWY, the National Agency for Child Protection, the General Police Directorate - Children's Section, State Social Services, the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and also civil society organisations.

### **II.1.7 Face to Face Interviews with Children**

The aim of this phase was to gain a more in-depth understanding about the street situation of the children, to contribute to profiles of children in street situation, and to identify further key issues for the study. In addition it would form the basis of case studies. All the stakeholders involved in the study were consulted about the draft initial interview questions. This was done because of their knowledge of working with children in street situation and because they could make the interviewing process easier due to a relationship of trust with the children, which would initially be missing and would need to be built. Their involvement ensured precise information was collected.

The final interview questions included 50 questions, covering all the key study issues (see Annex 7).

The children involved in the interviewing process were also involved in the focus group discussions and had been selected by experts (ARSIS). This preselecting was done to ensure that the most representative sample of children in street situation was involved in the interviewing stage. Semi-structured interviews with a sample of 30 children nationwide helped give a more in-depth analysis of the children's life situations (see Table 4).

Consent forms for the participating children/interviewees and for the parents or guardians of the participating children were prepared in line with the lead organisation's forms. Ethical guidelines were shared with researchers in the form of a checklist to ensure that the conditions in which they worked, in particular how they worked with children, were respected from the outset. The organisation's child protection policy was followed by the trained researchers. All the participants were informed (verbally and in writing) about the aim of the study and the ethical guidelines that the researchers intended to follow in the collection and collation of data.

The Statistical Package for Social Scientists 8.0 (SPSS 8.0) was used in generating frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, frequencies, means and some factor analyses.



Table 6: Sample of Children in Street Situation - interviewed

City	Frequency	Percent
Durres	1	3.1 %
Elbasan	2	6.6 %
Gjirokaster	1	3.4 %
Korça	2	6.6 %
Sarande	3	10.0 %
Shkodra	3	10.0 %
Tirana	18	60.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### II.1.8 Technical Table

Technical tables were conducted during October 2013 in three cities, Shkodra, Tirana and Fier (see Table 7). The organisation leading the study collaborated closely with local partners (representatives of the respective municipalities) in order to ensure an inclusive approach and a high level of participation from several stakeholders involved in working with children in street situation. Technical tables brought together representatives of the CPUs, NGOs, and other institutions such as representatives of the Judiciary for Minors, Regional Education Directories, Police, etc.

The aim of the technical tables was to collect the necessary data from the key informants that deal directly or indirectly with children in street situation. This included discussing the definition of children in street situation, analysing the system, sharing their experiences with the case management of their services and the role of each in the system and to better assist the needs of children in street situation.

Table 7: Technical table description

No.	Technical Table/City	Date	No. of participants	Place
1	Fier	16.10.2013	20	Municipality Meeting Room
2	Shkodra	24.10.2013	8	Hotel "Palma"
3	Tirana	25.10.2013	15	UNICEF Meeting Room

### II.1.9 Roundtable

A roundtable with key informants and institutional representatives was organised in January 2014. The roundtable gave those involved in the qualitative analysis a chance to receive an overview of the information gathered up until that point and also an opportunity to feed into the final profiles of children in street situations, the key issues to be addressed and the action-oriented recommendations.

### II.2 Sampling indicators

In this study, face to face interviewing of children in street situation was used for data collection. It was the primary data collection method used for the following reasons:

- The children were mostly illiterate and therefore unable to read and answer written questions;
- By using this method it was easier to explain to the children the meaning of the interviews and

explain any misunderstandings which may have developed;

- It was easier to control the whole process and the environment in which the questions were asked and answered, thus giving the children more space to be spontaneous. It was also possible to keep notes about the different reactions of children during the interview process; and
- The order of the interview questions is important especially in comparison with a questionnaire and enables the building of a timeline for each child.

Data collection used an observational profile criteria approach in sampling. For the study, a set of indicators was developed for the profiles of children in street situation and fieldwork conducted to observe and collect data of children that match with the established indicators (see Appendix B).

Below are the indicators that were decided upon and shared with those conducting observation on the streets to identify children in a street situation:

Physical characteristics:

- No shoes
- Dirty or torn clothes
- Inappropriate clothes due to size of the child or the time of year/season
- Dirty, unhealthy or injured appearance, e.g. scars, missing teeth, shaved head

Behaviour

- A child or group of children in an inappropriate place
- A child who is alone or with their parents and engaged in common activities for children in street situations, e.g. begging, selling objects, collecting recycling materials, engaged in physical labour such as washing cars etc or scavenging
- Playing games in inappropriate places
- Engaged in anti-social behaviour such as fighting, swearing, being assertive and annoying with strangers
- Sleeping on the street or other outdoor places
- A child showing signs of alcohol or substance abuse

Further to the stated approach for identifying children in street situation, the study team was able to adapt to new realities and issues arising while conducting the study, for example when a child or a group of children did not want to be included, or they refused to be included if their friends were not. It was necessary to modify the sampling according to the specific fieldwork experience. The previous phases (Time-Location Mapping and Point-Count Estimate) facilitated this process.

### II.3 Limitations of the study and challenges

The following limitations and challenges were observed during the implementation of the study project:

- The empirical analysis of the phenomenon of children in street situation in Albania was influenced by political events driving policy and action at all levels of government during the summer. For example, the study was well timed to feed into the reform of the social care system in Albania. However, at the same time it also appears to have come too early to ensure immediate action and change to current practices. The impact of the study will be challenging due to the current changing context in Albania, for example the impact of recent policy initiatives, such as the establishment of CPUs, has yet to be fully assessed.

- Duplicate counting in both Point-Count Estimates was a challenge due to the children's mobility at different times of the day and night as well as at the time of year/seasons.
- Several studies on children in street situation have been conducted in the past two years and it was a challenge to ensure the participation of some children as they were being interviewed again without having seen any result from their participation in the previous studies.
- In some cities the researchers found it hard to build a relationship of trust in a short timescale with the children, especially if there was no service delivery for children in street situation in those places. As a result, some children refused to be interviewed. The professionals involved in the first phases of the study overcame these challenges and were able to gather important data. They were able to freely invite the children and provide them with age-appropriate information, what the study was about, how it was to be disseminated, and how their data would be stored.
- From the field experience of service providers involved in the study, for many different reasons children do not always answer truthfully in certain situations, particularly where a relationship of trust has not been established.
- After several discussions the study team decided that only children physically on the street and who met the observational criteria, mentioned above, would be included in the study. Children who appeared to be working inside places such as bars, cafes, restaurants, or were inside their residential care institutions at the time of counting, would be excluded from the study because it was not possible to be sure if these children were in a street situation outside the moment of observation, ensuring this way total objectivity.

*Child in the Roma settlements in Artificial Lake Tirana,  
February 2014 (photo by Mersina Xhemajli)*





## Chapter III. Study results

### III.1 Numbers

While it may be considered dangerous in some circumstances to focus on numbers<sup>27</sup> rather than the various risk factors and child-rights abuses that occur in a street situation, the drive behind this extensive study has been the need for figures, recognised by UNICEF and Save the Children, to better inform and plan social interventions. It is expected that with a wide definition of children in street situation, together with qualitative data, that policy, legislative and practical intervention may be better constructed and implemented. While some estimates have been made of the numbers of children in Tirana connected to the street, also based on the cases seen by the major NGOs working there, this can certainly be improved upon with structured data collection and involvement of key stakeholders. There is a huge gap in official data from all responsible institutions dealing with children in street situation in Albania.

As mentioned earlier, the Point-Count Estimate stage was conducted in two different time periods to provide a more accurate assessment of the number of children in street situation. The first wave of Point-Count Estimate was in the summer of 2013 and the second wave was conducted in autumn 2013. Table 8 (below) shows the number of children identified nationwide (by city), during the first Point-Count Estimate of children in street situation, who were in total 2,014. Table 9 shows the number of children identified nationwide (by districts), during the second Point-Count Estimate of children in street situation. The total number of children in street situation nationally in wave 2 was 2,527.

Table 8: Number of children in Street Situation - wave 1

Children in Street Situation per City	Frequency	Percent
Tirana	636	31.5 %
Durres	375	18.6 %
Vlora	88	4.4 %
Shkodra	213	10.6 %
Elbasan	69	3.4 %
Pogradec	52	2.6 %
Saranda	161	8.1 %
Dibra	217	10.7 %
Kavaja	203	10.1 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Table 9: Number of children in Street Situation - wave 2

Children in Street Situation per Each District of Albania	Frequency	Percent
Tirana	757	30 %
Durres	205	8.1 %
Vlora	118	4.7 %
Fier	113	4.5 %
Shkodra	335	13.2 %
Lezha	93	3.7 %
Elbasan	142	5.6 %
Korca	149	5.9 %
Dibra	160	6.3 %
Kukes	5	0.2 %
Gjirokastra	359	14.2 %
Berat	91	3.6 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>100 %</b>

The Point-Count Estimate in both phases shows that the capital of Albania has the highest number of children in street situation, no matter the time of year, being almost a third of the total. Differences in numbers found in other cities between the two waves have specific reasons which will be discussed below.

### III.2 Demographics

The majority of street children in Albania are no older than 14 years of age, though there is a sizeable population of street adolescents who are 15-17 (28% - 564 children in wave 1; 31% - 783 children in wave 2). For most of them, street experience begins around early childhood. Initial interview, counting and focus group results indicate that significant numbers of infants from 0-5 years old (wave 1 11.66%, 235 children - wave 2 13.9%, 381 children) are in the streets accompanied by their mothers while begging.

#### III.2.1 Gender

Among Albanian street children, there are more than twice as many boys than girls (70.1% - 1476 boys and 29.9% - 538 girls out of 2014 children in wave 1; 74% - 1882 boys and 26% - 645 girls out of 2527 children in wave 2) and the disparity grows even larger amongst teenagers (10 to 18 years). In Tirana, girls were a higher percentage of the total (35.5% in Wave 1) compared to the proportion of girls in other cities (~23%); however boys are more prevalent in street situations throughout the country.

## Gender of Children in Street Situation per City | Wave 1

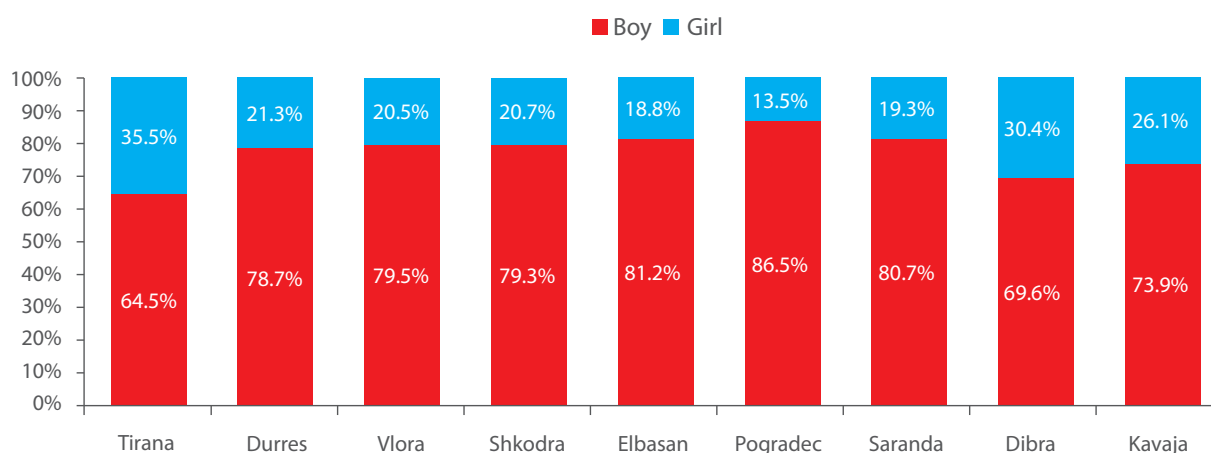


Chart 1. Gender of Children in Street Situation per City | Wave 1

## Gender of Children in Street Situation per City | Wave 2

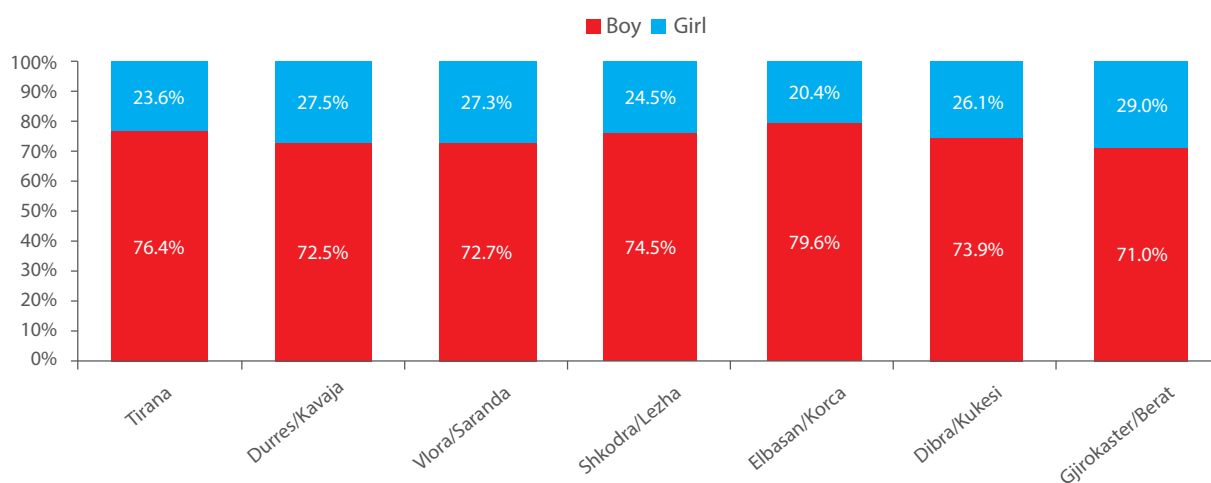


Chart 2. Gender of Children in Street Situation per City | Wave 2

An explanation for this disparity, which was confirmed during the focus groups with children and community members, lies in the cultural differentiation between male and female roles in Albania. In such roles, girls are expected to engage in household duties more than boys, especially in female-headed homes. For boys, spending time outside of the home with their peers is not necessarily perceived as negative, while for girls it is not commonly accepted that they would spend long hours alone on the streets. There is a risk that girls are less likely to receive assistance, since they are less visible on the streets than boys, but likely to face similar adversities.

Furthermore, girls in early puberty (12-14 years old), when the menstruation cycle starts, are more likely to be kept at home, ready for marriage. Virginity as a "virtue" for girls before marriage is an old historic and cultural tradition of Egyptian and Roma communities, as highlighted by the community members themselves during focus groups and confirmed by key actors.

The number of girls in street situation decreases as they grow older, with most girls falling within the age range of 5-9 years. Again, this confirms in part the influence of an increased level of responsibility at home, and perceived or actual "moral" dangers on the streets, keeping more girls off the street the older they are. In fact, in in-depth interviews, key actors emphasised that boys are likely to spend

more time in the streets compared to girls, possibly also due to the traditional notion of an Albanian male being expected to support himself and/or his family, which makes older boys more likely to seek survival strategies outside of the home.

### III.2.2 Age groups

The counting process from wave 2 shows that around 66.5% (1680) of children in street situation in Albania are between 4 and 14 years old, with the remaining percentage distributed between infants and toddlers (0 to 3 years old - around 4% or 102 children) and teenagers (15 to 17 years old – 29.5% or 745 children).

More details about the number of children counted (in both waves) in each specific city/region of Albania can be found in Appendix E.

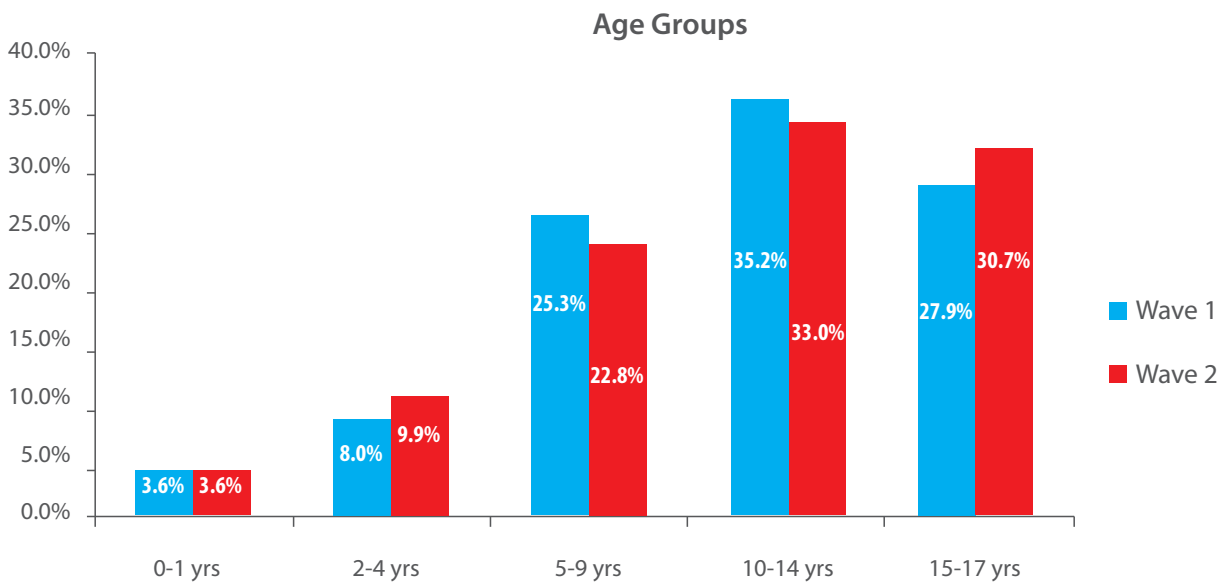


Chart 3. Age Groups of Children in Street Situation | Waves 1&2

The presence of infants and toddlers in street situation should be viewed in a different manner, as such small children have no way of influencing their mothers’ choices of survival strategies and also lack the ability to develop their own. As a result, one should focus on “mothers in street situation with their babies” rather than only on the children by themselves. Anecdotal evidence suggests that in many cases, we already see a third generation of children in street situation in Albania – several of these young mothers have themselves experienced a life connected to the street.

Child begging in the streets of Tirana, November 2013 (photo by Gazmir Lame)





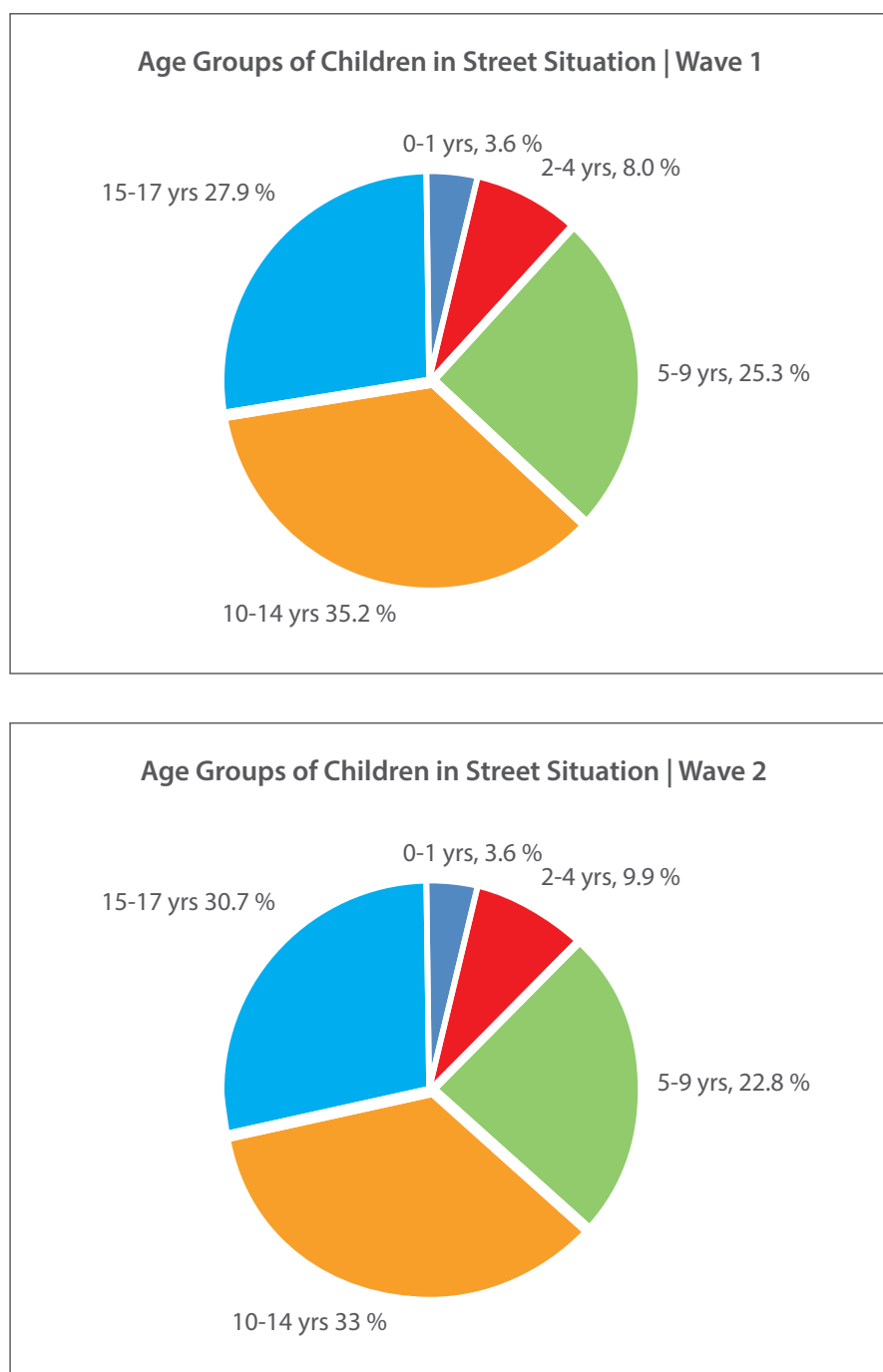


Chart 4. Age Groups of Children in Street Situation | Waves 1&2

Initial interviews reflected a similar view of gender distribution among children in street situation. During the first wave, of the 2014 children counted, 442 children were interviewed; 66% of which are boys (n=293) and 34% girls (n=149). During the second wave, out of 2527 children counted, 71% were boys (n=241) and 29% girls (n=99).

The initial interview and in-depth interviews with children show that at age 6, there are slightly more girls than boys in a street situation in Albania (20 girls - 13 boys). Children of ages 13 -14 (139 children out of 782) are the age group most frequently counted in street situation from initial interviews. The presence of girls aged 11-17 in street situation is lower (343 boys – 114 girls), reasons for which were outlined above.

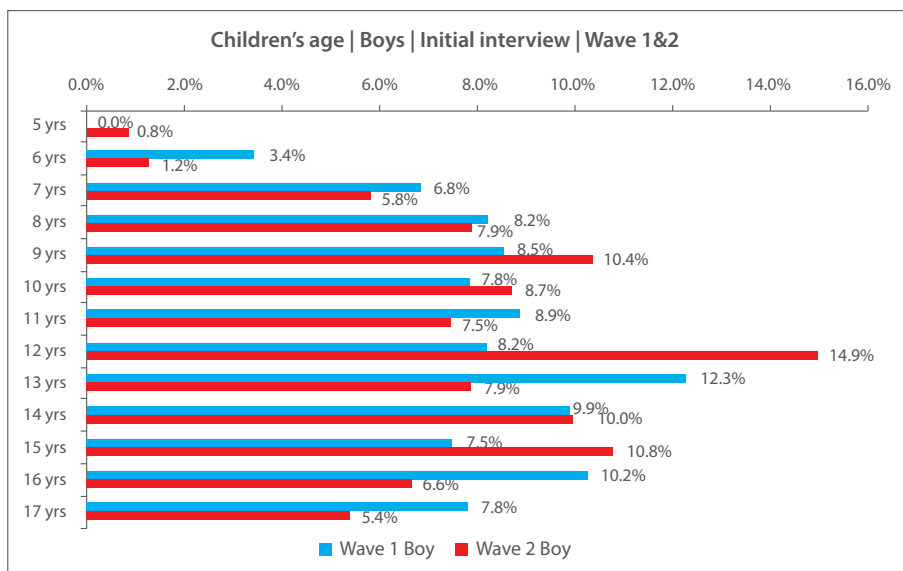


Chart 5. Children's age | Boys | Initial interview | Waves 1&2

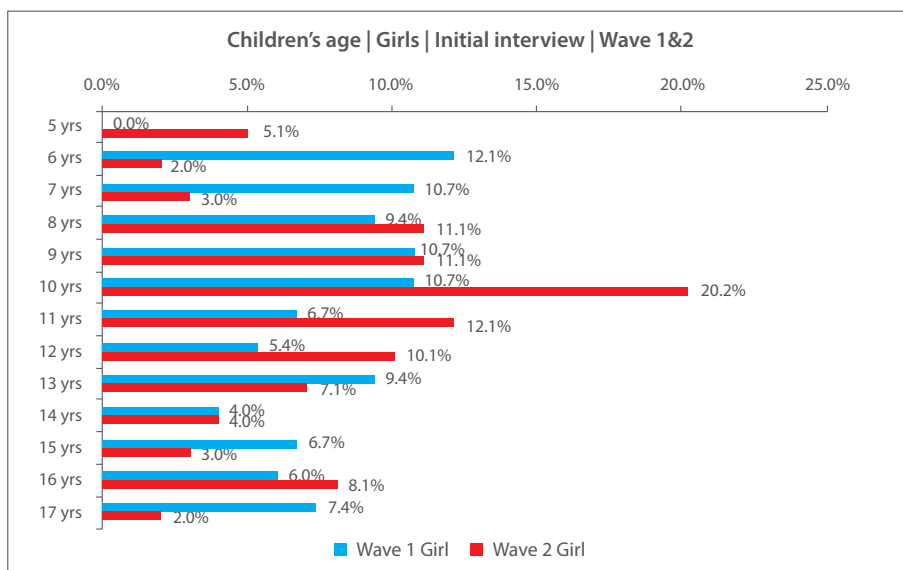


Chart 6. Children's age | Girls | Initial interview | Waves 1&2

Children in street situation between 0-1 years old are mainly in Tirana, being 7% of the total number of children in street situation in this city. In all the cities, the majority of children in street situation are from the ages of 5-14 years old. Teenagers from 15 to 17 years old comprise 3%-20% of the children in street situation within Tirana.

### III.2.3 Ethnicity

From initial interviews, children self-declared to belong to one of three different groups of Albanian society. While in the past children in street situation have been categorised from project based evidence on the ground as being part of two specific communities, Roma and Egyptian,<sup>28</sup> the present study found that there is also a significant number of children from the Albanian majority<sup>29</sup> in street situation. In fact, children from the Albanian majority are between one quarter (Wave 1) and one third (Wave 2) of the total number of children counted.

Furthermore, though children in street situation are part of all three main ethnic communities in

28 Balkan Egyptians (Jevgs, Egjiptjan or Gjupci) are Albanian-speaking ethnic minorities (recognized communities).  
 29 In this study Albanian majority, Roma and Egyptian will be considered as ethnic groups although Roma is considered a linguistic minority (not a national minority and Egyptian is neither a national or linguistic minority).

Albanian society, from the initial interview process 74.3% (581 out of 782 children) of street children responded that they belonged to Roma and Egyptian communities. This is strongly emphasised also from in-depth interviews with key actors and all experts mentioned these two communities as the main sources of children in street situation.

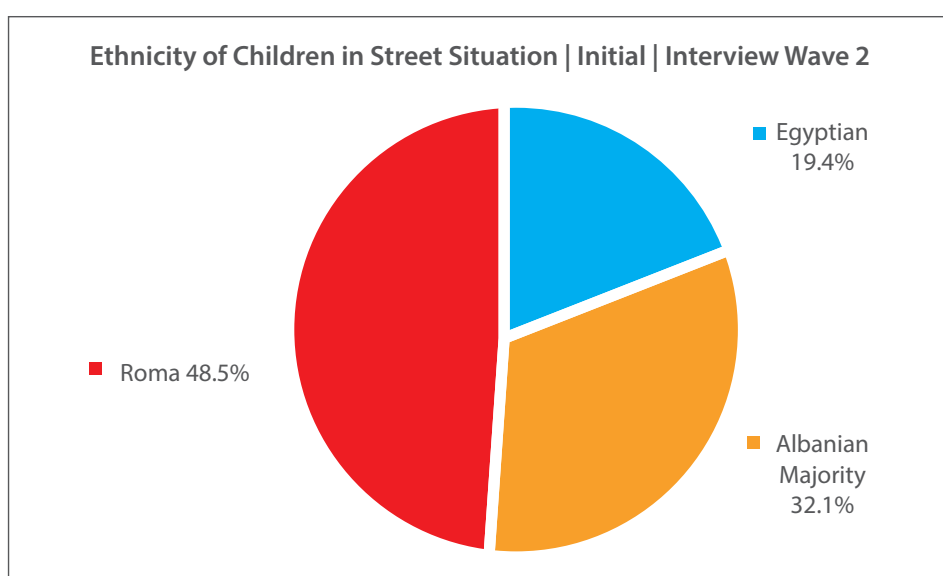
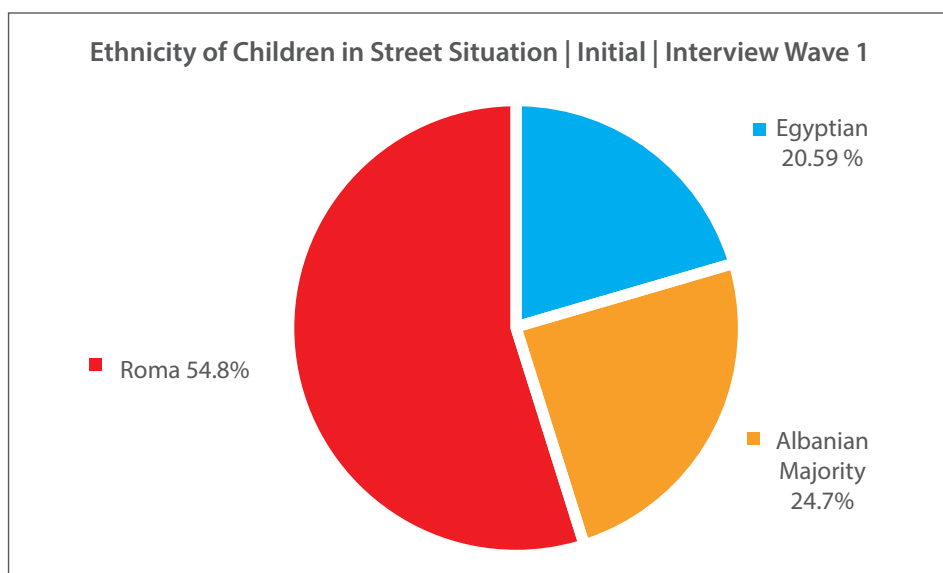


Chart 7. Ethnicity of children in street situation | Initial Interview Waves 1&2

Key actors, when asked during in-depth interviews to consider whether community size had an impact on the numbers of children found in street situation, reported different proportions of the communities in different towns. In Tirana there is not a significant difference in size between the Roma and Egyptian communities, and this is reflected in the number of children in street situation, which is quite even. Since in Tirana the Roma and Egyptian tend to live in the same areas, there are many mixed Roma-Egyptian families, and key actors therefore reported some children in street situation with a mixed background, despite children tending to identify with one background or the other.

In Korça, however, the Egyptian community is bigger than the Roma community thus children in street situation are mainly from this community. Also key actors declared, based on their daily work and professional experience that in Elbasan and in Shkodra both Roma and Egyptian communities

live in difficult economic situations and their children are in street situation. In Gjirokastra and Saranda the majority of children in street situation are also from the Egyptian community. In all the cities, key actors declared that children in street situation are also from a part of the Albanian majority community.

While overall children in street situation are mostly boys, the gender distribution among communities is not equal. There are more girls in street situation from the Roma community compared to the other two, and girls in the Albanian majority community are a relatively small percentage.

Ethnicity of Children in Street Situation per Gender | Initial Interview Wave 1&2

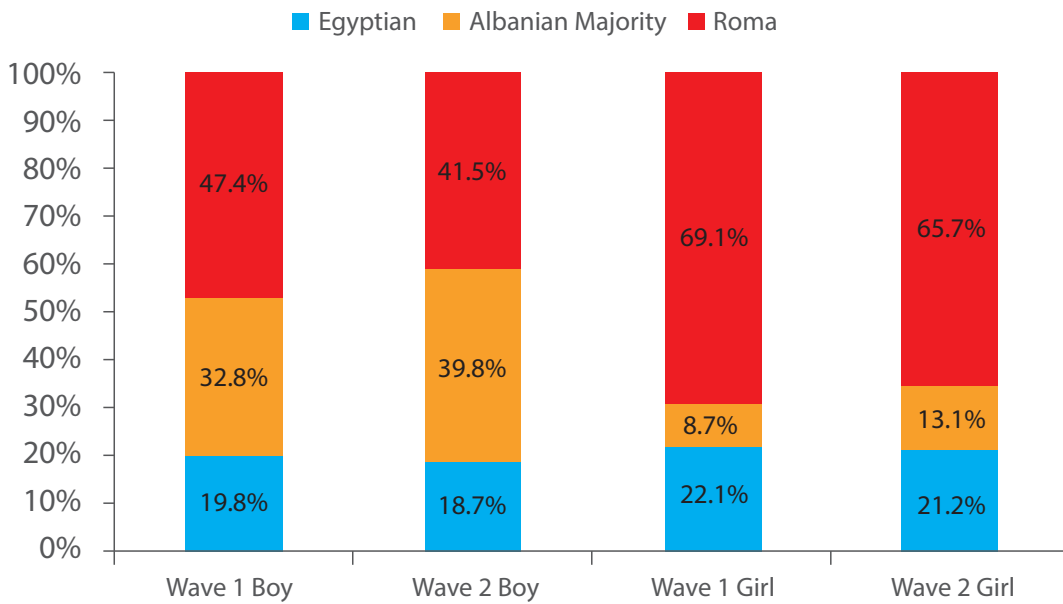


Chart 8. Ethnicity of Children in Street Situation per Gender | Initial Interview Waves 1&2

Ethnicity of Children in Street Situation per City | Wave 1

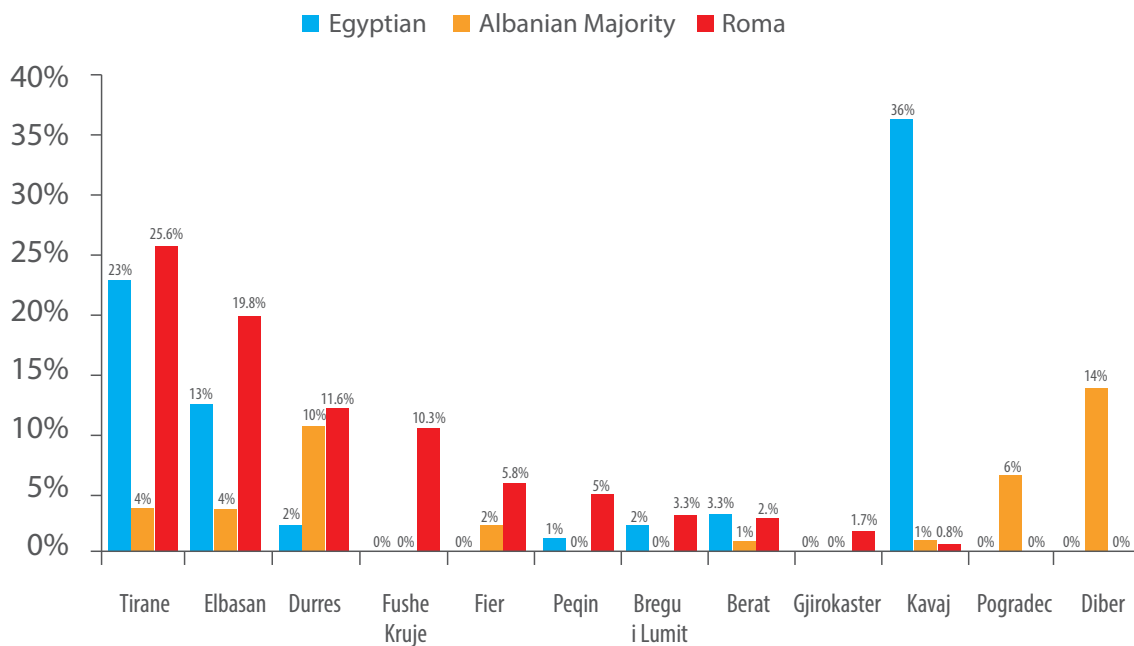


Chart 9. Ethnicity of Children in Street Situation per City | Wave 1

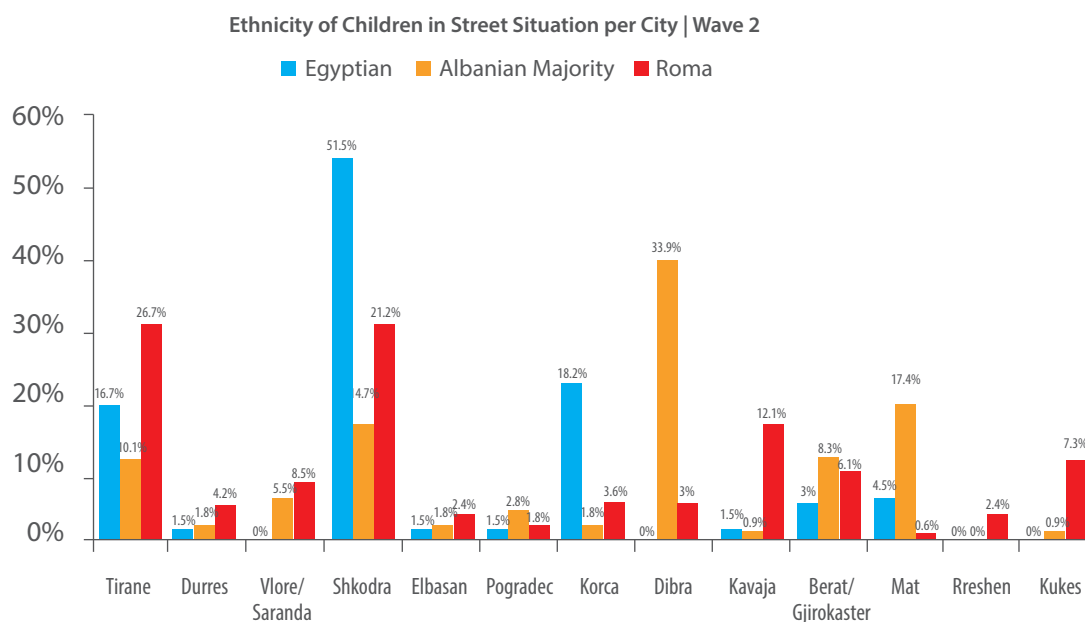


Chart 10. Ethnicity of Children in Street Situation per City | Wave 2

Children in street situation are widely spread on a national level; however the majority of them are concentrated in different cities. In Tirana children in street situation are mainly from Egyptian and Roma communities. This fact was also emphasised by all key actors during in-depth interviews. In Tirana, children in street situation are found in Kinostudio, Babrru, Bregu i Lumit, Qyteti i Nxenesve areas.

In Durres, the majority of children in street situation are from the Roma community. Families of children in street situation from the Albanian majority community migrated during the period 1995 – 2000 from northern cities in Albania and are located in the Porto Romano area. In Dibra, children in street situation are mainly from the Albanian majority community.

In Kavaja, children in street situation are mainly from the Egyptian community while in Fushe Kruje they are mostly from the Roma community.

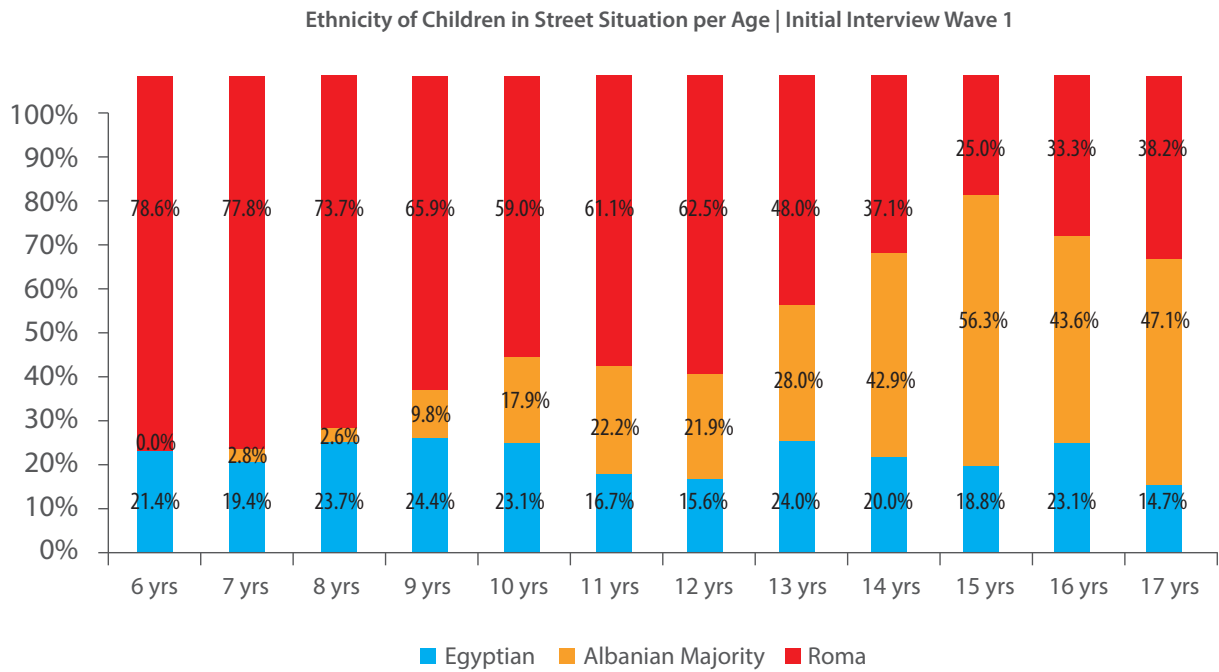


Chart 11. Ethnicity of Children in Street Situation per Age | Initial Interview wave 1

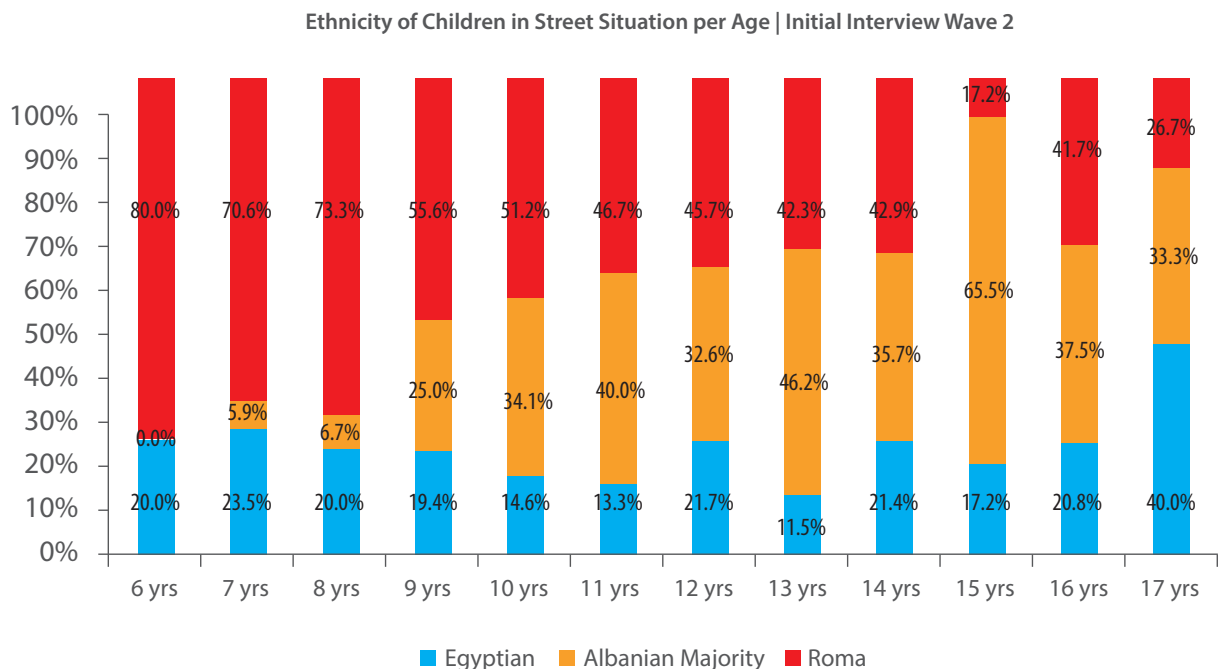


Chart 12. Ethnicity of Children in Street Situation per Age | Initial Interview wave 2

78% (114 children out of 146) of 6 year old children in street situation are from the Roma community, while the Albanian majority community have mostly children from 7 to 17 years old in street situation, being 28.4 % (207 out of 739 children).

Overall the figures from the study confirmed that the percentage of children in street situation

from different communities is not proportional to the incidence of those communities on the total population. Based on responses in initial interviews, a quarter of the children identified belonging to the Albanian majority while 74.3% (581 out of 782 children) belong to the Roma and Egyptian communities. There is a twofold significance to this data: firstly, the number of Albanian majority children in street situation is higher than expected, and secondly, since the other ethnic minorities or language groups account for no more than 1% of the total Albanian population, the study confirms that the incidence of children in street situation from these ethnic minority groups is disproportionately high. Key actors confirmed that children from families in the most deprived and marginalised communities are more likely to be in street situations, and given that many Roma belong to these disadvantaged groups, many of their children are at risk of being in street situations.

### III.3 Profiles of children in street situation

#### III.3.1 Street activities

Children in street situation in Albania are mainly identified as “child labourers”, with all phases of the study showing that begging and washing car windscreens were the principal street activities, followed by selling items at traffic lights, in bars/cafes or in fixed spots by the side of the road, or selling services such as parking, working as a porter or recycling.

The counting process indicates that main street activities of children in street situation are:

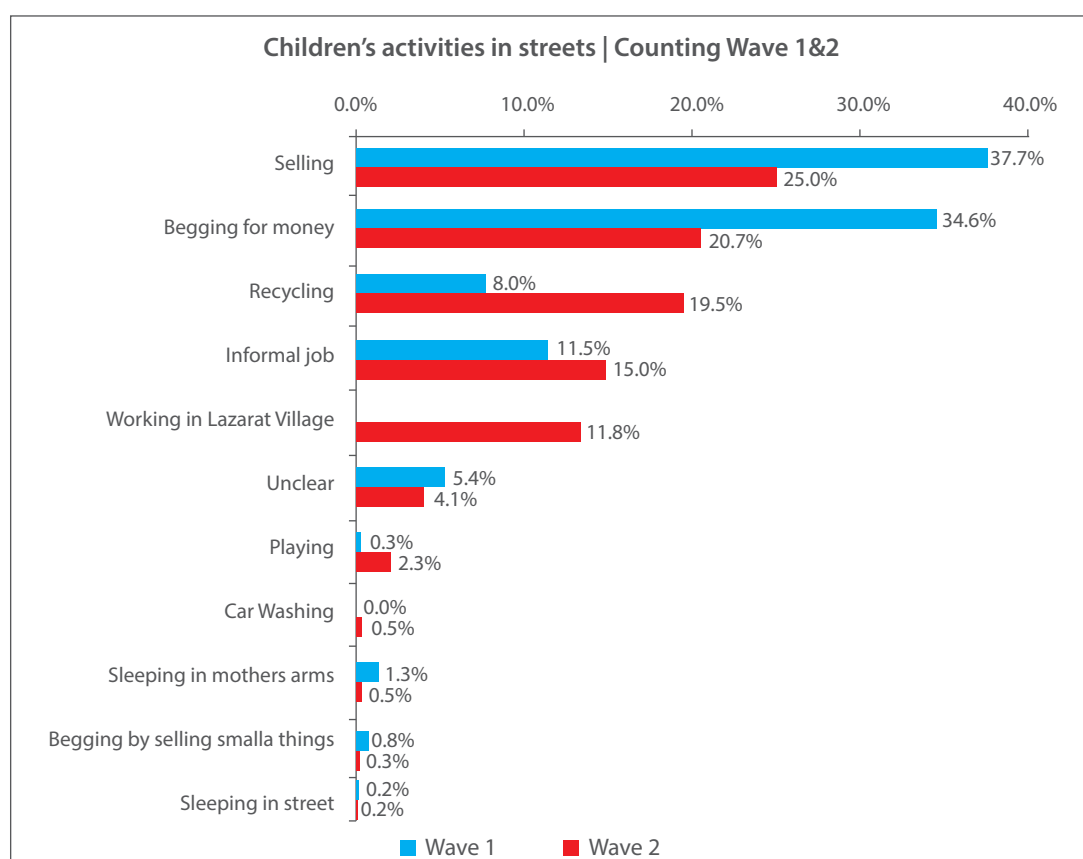


Chart 13: Children's activities in streets | Counting Waves 1&2

Looking specifically at the results of focus groups with children, it emerged that children were familiar with, and had undertaken at some stage, various street activities. In particular they indicated begging, car windscreen washing, collection of recyclable materials, peddling, and informal jobs. The majority of them in all cities with no distinction of age and gender said they knew what profits could be made

from certain jobs and more in general how these jobs were done. One child stated:

"So when I work I usually go out alone and then bring the money I earned home. Then my parents give me a little money if they have it, 20 lek or 50 lek..."<sup>30</sup> (Boy, Age 10, Korça)

The Point-Count estimates showed a very big difference in numbers between children begging by trying to "sell" small (token) items on the streets (0.8% in Wave 1 and 0.3% in Wave 2) and those found begging by simply asking for money (34.6% in Wave 1 and 20.7% in Wave 2). Boys are more involved in begging by trying to sell small (token) things on the streets than girls, whereas girls are mainly just begging (61% of total girls in street situation). Children aged 2-9 years old are mostly involved in normal begging, while begging through selling is mainly a characteristic among children from 10-17 years old.

Children engaged in street begging are much more likely to display signs of physical trauma than their peers who work or who are not involved in other types of street income generation

Case study: The family in this case consists of a mother and her five children: her 14 year old son, 12 year old daughter, 10 year old daughter, 3 year old daughter, 2 year old son and another 16 year old child who is married and has a child herself. The father of four of the children is deceased and the father of the other two small children is the second partner of the mother. He is unemployed and not able to take care of the children. The only means of income in the family has had over the years has been the children begging and various thefts committed by the children (who have been detained and are wary of the state police). The family was faced with so many problems because the children are always at risk of being victims of trafficking, neglect and exploitation. A daily centre has assisted the family since 2008, when some of the children began begging on the streets of Tirana. In that time, the children spent a lot of time begging and their "work" was monitored under the tutelage of their mother, grandmother, and in some cases by their mother's partners. This situation lasted for years and was this the reason, the daily centre referred the situation to the police, (in the domestic violence sector). From 2008, the centre has supported the children during the day through administrative, medical and basic needs support. (Female, community member, Tirana)

Collection of cans and iron is also a frequent activity undertaken by children. During the focus groups, children in Tirana, Durres and Korça reported that they do this work accompanied by their parents. In most cases they are with their father, with the exception of Durres where mothers with children are working together recycling materials.



*Child washing car windcreens in the streets of Tirana, September 2013 (photo by Mersina Xhemajli)*

Due to a widening of the geographical areas, also based on an analysis of Wave 1 findings, the second wave of counting and initial interviews indicated a new and quite significant activity in which children in street situation are involved. Children were found

working at Lazarat Village near Gjirokastra city in the cultivation of marijuana. From focus groups discussions with children and community members, and initial interviews, they spontaneously mentioned the fact that many children living in different areas of Gjirokastra work in Lazarat village, reporting that the financial benefits are higher compared to other activities of children in street

30 €0.15 or €0.42



situation. While children were observed and reported working there in initial interviews, none of the children in the focus group admitted to working there. Nonetheless, this gave a significant boost to the overall percentage of children involved in informal work in Wave 2 counting (see Charts 14 & 15).

During the focus groups, it was observed that the majority of children are not proud about their work and are aware that the activities they do are not well perceived by the rest of the society.

One of the children stated:

“We shouldn’t go and work at this age. But our family needs economic help, for us. They need help. So we have to help them. Some of these parents can drink, or fight, and torture the children.” (Boy, 12 years old, Tirana)

While from the point-count estimate, it was found that 60% of girls and 24% of boys, are begging, during focus groups the majority of them refuse to say that they are begging, as they perceive this activity to be the most degrading, shameful, and dishonourable compared to other street-related activities. Children of ages 10-17 that are currently selling or collecting cans or metal, do not mention begging as one of their jobs during early childhood.

The majority of children begging are from the Roma and Egyptian communities, whereas the Albanian majority children are involved in selling small items. There is a big difference between the numbers of the Albanian majority children involved in informal work and selling items on the street during two waves: sale of item - wave 1 was 79.8% (624 children), wave 2 became 22.9% (179 children); informal job - wave 1 was 16.5% (129 children), wave 2 became 73.4% (547 children). This difference in numbers and changes of the activities is due to seasonal influences of these types of street activities. In the summer tourist areas there is a demand for certain items from the tourists and since schools are on summer holidays, the number of children involved in selling increases. In October the schools are open and there is not much tourism going on so children are more involved in informal jobs.

Two specific areas of concern were identified during the counting process for children involved in informal work: Bulqiza Mine and Gjirokaster - Lazarat marijuana cultivation. In-depth interviews indicated children working near the Bulqiza mine, where children collect metal and sell it for small amounts of money to support themselves and their families.

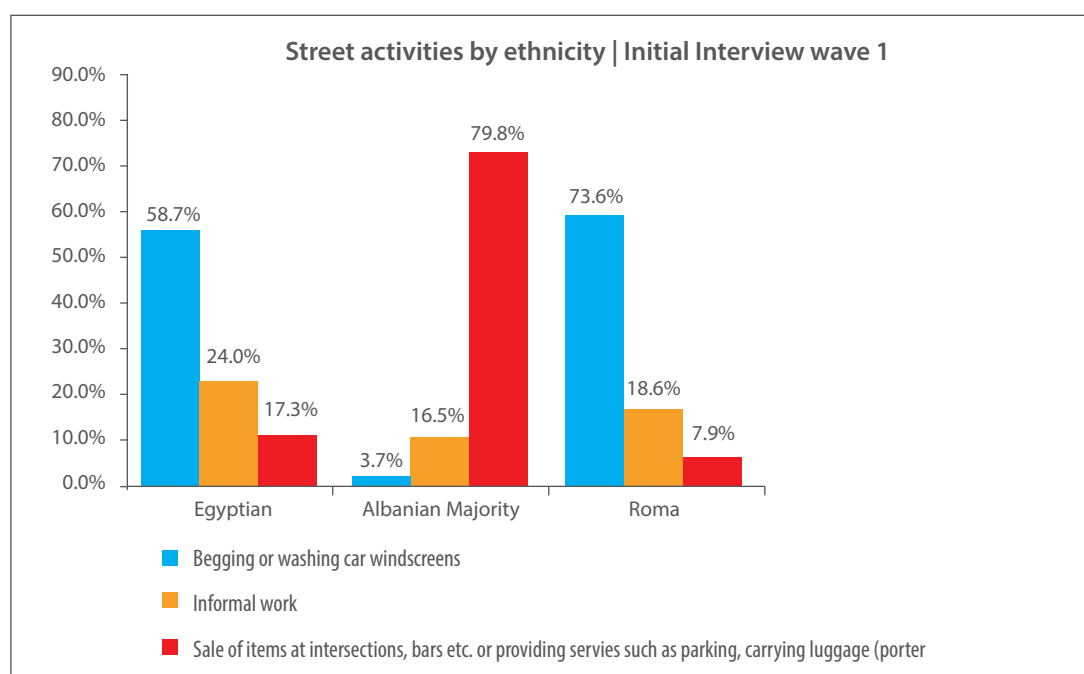


Chart 14: Street activities by Ethnicity | Initial Interview Wave 1

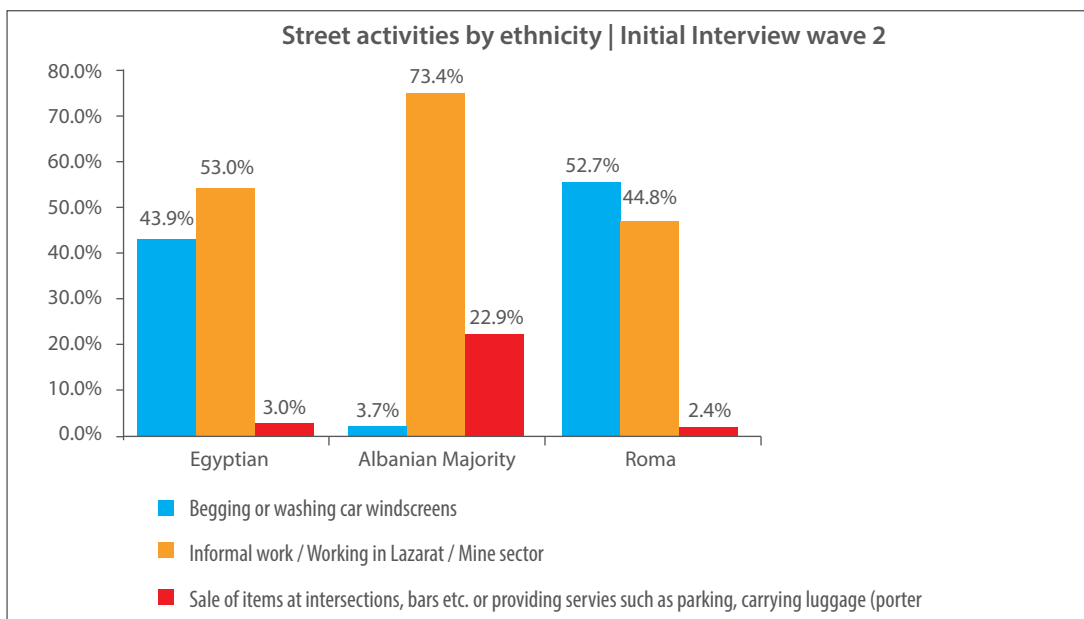


Chart 15: Street activities by Ethnicity | Initial Interview Wave 2

Selling and can collection is described as the most honourable work by children due to the perception of working hard and then selling what they have managed to collect. 42% of boys are involved in selling activities and 9% in can collection.

Teenagers, abandoned or neglected children and runaways are more at risk of making their livelihood by illegal means. They engage in illegal activities such as drug couriering, sale or transportation of contraband objects/materials, smuggling, and theft. Children do not like to confirm their involvement in these illegal activities and often they refer to a third person instead of themselves when describing this kind of phenomenon. Furthermore there is a lack of official statistics. According to the Section for the Protection of Minors and Violence in Family in the Police Directorate in Tirana children involved in illegal activities are mainly boys 8-13 years old, in most cases from the Roma community, and mostly engaged in stealing.

Children stated that their parents teach them how to do income generating activities in the street, though a few of them, who possibly did not feel comfortable discussing their parents, reported to have learned on their own or from friends. These children hold up their hands, and beg.

“For instance, their mom forced them to go out there.” (Girl, 8 years old, Tirana)

All children in street situation explained that all activities they do are very tiring for them, dangerous for themselves, their sisters and brothers and are unsafe for their health. Moreover, children said they had have faced psychological violence from people while begging or selling, and a few of them mentioned suffering physical violence.



Child involved in recycling in the streets of Tirana, February 2014 (photo by ARSIS)

Even though the majority of them feel discrimination from the rest of society, and have negative feelings such as sadness and unhappiness, all of them said they worked because their family is in extreme poverty. All of the children said that all the benefits from the street activity are for their family, providing family members with the possibility to eat.

Below is a table of the kinds of income generation activities conducted by the majority of children in street situation in different countries,<sup>31</sup> with those arising from our study that are more common to children in Albania in bold.

Table 10: Activities of Children in street situation

<b>playing instruments</b>	mail distribution
selling self-glow	playing a disabled person to beg
<b>collecting plastic, cardboard, metals</b>	theatre performance
<b>recycling</b>	selling handmade art
<b>washing cars</b>	<b>selling religious items</b>
<b>washing windows</b>	<b>selling little animals (pigeons, rabbits)</b>
<b>begging</b>	<b>selling flowers of/for the cemetery</b>
<b>selling cigarettes and other small items</b>	<b>stealing</b>
<b>handing out flyers</b>	<b>dealing drugs</b>
<b>selling sunflower seeds, corn</b>	<b>guarding cars</b>
selling newspapers	working in factories
<b>parking cars</b>	<b>working in the tourist industry</b>
selling coal	<b>fishing</b>
<b>transporting garbage</b>	<b>taking care of siblings</b>
<b>sex work</b>	<b>housework</b>
<b>working in markets</b>	<b>working on the land/field (garbage)</b>
gambling	working in construction
cleaning shoes	working in the agriculture
being tutors of the young	working in the improvised circus
transporting furniture	collecting fruits in the forest

When comparing the kinds of street activities children in Albania are involved with to those in other countries, it can be seen that they are located more in towns and cities. The exceptions to this are in fact some new phenomena discovered during the study such as selling objects by the sides of major national highways, and involvement in drug cultivation and narcotic substance production, neither of which can be found on the above list. Other newer trends noticed, were a reduction in children involved in cleaning shoes, and more children involved in work involving parking and guarding cars, and working near mines.

### III.3.2 Family situation and circumstances

From the initial interview process and focus group discussion results, 84% (657) of Albanian children in street situation who have a "home", have both parents alive and living with them. 7% (55) of them live with only one parent and 7% (55) with relatives, who are usually grandparents. Only 2% (16 children) are alone.

Focus group discussion results and key actors' feedback report that children in street situation are part of large families with sisters and brothers; usually with at least one of the grandparents living with them. Divorce and remarriage of parents is not a rare phenomenon among families of children in street situation. Families with divorced parents or step-parents have a significant impact on children's psychological wellbeing.

31 Fundacja Teatru Ludowego, Report on Mobile school exchange in Poland, Inputs from Social Street Workers of the European platform, Krakow Poland, 2013

Children in street situation seem to be very close to their family. The majority of children in street situation identified parents or other relatives as their primary caregivers. Mothers are the main (and often only) caregivers in the children's family. During group discussion they said they enjoyed staying home with their parents and also going to work with them. Boys usually like to stay with the father while working (collecting cans and iron) while girls stay home to help their mothers with household duties.

The majority of children in street situation in Albania mention a combination of two to three main family stressors. Economic hardship including poverty, unemployment, homelessness, debts or hunger, are the most predominant problems identified, followed by a change in the family setup (death or absence of a parent or both parents and a divorce/remarriage of parents), and/or alcoholism/domestic violence and health problems in the family. There are two family stressors that, alone, can push a child to the streets: economic problems/unemployed parents and homelessness.



*Family in street situation in Tirana, Summer 2013 (photo by Mersina Xhemajli)*

Economic problems are most discernible for children in street situation with large families in all cities of Albania. Poverty at home is the most frequently mentioned adversity according to children, followed by parents' unemployment and not having a house. Homelessness means not having a place to live at all, living in unstable accommodation with frequent changes or in places not fit for human habitation (such as makeshift housing, houses lacking basic amenities and overcrowded dwellings).

Case study: Arion<sup>32</sup> is living in a street situation together with his brother. Their parents were divorced when they were both 8-9 years old. After the divorce, they lived with their dad and cousin because their mother abandoned them. They were in a difficult socio-economic situation when their father married again, and were uncomfortable in their new family. They frequented ARSIS's day centre when they were little boys, and now having grown up they say they couldn't function without ARSIS. The youngest is a very friendly person, and tries to help the others like him who are in need. For years he slept in a hut near the day centre. He shared this hut with 5 other boys in a street situation. Now he is working, while his brother stays all day at the day centre helping the children to engage in different activities (like reading and writing). He was trying to take some professional courses, (passing from one to another), but it is still difficult for him to find himself. He doesn't want to be independent from ARSIS. (Boy, 18 year old, Tirana)

According to the key stakeholders consulted, extreme poverty has a prolonged character in the country, often accompanied by a syndrome of learned helplessness that incapacitates adult family members to search for ways to change their situation. The desk review and key informants noticed how they remain in a vicious circle, unable to move them and their children out of the street situation. As children

32 Names used for case studies are pseudonyms so as not to reveal the true identity of the children involved.

are impeded from attending school, the family as a whole does not develop in its educational level and continue to encounter socio-economic problems, risking to always remain poor with poverty being passed on from generation to generation. Although their children working to support the family may improve the economic status, due to the inability to integrate into the mainstream labour market, the family always remains economically vulnerable. With families involved in criminal activities, the worst consequence is that they effectively create victims of exploitation and abuse who are not supported in any way by the system.

Alcoholism in the families of children in street situation is more frequently associated with the fathers' presence. Some children reported, during the focus groups discussions, the phenomenon of alcoholism affecting their fathers, but very few of them discussed their fathers using narcotic substances. Smoking was noted by children as a typical habit of all adult family members and older siblings, with mothers smoking even when pregnant or around small children. Domestic violence is often mentioned in a context of parental re-marriage, pointing to conflicts between step-parents and children. Of the two, alcoholism is mentioned more predominantly than domestic violence, but it is likely that the latter is underreported by the children.

Focus group results and in-depth interviews with key actors indicated that children in street situation live in large families, generally being parents, brothers, sisters (and their sibling's spouses when they are young) who in most cases are very close to each other in terms of age.

There are many families where at least one of the grandparents is living with the family, and in Gjirokastra, for example, children usually stay with their grandparents when their parents migrate to Greece. Most families live in a one-room home, so all activities are conducted in one living space, including sexual intercourse among adults during the night.

Few children (7%) said they lived with their uncles, aunts, cousins or other more distant relatives, having no contact with members of their immediate families who in most cases are not living in the same city with the children or have immigrated abroad.

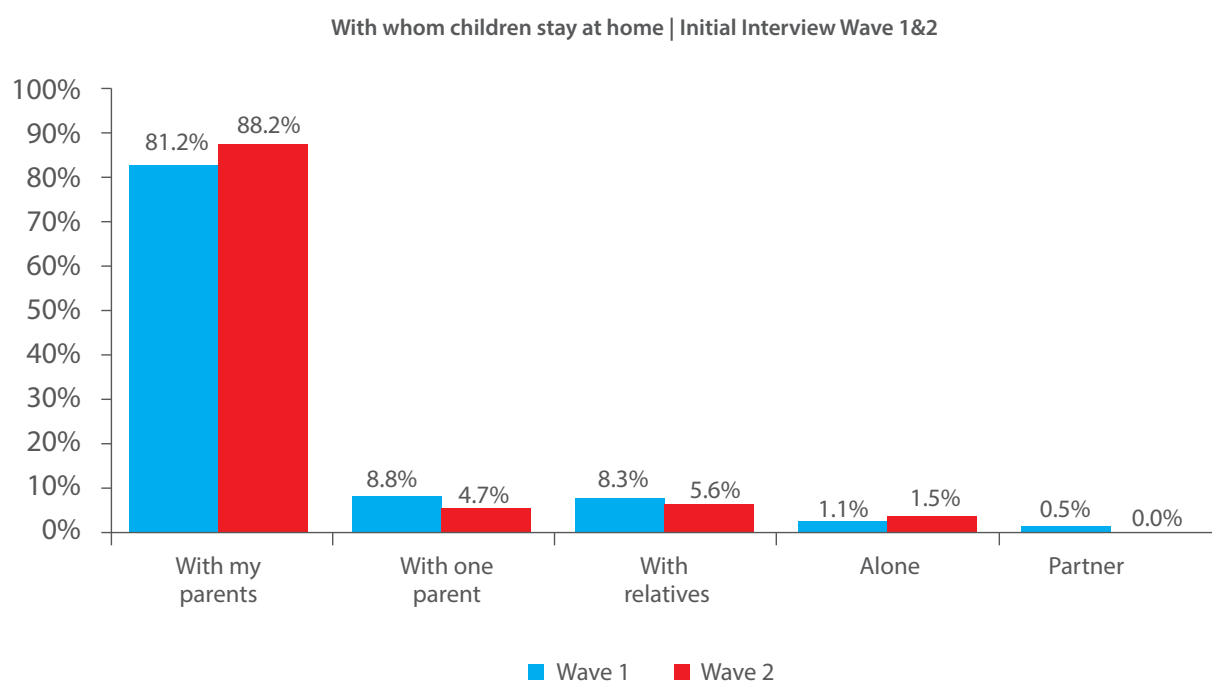


Chart 16: With whom children stay at home | Initial Interview Wave 1&2

Divorce and re-marriage are frequent phenomena within the families of children in street situation. However, during the focus groups, children of all ages, and with no distinction for gender, do not mention by themselves the divorce or remarriage of the parents. Other children reported on the family situations of their friends, mentioning divorce and re-marriage strongly affecting the psychological, financial and emotional wellbeing of the children.

Case study: Samuel comes from a very poor family. He was born in Italy, while his mother was working and living there. He never met his father and does not even know anything about him. When he was 3 years old, he came to Albania with his mother. He was then handed to his grandmother whom he lived with for two years, while his mother returned to Italy. The only manner of communicating with her was by phone. During that time he was exploited and forced to beg in the street. He lived in a small house with many family members. While he was working in the street (6 years old at this point), he was detected by social workers as a child exploited by his family for work. When his mother came back to Albania he still continued to work in the street, even abandoning his schooling. When he was 11 years old, his mother decided to take him to a Residential Centre in Saranda to remove him from the street situation. Currently, he is still living in Saranda and going to school regularly. He is taking a drawing course and is trying to integrate into society. Though he lives in a Residential Centre, he still keeps close contact with his family, especially his siblings. His biggest dream is to know his biological father. (Boy, 13 year old, Tirana)

Children in street situation, when asked more in-depth, reported that their parents are in good health and usually their fathers are working, whereas their mothers stay at home. From field experience, however, fathers are often not working and mothers are with children on the streets, which was in fact mentioned in particular by children in Durres city, during in-depth interviews with them

Case study: Lorena at the age of 14, gave birth to her first child; "A child born to a child". When she gave birth, she said she was very aware of what she has to expect; the belief that (like many other girls) this was her destiny. She loved another adult teenager who grew up on the street who had a lot of economic and social problems from being in prison so many times. Even if they were not in love, she said at that age she must be married as this is what Roma culture requires. Girls especially are called to marry at age 12-13 years old. She is smart and beautiful and understands her situation. Her family knows the problem and often says: "find me a job and I will not beg on the streets". Her husband and his family forced her to beg in Kosovo. She lived in difficult conditions, and the lack of care and stability eventually proved fatal for her daughter who died. It was hard to bring the body of her dead daughter back to Albania. There were many obstacles surrounding the burial, documentation, etc... Shortly after the death of her daughter, her husband left her and became engaged to another girl. She continues to suffer through this separation and the intolerable behaviour of her now ex-husband. It is hard for her to forget her husband whom she loved from the age of 11-12 but mostly her baby who passed away. She continues her daily life and, wherever possible, continues to beg and work all day to survive (Girl, 16 year old, Tirana)

### III.3.3 Time-location factors

The majority of children in street situation in Albania (av. 61.5%) stay alone or are accompanied by other children on the streets during daylight hours. There are also children in street situation (usually infants and toddlers) who are accompanied by an adult during daytime activities on the streets. Both counting study stages indicated that, on average, 66% of boys are usually alone and/or with other children, whereas girls are accompanied by adults in 50% of cases.

Children in street situation have been identified conducting street-related activities in the following locations: beaches, commercial or shopping areas, markets, religious buildings and locations, main avenues, intersections with traffic lights, in Roma settlements, border passes, motorways, state highways (national road segments), state highways near mining industries, landfills (garbage dumps), amongst others. During the wave 2, 359 children were identified working in Lazarat in marijuana cultivation.

Most children in street situation spend the night at home with parents. During focus group

discussions, all children said they stayed at home with their parents during the night. It is important to understand that their concept of home also includes makeshift huts on the street, without electricity and running water.

To better illustrate time-location factors amongst children, the data gathered from Wave 1 initial interviews has been broken down according to UNICEF definitions:

Children “of” the Street (4.3% - 19 children - initial interview) are those who stay in the streets during the day and also sleep in the street. This is due to loss or absence of parents, alcoholism in the family, domestic violence, divorce and/or remarriage of parents.



*Child begging  
in the streets of Tirana, November 2013  
(photo by Gazmir Lame)*

Children “on” the Street (79% - 347 children - initial interview) the majority of them are staying in the streets during the daylight hours and return to their homes or residential care centres at night.

Street-Family Children (16.7% - 73 children - initial interview) live with their family on the street.

On average, over both counting waves, it was found that 7% of the total numbers of children stay out after 21:00. The majority of them are boys living in Tirana.

Case study: Emilio has first entered in street situation in early 2010, begging and drumming for money. He comes from a family that does not have enough income to meet their monthly expenses. For this reason he was forced to come to Tirana and work to provide for the family. Despite his young age he says that he is the only family member who works. He does not have a place to sleep and the bulk of the time, he sleeps in the park. What the street worker team noticed was that the boy moves between various locations around Tirana. He is always moving to and from Tirana and Elbasan. He suffers from excessive fatigue as a result of working late at night, (parking cars in the former Block in central Tirana), and mostly spends the day lethargic and weak. He has been a target for violence on the streets from adults and children, also due to his being alone. Today he continues to be in street situation with his youngest brother in the area of Durres. They sing and dance in the street to earn an income. (Boy, 12 year old, Durres)

As the period of time on the street goes on, children’s ties to families or the school system become weaker and they are more likely to seek alternative support; for example from social services. They are also more likely to form social bonds with their peers in similar life situations.

### III.3.4 Street conditions and living conditions

During focus groups, children drew their houses or places where they sleep – the majority of them, in all cities, said they have a home where they stay with their family. In all the cities, home is usually a simple construction with one or maximum two rooms, not very safe in terms of physical security, usually cold, and members of the family tend to sleep in the same room. The place is usually without electricity or clean water, therefore likely to be an unhygienic place for both the children and their family.

A few children, mainly in Tirana, said they did not to have a place that could be called home: 16.7% in the first wave and 14.4% of the second wave participating in initial interviews said they lived on the streets. These children sleep in the street together with their family, not having a stable

location or place to stay. While only 4.3% of children in the first wave spend their nights outside alone or with other children in street situation.

In Saranda a few children, during in-depth interviews stated that after having being a long time in street situations, they were placed in a Children’s Residential Care Centre in this city, even though members of their family of origin are present in other cities. In cases such as these, families have no source of money to support and raise their children.

Initial interviews also indicated the places where children spend the night:

There is a lack of night shelters in Albania – this concern is reported from different key actors (representatives of IOM, FBSH, BKTF, Tdh) and results in a real difficulty in finding a secure and appropriate place for children who are identified and verified to be in a high risk situation and on the streets.<sup>33</sup> The majority of key actors mentioned ARSIS as having the only centre: “House of Colours”, for children in emergency situations or facing great difficulties. The existing mid and long-term residential institutions do not provide adequate programmes for children in street situation.



Child sleeping at Parku Rinia, Tirana Summer 2013 (photo by Mersina Xhemajli)

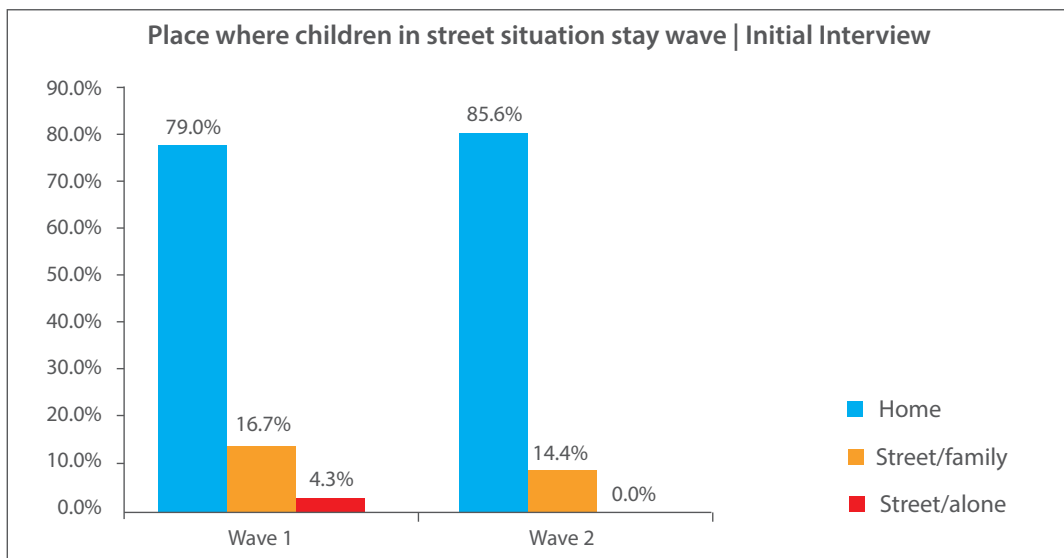


Chart 17: Children in street situation, Places where they stay | Initial Interview waves 1&2

33 On this subject, a feasibility study has been conducted, yet to be published, to provide an out of hours child protection service, Save the Children (2014)



### III.3.5 Migration and mobility

Focus group results with community members indicate that the majority had migrated from other places within the country. Some of the families with children in street situation have changed location from where they were originally born and raised within the last 4-10 years. Some of the children of these families were not born when the family moved, or were too young to remember the move. Tirana is the most attractive destination for the majority of families that have children in street situation. In Shkodra, community members said they had migrated from Elbasan and Berat, while in Durrës the majority of the community with children in street situation have migrated from the north of the country (Dibra, Puka, Tropoja).

Contrary to a widespread belief that children in street situation in Albania migrate from one city to another, the majority of children remember living their entire lives in the same city, while some of them remember moving with their families from regions, such as Tropoja, Kukes, Shkodra Fier, Elbasan, Berat etc.

Case study: Six years ago Albi decided to seek other opportunities to help his mother. He was born from the first relationship of his mother and her first de facto partner. From his mother's second relationship came 4 more children. He always lived with his mother and stepfather, with whom the mother has no legal marriage. He has been involved mainly in begging activities. In attempted interventions, his mother appeared powerless to change the situation, since she and the boy are also mistreated by her partner. Very often he went in Tirana for begging alone without announcing his family, and then coming again back home with all the money gathered. He is most of the time poorly dressed, barefoot and in a bad condition. He was often ill and felt powerless to change his situation. Usually his work was monitored by his stepfather's family. He finds it difficult to expose the people he works for, but states clearly that he doesn't want to work in the streets. (Boy, 13 year old, Elbasan)

In the last few years, many children identified in Gjirokastra (who were born to Albanian immigrants in Greece) have come back to Albania with their families. The children who are born in Greece or have been there from an early age have limited knowledge of the Albanian language, this factor increases the difficulties the children face in integration in Albanian society and also equal access to services, especially education.

From data gathered by service providers working with children in street situation and Roma settlements, it is known that 104 families migrated (regularly or irregularly) for a time to Kosovo during the year 2013. Families started to move to Kosovo in the early spring (March – April) and came back in the middle of autumn (October – November). Family members and especially children were involved in street income generating activities such as begging, car washing, collecting recycled materials or in street performances with different musical instruments. Children who migrate to Kosovo with their families or alone do not access any basic services since they are not Kosovo citizens. Furthermore, since they are on the move they do not benefit from basic services even when they come back to Albania.

According to the data collected from initial interviews, focus groups with community members and children, closed questionnaires, in-depth interviews and also desk research the majority of Roma



*Children begging at Ethem Beu Mosque, in the center of Tirana November 2013 (photo by Gazmir Lame)*

families that live in the streets or in huts in Tirana and Durres or who move around come from the following areas: Driza, Levan, Zhupan in Fier region; Otlake, Lapardha and Berat city in Berat region; Bilisht, Maliq, Pogradec and Korca city in Korca region; Fushekruja, Kenata, Nishtulla in Durres region; Cerrik, Peqin, Paper and Elbasan city in Elbasan region; Thumane, Shengjin, Lac and Lezha city in Lezha region; Shkoder city and surrounds in Shkodra region and; Rrogozhine Kavaje, Tirana city and surrounds in Tirana region.

### III.3.6 Root causes

Some of the negative root causes recognised by different stakeholders have been described above, and are principally linked to poverty, lack of employment prospects for parents, violent or abusive home situations, neglect, discrimination, exploitation, lack of a parent or both parents, lack of official recognition (birth registration), low education level, lack of access to schooling, dropping out of school, gender imbalance, physical or mental health issues, lack of legal work alternatives or other opportunities (see Table 11 below).

#### III.3.6.1 Root causes according to stakeholders

In the closed questionnaire provided to key stakeholders, a selection of root causes for children being in a street situation were presented, based on the desk study and the experience of service providers. The stakeholders were asked to rank the root causes in order of significance, (see the closed questionnaire format in the appendix) and Table 11 shows the results from their rankings. Furthermore, they were invited to provide other root causes outside of those in the list, however none were provided.

Table 11: Root causes ranked by stakeholders

Root causes based on stakeholders responses	Mean
administrative status	6.25
health (mental skills or limited physical skills)	6.18
families on the move	4.97
trafficking/exploitation	4.87
education (attendance/non-attendance of educational institutions)	4.30
violence/abuse/neglect/discrimination	3.48
social situation of the family (children without parental care)	2.80

#### III.3.6.2 Root causes according to children's responses

To understand why children were in street situation, questions such as "Who decided you should do this activity? How did you learn to do this job?" were asked. The following list of root causes that triggered their involvement in street activities is based on their responses to those questions:

- The cycle of having parents who were once children in street situation and the consequences of their actions of parents, such as neglect, migration or just exposing their children to street activities;
- The state, or lack of a proper, working child care system;
- Physical, sexual or emotional abuse, lead children to run away from home;
- Peer pressure;
- Some children get involved in street activities on their own initiative primarily because they want to help their families, but some of the teens see it as a way to become independent;
- Family migration and/or family dynamics (illness, death of one or both parents).

Even though in most cases economic reasons lie behind children becoming involved in street situations, from the initial interviews in waves 1 and 2, interestingly 22% (172) of children said that they entered into a street situation on their own volition, 19% (149) of children learned and were introduced to the street activities by their friends, 11% (86) of children learned or were introduced to

the street activities by other adults, 7% (55) did not answer, and (41% (320) of children said they were in the street both because the families live on the streets and where parents force their children to work on the streets. In the study, 96% of children (750) stated that “earning income for their families” was their main reason for being on the streets, while only 4% (32 children) claimed that they kept the money for themselves.

The study therefore shows that the majority of street children in Albania need to make money to support themselves and/or their families. Most of the children utilise one or two major income generating strategies. The most prevalent are begging (especially among younger children and girls), and working (such as petty trade, delivering goods, collecting glass or scrap metal, and car washing). Children’s involvement in such income-generating activities is primarily motivated by their family’s economic hardship, especially in the case of younger children, who do not spend nights on the street. Income-generating activities often supplement (or substitute) family income, or allow the children to sustain themselves, thus reducing family expenditure.

The type and frequency of children’s activities on the street are affected by specific root causes but also linked to their individual situation in life. Children who are begging are often accompanied by someone, whereas children who are working are usually alone. There are also incidences of scavenging and theft, particularly visible among children actually living on the street. Some children in street situations, (particularly older ones who live without their families, those who do not have a primary care-giver and live on the street full-time, or those who have run away from their families), also engage in street begging or street labour to meet their own survival needs because there is nobody else to secure those needs for them. These children apply more income generation strategies than their counterparts who live with their families, and spend the money almost exclusively on themselves. Begging typically prevents children in street situation from going to school with only 20% (156 children) of working children still try to combine school attendance with income-generating activities, while children who do not engage in generating income have the highest school enrolment rates (52%).

Reasons/Causes: Percentages

- 96 % (750) of children cited earning income as the main reason for being in the streets;
- 30% (234) said they started working on the street because their parents forced them to do so;
- 4% (32) claimed adult pressure;
- 21% (164) of the children didn’t want to say the reason why they were in a street situation.

Based on the above figures, it is possible to conclude that over a third of children were coerced into street activities, making them potential victims of exploitation or even trafficking.

### III.3.7 Street related risk factors

On the streets, and in contact with the streets, children run a series of risks that are related on the one hand to the street itself, but on the other hand, to their lack of supervision and accompaniment by suitable adults. From the study, risk factors emerging show violations of children’s physical and mental health, as well as the potential for children to be trafficked and exploited, and come into contact with the law.

#### III.3.7.1 Physical and mental health

The majority of children said they faced problems and risks during their street activity. All children reported to do very tiring work and usually they feel sad and upset not being able to go to school, stay home or play with other children.

During their street activity, children are victims of verbal and physical violence from other people

while selling or begging for money. This is mainly reported from children in Tirana where the begging and selling activities are more widespread among children.

The risk of illness was mentioned by children and community members, who work in places for recycling, especially while gathering cans, iron or other such materials. Children in Durres and Tirana mentioned often working in places where recycling materials are found, which would mean them being exposed to hazardous substances such as bacteria, viruses, chemicals and other toxic materials from refuse.

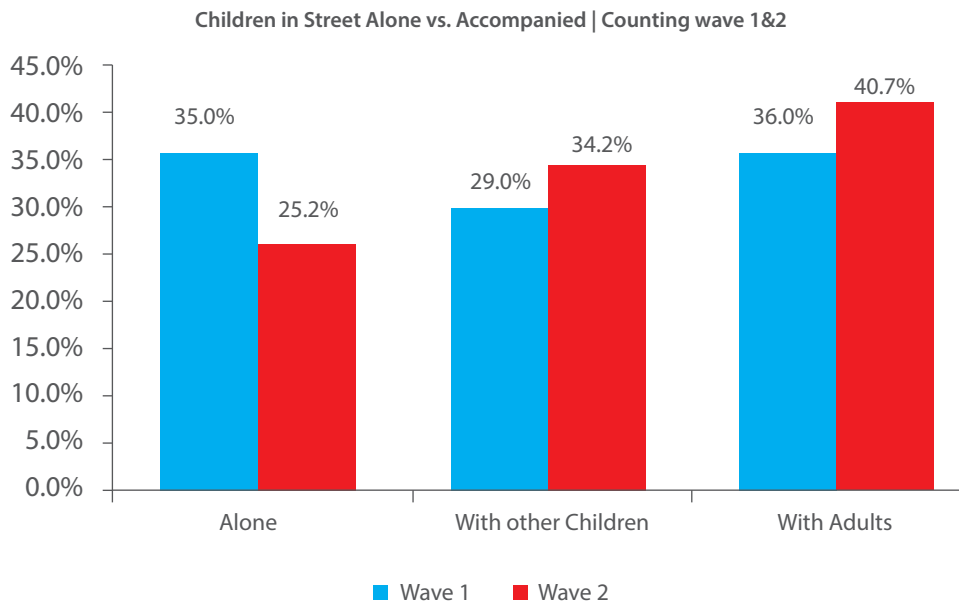


Chart 18: Children in Street Alone vs. Accompanied | Counting waves 1&2

Boys are usually alone (41%, 772 boys), while girls are often accompanied by an adult (55%, 355 girls).

Children from ages 5 to 14 years old (1410 children) are mainly alone or with other children, whereas adolescents (776 children) are mostly alone. From group discussions, children in street situation aged 5-14 years old said they were often with their sisters and brothers during street activities.

In summary, the risks and consequences to children as individuals are many and varied. Physical perils such as poisoning, fires to warm themselves that go out of control, and even being killed by others while on the streets, emerged from the study. Violence in general is a constant, going hand in hand with survival strategies, and can be physical, including sexual, and psychological. This child abuse is compounded by negative attitudes from people around them and stigmatisation, but also exclusion from services, which form a kind of societal abuse. The consequences to the child's personality are grave, and can result in their developing behavioural and emotional disorders and even post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Their self-esteem is low and key informants see that children have real difficulty in moving on from this experience and adapting during reintegration programmes, often returning to the street.

### III.3.7.2 Child trafficking and exploitation

During initial interviews in both waves, children were found to be with other adults who were not their relatives. The risk of child trafficking was widely mentioned by children and community members, in all the cities when asked questions such as: "With whom have you been/or who are you usually with when you do this job?" or "What are some of the risks to which children are exposed or negative experiences which they may face due to their being in street situations?"

Although none of the community members reported any actual cases of child trafficking in their communities, one of the most frequent phrases heard, was that they do not let their children stay outside during the night because that is very dangerous.

However, the majority of key actors declared that child trafficking is currently present in Albania, even though they refused, for reasons of privacy, to mention any specific case. The majority of them reported that both girls and boys are victims or potential victims of trafficking, and in most of the cases the traffickers are one of the children's close relatives.

From initial and in-depth interviews with children, 30% (235 out of 782) of children were forced by their parents to beg and 4% (32 out of 782) reported being induced by other adults to take part in income generating activities on the street. While children rarely report being exploited, these are clear indicators of exploitation and the risk of trafficking that these children face.

During the counting process, the social workers observed that in some cases mothers (who are themselves children in most cases) are found on the streets with their young children, possibly to increase pity and sympathy towards them while begging for money. From field experience, substances or drugs are sometimes used to keep children asleep, meaning that they cannot protest or create a disturbance, and they can possibly also be left unsupervised.

17 cases of children in this situation have been sent to the court, out of which 13 cases have already been taken into custody by State Social Services and placed in residential institutions.

It takes from 24 to 72 hours for the court to take a decision for a child protection order in case of violence and abuse and it takes from 3 months to more than one year for court to take a decision for legal guardianship of children.

Service providers report cases of children aged 0-1 years who have been given alcohol with their milk, and some children aged 2-5 years have been given pills, mainly valium, to induce a deep sleep. Petroleum products such as acetone, diluents, which inhaled through the nose have immediate effect, are sometimes used. Children from age 5 and above may smoke joints (cigarettes with marijuana).<sup>34</sup>

Sexual abuse and exploitation of children was not openly reported by key actors, except the Director of the National Centre of Trafficking Victims in Linza and ARSIS. Service providers in the past have attempted to bring forward prosecutions of persons involved in the sexual exploitation of children, who are not relatives, however the evidence was deemed insufficient for trial.<sup>35</sup>

In the in-depth interview with ARSIS organisation's representative, 29 cases of children in street situation were mentioned as having been referred to the National Coordinator for Anti-Trafficking in Albania from 2009-2013. These were all child victims of sexual exploitation in Albania and Kosovo.

"...there are children who do have a pimp, or not. Sometimes there is a grown up that collects the money, sometimes they manage the money themselves. Considering the cases, most of them sell their body without a pimp. A child, not long ago, in summer, came here and said: I used to live at the orphanage, now I am out in the streets, I don't want to steal, I am too old to beg, it's better if I sell my body and have some money for eating, rather than do something that would make me end up in the police station. In this way I also have a place to sleep at night, because I can sleep with clients" (Director, NGO, Tirana)



34 This phenomenon was also subject of a journalistic investigation which appeared in Gazeta Shqip 19th of February 2014.  
35 Terre des Hommes and Albanian Police investigated 8 cases of child sexual exploitation in 2008/2009.

From field experience and anecdotal evidence from service providers, it is known that this adolescent is still sexually exploited on the streets, even though he is now living with his father. This case is symptomatic of the risks of sexual abuse and exploitation that children may face when they are in a street situation, and highlights the need for more research and specific interventions to protect these children.

It is a criminal act to earn money for sexual services in Albania, even when one is a child.<sup>36</sup> This is one of many reasons why it is very difficult for cases to emerge and for children to receive assistance.

During the counting process unaccompanied children in street situation in Durres Harbour (31), Vloa Harbour (19), Kapshtica Cross border with Greece (2) and Kakavija Cross border with Greece (5) were identified. These are restricted areas between borders. According to the National Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Victims of Trafficking and Potential Victims of Trafficking, these children should have been identified as victims or potential victims of trafficking and referred for further support and investigation to the National Responsible Authority for Anti Trafficking.<sup>37</sup>

91 Albanian children in street situation were identified as being exploited in the streets of Kosovo during street work in July 2010.<sup>38</sup> They have entered legally or illegally into Kosovo with their families. Some of the families have been in Greece before, doing similar activities as in Kosovo or Albania. Both Kosovo and Greek authorities continue the deportation of Roma families and unaccompanied children. The deportation process is not in line with international conventions, treaties and national legislation but also shows non-implementation of already signed bilateral agreements, Albania – Greece 2008, Albania - Kosovo 2012.

Trafficking and exploitation of children in street situation is not currently the focus of particular interventions. Though service providers do refer cases to the National Responsible Authority when indicators are detected, more research needs to be done to understand the extent of the phenomenon and intervene appropriately to protect children and prosecute exploiters.

### III.3.7.3 Children in contact with the Law

In the streets you will either be a victim, a witness, or a suspect. You are one of these three, for sure (Director, NGO, Tirana)

The majority of the children in street situation are neglected, abused, discriminated against. A few of them are sexually exploited by adults. All of these are against the law, according to Albanian legislation (penal code, family code and others). So children are victims and also witnesses, of crimes perpetrated against them.

According to the children and social workers, and data from NGOs working with them, being in the street brings children into contact with a variety of street crimes as witnesses, or actually involved in petty crimes. Children in street situation are used to sell narcotics, do small robberies, pimp the younger siblings or other children, due to their circumstances and also because under the penal code children under fourteen of age bear no criminal responsibility.

However, as the study shows, there is little or no intervention for the protection of these children in street situation, due to a lack of systemic response that can work towards prevention and for their protection. Unfortunately, as service providers have seen, when a child is in conflict with the law, the system works to intervene against the child.

Case study: Bledi is living in street situation (or sometimes in his family house), and is a burglar for a living. His father is unemployed, (born with a handicap), and has an alcohol and gambling addiction. He is a beneficiary of state disability benefits. His behaviour towards his children, as well as other members of the family, is negligent and violent, He uses all his money to gamble and support his alcohol addiction instead of supporting the family needs. His mother is mostly

36 The Penal Code in Albania criminalises earning money from the sexual exploitation of others, including children from 14-18. It is also a criminal act for any adult who has sexual intercourse with minors under the age of 14.

37 Council of Ministers Decision No 258 on Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking and potential Victims of Trafficking, 27.7.2011

38 Observation Report: Exploitation of Albanian Children in Street Situation in Kosova. Mario Project, Dec 2010

unemployed and sporadically works in a landfill gathering cans and iron. The older sister is married and is the only one who cares for the family and for the children. The history of burglary started when Bledi was nine year old, taught by an adult to commit burglary and to pickpocket. According to a Police Statement Interview and personal meetings with the child, the criminal behaviour is mostly carried out by himself, without any other children or adults. In only a few cases he was discovered to work in cooperation with other children. Bledi's main burglaries are committed in houses, villas, or hotels with people inside. The main goods are electronics, (Mobile Phones, laptops, cameras etc.) jewellery or money. The family relations are good with the exception of his brother in law who has beaten him inside the Police Department, when turning him in to the Police Office. He was accused for the kidnapping of a child nearly 2 weeks prior in the Tirana District. Bledi has been living for years in street situation alone, without the assistance of anyone, because he didn't want to return home and share his earnings with his family. (Boy, 15 year old, Tirana)

### III.3.8 Education and children in street situation

Barriers to children accessing education are often associated with a family's inability to meet direct costs of schooling (such as school supplies, clothes, food or informal school fees) and an opportunity cost where a time spent by a child in school would mean that the child has less time for activities which may be seen as a priority for family survival, as reported by most study sources. In particular, key actors noted that many children have never attended schooling due to lack of documents (birth certificate, registration forms) necessary for enrolment, or even parental disapproval.

Case study: Klajdi comes from a big family with many members. His family members are his mom, his mother's partner (he calls him his dad, even though he is not his biological father), his younger sister and little brother. He also has two other siblings: one sister and another brother who live in a residential care centre. His life is connected every day to the street and the place they are living, which is a hut in the street. His parents are unemployed and don't benefit from any kind of support from the government. He has been working since he was 2 years old. At first he was exploited by his mother, and then he gained the skills to do everything by himself and for his family. He works to take care of his younger brother and sister. He thinks he is good at making money because he has good communication skills. He has been registered in school so many times but he doesn't attend regularly. The fact that his family moves from one place to another has influenced his ability to regularly attend school. (Boy, 11 year old, Shkodra)

Although official State statistics report that the gross school enrolment ratio is 103%, school abandonment remains a challenge in Albanian society.<sup>39</sup>

Education is a very difficult process for the children in street situation. Families usually accept to register children in schools and support them to attend school in the beginning of the new academic year. Then due to economic difficulty, children are later sent to work during school hours. School social workers/psychologists and education department representatives reported that girls usually drop out of school when they reach 12 years old due to the mindset that at this age girls from Egyptian and Roma communities should start getting ready for marriage.

The majority of key actors reported that the education system is not flexible at all, and in many cases is a discriminating system: "...so practically the law and the institutions are telling them: exploit the children, so you

39

<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/education.aspx>



Homeless woman,  
in Tirana Summer 2013  
(photo by Mersina Xhemajli)



*Child begging, carrying her younger sibling at Lapraka in Tirana February 2014 (photo by Gazmir Lame)*

can have the money for the books. You cannot enter school because you are black, you are not washed, and you don't have this or that certificate..." (Key NGO stakeholder, Tirana)

In Gjirokastra, Pogradec and Korça, schools have been established with children only from Roma and Egyptian communities. In Korça, children reported dropping out of school because they cannot attend another school if it is not called a "school for Roma

children" since other school directors refuse to include these children in their own schools. This is a clear segregation of services and it is not in line with any of the international conventions ratified by Albanian Authorities.

The same situation is also reported in Tirana, where school directors refuse to include children in street situation in their classes claiming that: "we have an elite school... we cannot have one of these children..." (Key NGO stakeholder, Tirana)

The education system is also lacking in professional academic staff, such as having one child psychologist per school, which is required by law. In Gjirokastra, Elbasan and Tirana, key actors mentioned the low capacity of the social workers/psychologists; in Tirana only one psychologist is operational for two or three schools. Children could benefit from having targeted counselling, as well as liaison with child protection units, were such psychologists present to facilitate this.

In Gjirokastra the position of psychologist has been vacant for a long period now and children do not receive psychological support in their school.

Poor quality of education, a loss of interest in schooling, a perception of one's own learning difficulties and previous negative experiences at school are also often mentioned as the main reasons for leaving schools. Other reasons include a loss or absence of parents and illness in the family.

Key actors also mentioned the silent abandoning of certain students, those who are placed at the back of the class, mostly children coming from poor families who are often Roma or Egyptian, including children with different abilities or for other reasons, who are practically forgotten there due to the unwillingness of the professional teachers to support these children and integrate them.

"...A child, after 3 months in school, says that he never does homework, because the teacher never checks his homework. She checks everybody else's homework, but not his. And this is how school is today..." (Key NGO stakeholder, Tirana)

There are indicators that teachers in preschool education level are often discriminating children in street situation; their attitude is important to support those children to continue in school.

School can be a strong protective factor for children in street situation. During the focus groups, all children mentioned school as the most important factor helping and preparing them for their future. Due to all the positive outcomes that school attendance provides - reducing the likelihood of spending nights on the streets, significantly increasing knowledge and usage of social services, and helping children to identify worthy aspirations for their future - many efforts are being undertaken and still implemented to improve accessibility and continuity in attendance. However, school can also be a contributing factor to a child's feeling of isolation as problems of affordability, adaptation and socialization in the school environment can force a child to leave school and take to the streets instead.



### III.3.9 Schooling and “work”

Education is an essential key in helping children to acquire basic skills and life skills, in order to increase earning capability in the future. Education in Albania is compulsory within an age range starting from six and ending at fourteen years old. Though net pre-primary school enrolment is 47%,<sup>40</sup> children from 3-6 years of age, as well as those from 15-18 years of age, are not obligated by education law to attend pre-school and high school, respectively. There have been significant efforts from the Ministry of Education, education partners and key stakeholders to improve education provision in Albania. Statistics show that enrolment rates are 94% for primary school and 74% in secondary schooling and there are (4.6%) out-of-school children living in Albania.<sup>41</sup>

The Ministry of Education has established a mechanism to reimburse the purchase of books for Roma children in school. On a policy level, even though primary school enrolment is compulsory, there are no sustainable solutions to monitor children’s attendance and facilitate the process for these families, while different NGOs and CPUs are working closely together to reduce school drop out by providing school items and supporting children’s enrolment in school.

From the information gathered directly and indirectly by the study, children in street situation tend to drop out of school at various stages of their education, usually during their primary schooling. Boys drop out of school at 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade while girls drop out at 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, when they are old enough to stay home.

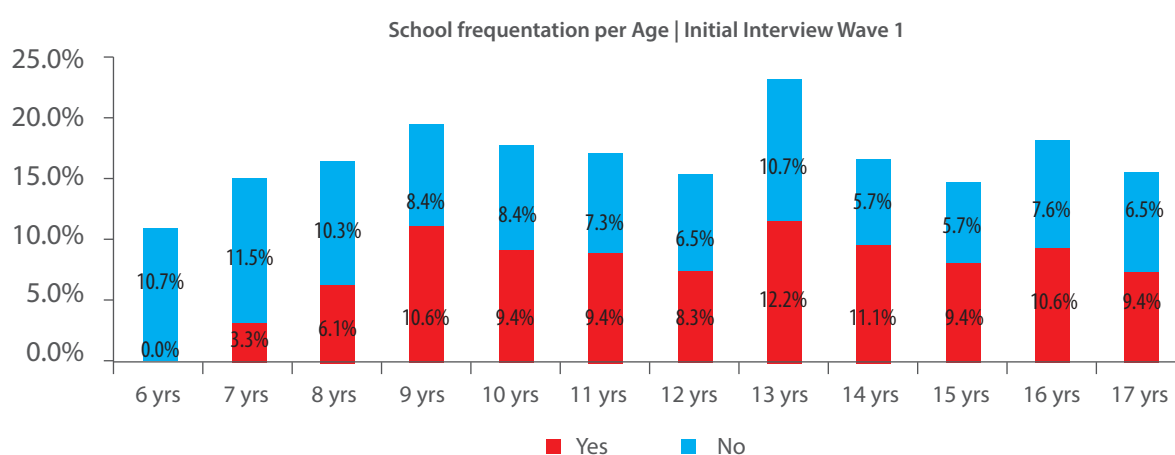


Chart 19: School frequentation per age | Initial Interview Wave 1

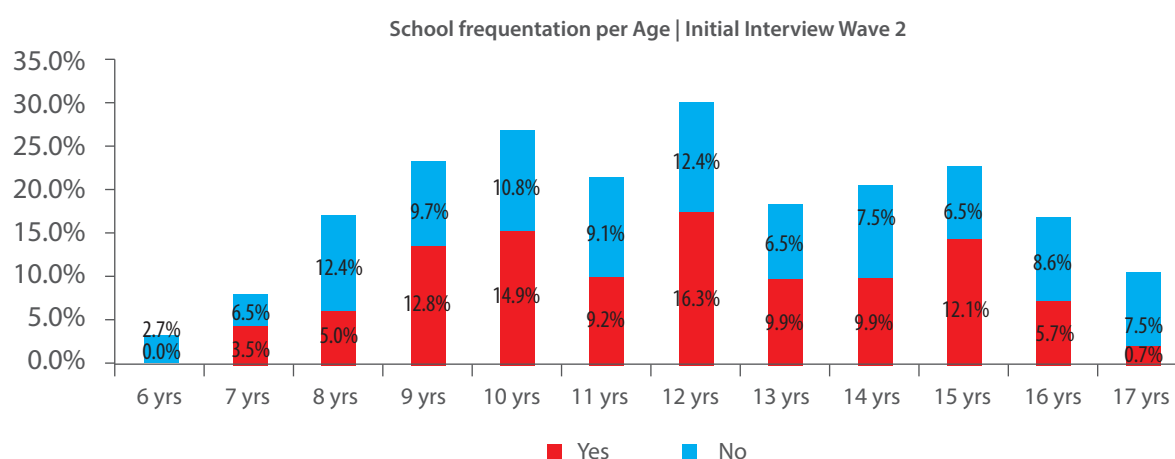


Chart 20: School frequentation per age | Initial Interview Wave 2

40 UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report 2008, Innocenti Research

41 UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report 2008, Innocenti Research

From the initial interviews the findings revealed that the majority of children in street situation in Albania 83.8% (655 children) are of an age of basic compulsory education (up to 15 years). During both waves, approximately 62% (485) of the children in street situation were not currently enrolled or they were enrolled but not attending school. There is a significant contrast between official statistics and the findings of the study.

Around 38% (297) of all children surveyed are enrolled in school and attend, 21% (167) have never been to school and 41% (320) of children have dropped out. These high rates show the magnitude of the problem of children in street situation missing out on the right to education.

From the focus groups with community members, it was found that families do not see education as a quick enough strategy to help them get out of the cycle of poverty and often they do not have the means to follow through with education, so generating income for the family becomes the priority.

### III.3.10 Health outcomes

The majority of children in street situation do not live in places with adequate hygiene. Street activities make children more vulnerable to certain health problems. From the observation process and during focus groups, it could be seen that children were not clean, had dirty hair and faces, and were wearing unsuitable clothes and shoes.

Study results indicate that the majority of children in street situation are vaccinated during their childhood period, yet the majority of community members declared that very few of them have health booklets. Lack of health booklets creates great difficulties for children to benefit from free medical examination and support from hospitals. They have a very limited or no access to public health care services, due to internal migration, unemployment, discrimination, low literacy levels etc. The majority of family members from communities consulted described the process of having health insurance certificates as too expensive for their economic situation. On the other hand, key actors that closely work with these families claimed that difficulties in this process are closely related to the lack of all documentation of the family, such as birth certificates and registration certificates in specific Municipalities throughout the country. However, all families stated that they faced many problems and difficulties in completing the required documentation for their children due to the strict and long bureaucratic procedures.

Community members declared that doctors working in all levels of this system act in a very exclusive manner, refusing assistance to some children in street situation with health problems.

"[I] mean if it's another woman, a white one, because here everyone is a racist. In that case, if a white woman just takes him from the street and brings him to the hospital, they might take care of him. But if the child goes there alone, with his feet or hand bleeding, they will tell him: come on, this is what you do every day out in the street" (Female community member, Tirana).

This phenomenon is also mentioned by some of the key actors working closely with children in street situation who note that the discriminatory attitudes of doctors often affect health outcomes for these children.

### III.3.11 Access to and utilisation of social services

Information about and utilisation of social services among children in street situation is low in Albania. All sources involved in the study highlighted that Tirana has the highest rate of children who are informed about social services that can support them. Social services mentioned by the majority of children and community members are mainly related to the provision of food and clothes from different organisations and also support for the education of children. This can be related to the fact

that most of the social services are located in the capital and less in other cities of Albania.

28% of children in street situation reported that their main source of assistance when in need is their parents, while relatives and friends were both indicated in 11% of cases. Less than a quarter of them have never heard of or used any social service. Only 22% of children interviewed mentioned getting help from social services and they reported being rarely assisted by more than one social service, and in this case they referred to NGOs.

Although one of the main goals of street work, services and outreach programmes, has been to reduce the hours children spend on the streets in order to improve their lives, they do not seem interested in giving up the amount of money they could earn during the time they participate in such programmes and services.

Currently, public social services are related only to the social assistance that families benefit from through the state's social care policy. This assistance is seen as unhelpful for the families due to the low amount of money received from this service, compared to the large number of family members that may require it, and the general economic situation in the country. Moreover, due to the lack of legal documentation from the areas where the families actually live, as opposed to where they may have their civil registration, many of them do not benefit from this assistance, thus being families with no possible monthly income from social support.

During the last few years, families from the Roma and Egyptian communities had the possibility to receive schoolbooks and other school items free of charge, due to a specifically designed government policy for these communities. Still, the process failed in its original purpose by applying a condition that families had to first buy the books and then be reimbursed by the state. Lack of income among the majority of families continues to render the process unsuccessful, affecting in this case, children's school attendance.



*Father begging, carrying his child at "ish-Ekspozita" in Tirana November 2013 (photo by Gazmir Lame)*

The majority of children in street situation (initial interviews and focus groups) and also the majority of key actors in Tirana (from the closed questionnaire) mentioned the following services as being available to children in street situation: ARSIS Centre and House of Colours, Children of the World and Albania - Human Rights, Save the Children Drop in Centre for Children in Street Situation,<sup>42</sup> National Association Education for Life, Child Protection Units, etc. CPUs are more recognised by key actors where they are established for a longer time and are more active, however children know NGO services better as direct service providers.

Social services are utilised by all children living in Albania in street situation after they have already been in a crisis situation for a prolonged period of time, as little attention is paid to prevention and early intervention.

Case Study: Alda was discovered during the fieldwork exercise for the identification of children working and living in street situations. She was in very bad physical condition; barefoot and not very responsive. The girl had been exploited in the streets since she was 8 years old. She told social workers that she had escaped from her family in 2010 because the family situation had become unbearable for her. They lived in a small

house and under very difficult economic circumstances. Her parents were divorced and her father, who is the legal guardian, was unemployed and an alcoholic. The difficult situation within her family had been the main force behind her decision to leave her house and live in street situation. During that time she was begging, selling drugs etc. She has been accommodated in different shelters many times, but dropped out of all of them. She is still in street situation, working, but abandoned

by her family and living with another male adult that “takes care” of her. (Girl, 15 year old, Shkodra)



Family begging, at Parku Rinia in Tirana November 2013  
(photo by Gazmir Lame)

Social services appear to be reactive in nature – children search for services, when they need to substitute the absence of other protective elements rather than the other way round.

When asked about social service interventions, children said they were more interested in staying with their families than being placed in residential care centres where their freedom is limited and they are far from their family.

On average, children in street situation rarely report being assisted by more than one social service in their lives. Those who have, tend to frequently mention social services which offer short-time survival options. The majority of them have used day-care centres while few children have used shelters/orphanages.

The services that children in street situation use have little effect on improving their life situation (e.g. schooling, length of time on the streets, family hardship or level of literacy). Key stakeholders agree that the reasons behind this apparent inadequacy and insufficiency of support is that services for children in street situation in Albania tend to be more focused on the visible problems of groups of children rather than individually addressing root causes of a family crisis.

Stereotypes and prejudices about children in street situation exist even within the network of social services, with very few migrant children, or those begging, receiving support.

Social services for children in street situation in Albania are not planned in a coordinated or strategic manner, and are frequently not seen as an integral part of the overall social protection system. The result is that services provide a rather chaotic and fragmented assistance that only scrapes the surface of the problem without offering sustainable solutions for the children and their families.

### III.3.12 Perceived experiences and wishes for the future or children’s aspirations

Children in street situation aspire to have a better future, while at the same time giving inspiration to others, especially those who work with them, through the many skills they have acquired on the street. Even though many of the children know that the street is not where they should be, that it takes away the opportunities for them to have healthy development, they still see the street as

full of opportunities - not just problems. They see opportunities, especially for income generation, independence, and socialisation, amongst others. It is worth mentioning that these children have acquired many skills and competencies that most children or young adults need to have, through surviving and fighting everyday battles. They have learned how to survive and be innovative in the ways they generate their income; they are streetwise.

They are:

- Proactive- Creative: They are great innovators and continually create new ways to generate income.
- Intelligent
- Resilient
- Positive: while study and programmes seek to address all that is negative about a child's situation, they can easily and very often focus on the positive side of their life situation. They can express sadness about their situation at times, but instead of just seeing problems they do search for. Given that in other studies on children in street situations, positive aspects regarding the children emerged, such as (making and managing money, learning responsibilities, independence, developing new talents, working in teams etc.), this study used those as a talking point to open up discussion with children about what they expect from their future.
- Flexible and easily adaptive: They know how to adapt to situations, conditions and circumstances.
- United: the children in street situation can fight among each other but in certain situations where they are being attacked they are a unified group. The power of that unity is very obvious in all the diversity that surrounds them.

While children in street situation lack external resources<sup>43</sup> (to assist them in the present and have a better future), they are full of internal resources.

The children's main wishes for the future are related to the school education process – all of them showed a desire to finish school with good grades. The main perception of the children for the future was related to the school process and they are aware of the importance of the school in order to have a better life.

Boys of age 5-12 years old stated they wanted to be policemen in order to save the other children from the street situation while girls wanted to be teachers or ballerinas.

Older aged children (12-17 years old) wish to finish schooling and have an honest and well-paid job to support their family. Girls have dreams, which are more related to romance, marriage and love – they want to get married and have their own home.

Teenagers seem to be very sceptical when thinking about their future, saying that the family's financial situation would not allow them to finish school, and they would have to spend the greater part of the day working.

The table below provides an overview of some of the consequences of work on the streets that emerged from the discussion with children:

43 [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/youthnet/who\\_street\\_children\\_module3.PDF](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/youthnet/who_street_children_module3.PDF)  
World Health Organization, Working with Street Children: MODULE 3 Understanding Substance Use Among Street Children (4.6)

Table 12: Positive and negative consequences of being in street situation

Positive	Negative
fun	danger (of being chased away)
feel and be useful	competition with shops/other kids
responsibility learning	many risks
negotiation skills	injuries
developing talents	exploitation
making money (fasy)	health issues
develop specific street wise skills	stress
building partnerships	underdevelopment
innovation	risk with law
focus on 1 task (self-management)	not go to school
money management	no normal childhood (no play, etc.)
selling techniques	stigmatization
some jobs are safer	not being home at night
(business) leadership	addiction
higher self esteem	aggression
desire to grow	lack of administrative skills
huge source of information	exclusion
learning specific knowledge	low self-esteem, learned immobility
developing memory, communication, social skill, manipulation	become part of criminal world
work ethic	self-exclusion
cooperation, team work	
indipendence	
deal with system - avoid costs	
actor skills	
loyalty	

Interventions should be informed by the skills and outlook of children in street situation for more effective programming, for example through child participation activities for the development of projects. Programming should be more balanced between problem analysis and fostering children's potential for changing their own situation by allowing their opinion to be heard and their dreams to be realized.

## Chapter IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

### *Favouring prevention and reintegration of children by developing new strategies and supporting mechanisms and service provision improvement aimed at:*

Though there have been efforts from state institutions to improve the efficiency of the social protection system and the quality of social services for vulnerable groups, these efforts have not reached all sectors, including children in street situation. Disadvantaged groups, such as children in street situation have lower access to needed services and continue to fall outside the margins of society, as the study shows. Socio-economic advances in Albania have not dealt adequately with root causes of children being in street situation. Furthermore, those root causes are impacted by gaps in knowledge (which this study is attempting to fill), and structural concerns evident from the lack of coordination between central, regional, local levels and NGOs, and the need for a clear division and definition of the tasks and responsibilities of relevant bodies and service providers.

The government's efforts to address the phenomenon of children in street situation are currently being seen specifically through the development of a national action plan addressing issues for street children, and more generally through its social care service reform which is aiming to ensure that social protection works inclusively for the most vulnerable members of society. The latter should introduce case management as a requisite tool for all social services, and provide a full package of social services in each specific region, thus favouring decentralisation. Furthermore MSWY is working on finalising a strategy on social protection and inclusion, a reform on economical aid and also revision of several laws and mechanisms influencing child protection. During development of these tools, the government is urged to keep in mind durable solutions for the effective integration and reintegration of children in street situation.

In terms of financial resources, while the official response is that resources for social services are adequate, for civil society, it is likely that more funds will be needed to properly deal with poverty and social exclusion, especially through the proposed reforms.

From the desk review, and as mentioned during in-depth interviews with representatives of MSWY, an inclusive analysis of best practices of interventions for children living and working in the street categorised interventions in three groups:<sup>44</sup>

1. Primary prevention interventions. Aimed at children who live in absolute poverty but have not yet entered street life, the goal is to reduce the influence of 'push' and 'pull' factors through improving conditions at home, and putting a focus on community development.
2. Secondary prevention interventions. These are aimed at children who have already entered street life, and who maintain regular contact with their families. The goal is to make street life one of the phases which the child passes safely through into adulthood. Current best practices reflect a number of approaches that complement each other. These include micro-enterprise development to increase children living and working in the street's ability to secure legal income on the street; provision of education on health and risks that children living and working in the street face, to raise awareness of the numerous risks accompanying street life; and provision of basic needs such as food, shelter and a place of safety through drop-in centres and outreach programmes.
3. Tertiary prevention interventions. Aimed at children of the street and abandoned children, who have little or no family contact. Current best practices in this area revolve around residential or rehabilitative care.

If intervention does not cover all bases and structural social welfare concerns, the consequences are dire. Duty-bearers were invited to the three technical tables with key stakeholders, and in particular those participating in Tirana, discussed the consequences to society from children in street situation, in an effort to put the importance of appropriate intervention in context for duty-bearers. It was found that society can not afford the cost and impact of a generation without a childhood, whose rights

<sup>44</sup> Dybicz, P. (2005). 'Interventions for children living and working in the street: An analysis of current best practices'. International Social Work. Vol. 48 (6): 763-771

are violated. Children in street situation and their families require continuous assistance from social services, which is unsustainable. Furthermore, children are at risk of becoming socially excluded and marginalised from society, thereby increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

Finally, where children are exploited and excluded, it affects the educational level, and thus the socio-cultural level of a society or a country, and in the worst-case scenario, in its place, increasing crime and the development of organised crime may occur. These consequences should not be overlooked or taken lightly, and it is hoped that they might serve as indicators for duty-bearers as to the responsibility they have to children in street situation and society as a whole.

Therefore, the study supports a number of recommendations and responsibilities emerging at all levels:

#### IV.1 Governmental level

##### *Protection – structural and operational recommendations*

- Based on initial findings emerging from this study already shared with key stakeholders, it became clear there was a need to go beyond legislation to properly define roles and mechanisms to implement child protection protocols. To that end, clear procedural guidelines for working with children in street situations are being drafted and they should go some way to improving coordination and effective intervention by relevant bodies and service providers, including placing more emphasis on the role and responsibility of regional offices of State Social Services SSS and Regional Councils (CRUs including local government social services and CPUs). The government should ensure the swift implementation of reform to support the application of these guidelines and implement standards for assistance of children in street situation in a timely manner.
- During the study, key non-institutional stakeholders pointed out the need for further budget for more effective intervention programmes for children in street situation to address the magnitude of the phenomenon. Reallocation and increase of budget at all levels is necessary for the provision of services in prevention; in particular, the Government should seek to secure additional funds from international agencies and donors to develop more sustainable solutions for children in street situation in Albania until such time as sufficient resources are available within the state budget.
- The current study was the first national study of its kind and should be taken and used as a baseline for the numbers and characteristics of children in street situations for further national data collection and analysis. This is a necessity in order to coordinate and improve the availability of data regarding children in street situation and calibrate future policies and intervention. Given its institutional importance, in particular the MSWY (Department of Statistics), Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Justice should work together to revise and reinforce Council of Ministers Decision 267 with appropriate indicators arising from this study, agreed upon and aligned between all government bodies, to develop a coherent database on children in street situation.
- In Albania there is a general feeling amongst street child-care workers interviewed that poor funding for programmes and lack of coordination between stakeholders has worked against successful programmatic intervention. Policy makers should be aware and attentive of children that are not part of typical stereotypes of children in street situation because they may easily be excluded, such as children in conflict with the law, children involved in sexual exploitation, runaway children from residential institutions, children who are street peddlers selling services such as parking, carry luggage (porter) etc.
- The study also highlighted areas for further research that are of national importance on lesser known phenomena which intersect with the issue of children in street situation, in particular, exploitation and internal trafficking. More investment should be made in research to properly address all critical areas regarding children in street situation, with reports from key institutions working with children, not merely statistical but also qualitative, in order to favour strategic planning and appropriate tools to fight the phenomenon.
- The information that the study did reveal about children in street situation at risk of trafficking and exploitation, brought to light deficiencies in the implementation of the bilateral agreement



concerning transnational actions for anti-trafficking and relevant SOPs. Further, the National Referral Mechanism for Anti Trafficking should be strengthened, to be effectively inclusive of all children at risk, and formally bring all agencies into the structure of the new Responsible Authority for the NRM (whose role and responsibilities are currently being revised).

- From the study, it emerged that children are still falling between the gaps and missing out on key safeguards for their protection, such as education, housing, health and emergency services. Key actors should be invested with legal responsibility for child protection by ensuring that there is consistency between laws that have been put in place to favour multiagency collaboration and enhance those safeguards for children in street situations and their families, amongst other vulnerable groups.
- Through the focus groups with children and communities, the study has shown how existing social services are not available or not able to reach out to children in street situation and their families in many cities, districts and municipalities. Currently child protection cases are more likely to be referred to the police than to the offices of the SSS or CPU, even when children are not involved in criminal acts. On that issue, the technical tables in Tirana, Fier and Shkoder revealed that the existing structures such as CPU, CRU etc have to be empowered to offer necessary services in accordance with children's best interests and have more effective referral procedures into the welfare system. Due to the a lack of appropriate accommodation for emergency cases, children may be institutionalised in residential care centres in a temporary and inadequate manner since there are not enough human and financial resources to evaluate cases. This is in accordance with the requirement by the MSWY for a lengthy individual plan format, which is cumbersome at best during emergencies. Appropriate referrals in accordance with the protocol of child protection are not made, therefore many children find themselves again in a street situation. In addition to an allocation of adequate budget to allow access to social services throughout the country, the government must address the bureaucratic and technical procedures that may hinder the protection process through legislative or regulatory intervention.
- Services for children in street situation should be better coordinated and transparency of data about these children is needed in order to better deliver services in response to their rights. Key stakeholders highlighted that social services for children in street situation in Albania are not planned in a coordinated or strategic manner, and are frequently not seen as an integral part of the overall social protection system. The result is that services provide a rather chaotic and fragmented assistance that scrapes the surface of the problem without offering sustainable solutions for the children and their families.

#### *Protection and Prevention*

- A key issue that service providers and key stakeholders revealed during the study is that to ensure effective protection and prevention it is important that all strategies and interventions are being directed towards children and their families, in order to ensure proper service delivery. Policies should be closely related to support for their families, as well as for the promotion and protection of the children through financial and organisational resources. Preventive and protective policies should aim to help the child as an individual to benefit from different programmes, but also for the family to benefit.
- Services given to children in street situation should be from professionals with specific expertise. Social street work should be a recognised profession and Tertiary Education Institutions should enrich their curricula with street work and also courses on children and families in street situation.
- Children in street situation have already been living an individual lifestyle and have a lot of skills to help them survive on the streets. Supporting them on a regular basis with such interventions such as food provision on the streets or night shelters (except health services on the streets) will not empower them and sustain them in the future. It is recommended that each case be considered unique and supported case by case, and that where possible children are involved in further programming for interventions.
- The government should find sustainable ways to maintain capacity gained through training

programmes, especially during political transition leading to staff turnover.

#### *Prevention*

- State programmes should develop effective solutions to cover the issues of children in street situation that are related to the root causes - mainly poverty. The law on economic assistance and social services must be reviewed, and indicators for social assistance and social support should be set that identify and reach those children and their families that are in need.
- Child and family development programmes should be promoted in order to adequately address poverty, family break down and social exclusion, through reallocation of resources in employment, welfare, training schemes including, micro-credit etc.
- The Government should address and approach the issue of adult unemployment among the families of children in street situation, through state policies for those who are able to work but for different reasons do not, and financial support for those families that are not able to work. Social benefits such as: education, healthcare, conditional cash transfer etc. should be adjusted to the needs of those families in order to help them thrive and not just survive.
- Services should be age-appropriate and offer different ways to approach and support younger children and older children taking into consideration their time, experiences on the street and their connectedness with their families.
- Lack of documentation is one of the main reasons why families are unable to benefit and utilise social services. The state should simplify the process of obtaining these documents and make it free of charge. The Civil Registration system in Albania should be amended to facilitate cases of families with no registration in their local area to register births, obtain birth certificates, residence and access all documentation that citizens are obliged to have.
- Reformation and cultivation of a respectful treatment of children in street situation in regulating policies related to stigmatisation and service delivery from institutional services, including training and enforcing sanctions at all levels.
- Reformation in Juvenile justice policies and attitudes should include training for staff and imposition of sanctions against individuals who deny children their rights. Detention should be a measure of last resort for the most serious crimes and sentences for the shortest time possible.

#### *Direct recommendations from key stakeholders contributing to the study*

- Residential institutions and shelters should be seen as the last option of the chain of intervention. It is important to work in prevention and empowering the systems that are closely related to children's lives and to the root causes leading to them being involved in street situations. Assistance through residential care should be given to children from 16-18 years too, who have lost parental care, and who have difficulty accessing services.
- Residential institutions should be prepared for new profiles of children that are included in their facilities such as runaway children, social orphans, to offer new types of services and increase human resources.
- Procedures in emergency cases should be facilitated by State Social Services in order to remove barriers (such as the necessity for a court order, lack of documentation etc.) in placement of children in residential state institutions, create the mechanism of "Administrative Guardianship" and officially approve social worker status making immediate intervention possible.
- The state should develop emergency care options instead of big high cost shelters for children

that for one reason or the other do not have parental care, or do not allow them to live with their parents or their large family, where this is appropriate. Temporary facilities such as foster care, small-type homes for the younger children and supervised ones for older children are recommended.

#### IV.2 Education level

- The state should define by law the responsibilities of schools in solving educational issues of children in street situation. Relevant educational options used by NGOs while working with children in street situation should be adapted and become part of the state educational practice.
- The Government could create an additional educational fund available for schools and vocational state training centres to facilitate the attendance (and not just the enrolment) and reduce school drop outs of children in street situation. A special status of certification could be given to other available educational options such as daily centres, drop-in centres for children in street situation.
- Compulsory education should be accessible to all children in street situation. Ministry of Education should develop measures that ensure child attendance and reduce obstacles such as: lack of documentation to be enrolled, lack of means of transport, lack of school materials poor quality of education, etc. At the same time staff should be trained in making classrooms as inclusive as possible, and schools should provide after school literacy classes for all ages, to favour children's insertion into the appropriate school class level.
- The study indicates that one of the biggest obstacles for children to be enrolled in school is lack of documentation (except for economic reason, poor quality of education, and lack of children's self-esteem). The Ministry of Education should address this need and develop alternatives, paying special attention to these children to not be excluded from basic schooling regardless of age or lack of documentation.
- Services for street children should be personalised according to their experiences, realities and perceptions. Schools have a major role in identifying and reporting children that are in a street situation to social workers and psychologists.

#### IV.3 Local authorities

- The Local Authority is the key factor in enhancing the child protection system to support children in street situation. There are weaknesses in data gathering and a great need in creating a new data gathering system from local authorities, to feed into national level databases that can better distinguish between children in street situation and other disadvantaged groups.
- Functional local social services are crucial and need to be pro-actively involved in:
  - Identifying and referring children in street situation;
  - Assessing the situation and developing communities,
  - Providing proper social services
  - Providing child and family protection plans;
  - Serving as focal point for coordinated referral and response
  - Coordinating different services and distributing social services in a local and national level that meets the needs of the children
  - Monitoring standards of care;
- Technical tables involving also local authorities during the study highlighted the need for empowerment and capacity building in order to enhance their interventions. This could be furthered by concentrated efforts to build a body of knowledge based on policy and good practice

literature, as well as consultations with NGOs on their intervention experiences with children.

- CPUs are fundamental at local level, but it emerged from the study that they are still not fully operational in all areas. Further to empowerment and capacity-building, CPUs should take the leading role provided to them by the law on child protection at a local level and play an active role in case management, also by leading and strengthening multiagency technical tables.
- Local stakeholders should raise local awareness of children in street situation in order to increase a positive approach to child protection.
- Local stakeholders should create a stable network and connection with other stakeholders to raise awareness with children on access to social services especially for those children that do not access them on their own. A reliable phone number should be at children's disposal as a first contact for children who do not have any access to social services.
- Community-based and other types of services should be more inclusive and accessible in order to decrease segregation, stigmatisation and discrimination of children in street situation. Key stakeholders agree that the reasons behind this apparent inadequacy and insufficiency of support is that services for children in street situation in Albania tend to be more focused on the visible problems of groups of children rather than individually addressing root causes of a family crisis. Stereotypes and prejudices about children in street situation exist even within the network of social services, with very few migrant children, or those begging, receiving support.

#### IV.4 Donors/Programmes

- Funds and programmes are limited in time and this is one of the reasons that it is important to build the network between State institutions and NGOs through common programmes. These programmes should not be limited to basic assistance, but should include development-oriented activities through integration into the family, school, and labour market.
- Programmes should invest time and multidisciplinary expertise in assessing the individual situation of each participant and in designing tailor-made life plans and services. Programme approaches should be related to age, personal experience of children and should be time-limited in order to see the immediate impact. Programmes should include elements of prevention, early intervention (especially in the cases of children who are mothers) and long-term strategies.
- Programmes must also build on the positive resources – skills and cultural background – of the children involved, to enhance their self-confidence and chances for a successful independent life.
- A better division of roles and models of institutional cooperation between NGOs and public sector is necessary to adequately promote the positive development of children in street situation. The experience of some programmes suggests that, thorough networking with other governmental and nongovernmental service providers at the local level, NGOs can overcome their isolation and increase their impact.
- Programme approaches are needed that will help children strengthen their connections with family, school, and the community. Programmes that focus on the whole family including sibling children in street situation should be developed in order to overcome root causes and problems.
- Programmes that aim at supporting children who have a history of substance abuse should include professional expertise to deal with the immediate and also long-term effects of substance abuse on their lives.
- Programmes that aim at supporting children that are drop-outs should aim at early prevention when possible. These programmes should be certified and have a specific curriculum for children that are out- of school or children that can be enrolled in the formal system again.

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## Appendixes

### Appendix A: Stakeholders/Key informants profiles and information

Name of stakeholder/ key informant	Location	Type
National agency for children, MSWY - Social Policies Department, NAPRC, Technical Secretariat for Roma	Tirana	Govt
World Vision Albania and Kosovo	Albania	NPO
ARSIS - Social Organization for the Support of Youth	Office: Tirana	NPO
Tdh - Terre des Hommes	Office: Tirana	NPO
FBSH - "Children of the World and of Albania - Human Rights"	Tirana	NPO
CRCA - Children's rights centre of Albania	Tirana	NPO
SC DiC - Save the Children Drop in Centre for Children in Street Situation	Tirana	NPO
SHKEJ - National Association Education For Life	Tirana	NPO
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund	Tirana	IGO
Child Protection Units - CPUs	Albania	Local Govt
Social Services and Housing department	Tirana	Local Govt
State Social Services Monitoring Department, Regional Directorates	Albania	Govt
Ministry of Interior - Office of National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator	Tirana	Govt
General State Police Directorate, 12 Regional Police Directorates	Albania	LEA
Local Police	Tirana	LEA
Observatory for Child Rights	Tirana, Shkodra, Fier	NPO
IOM – International Organization for Migration	Tirana	IGO
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme	Tirana	IGO
Equal and Different	Tirana	NPO
OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe	Tirana	IGO
TLAS – Tirana Legal Aid Society	Tirana	NPO
INSTAT – The Institute of Statistics	Albania	Govt
Psyco-Social Centre - Vatra	Vlora	NPO
Tjeter Vizion	Elbasan	NPO
Ministry of Education and Sports	Tirana	Govt

## Appendix B: Sample profiles and vulnerability indicators table

Major Children in street situation Sub-groups by Vulnerability Issues, which are quoted from the Study of Urban Children in street situation in Georgia.<sup>45</sup>

Vulnerability issues	Major sub-groups of children within issue	Themes/possible profiles for Albania
Perceived family hardships	Economic problems	Living conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children sleeping rough/living on the street</li> <li>• Children living in Roma/Egyptian settlements</li> <li>• Children living in residential care</li> </ul>
	Death or absence of parents	
Perceived reasons for no schooling	Family disintegration	Family situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children without parents</li> <li>• Children from families receiving economic aid</li> <li>• Children from families with unemployed parents</li> <li>• Children from broken families</li> </ul>
	Alcoholism/domestic violence	
Street activities	No problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children from unstable families (e.g. history of alcohol/substance abuse, gambling, DV)</li> </ul> Street activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children begging</li> <li>• Children who are street peddlers</li> </ul>
	Economic problems	
Wishes for the future	Not interested in schooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children working on/near the street (parking, car washing, recycling)</li> <li>• Children in conflict with the law</li> <li>• Children involved in sexual exploitation</li> </ul> Migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unaccompanied children returning from street situations abroad to street situations in Albania</li> <li>• Children migrated from another region</li> <li>• Children who move seasonally to street situations in other cities</li> </ul>
	Quality of education	
Health	Family disapproval of schooling	Violence/abuse/neglect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child victims of trafficking and exploitation</li> <li>• Children victims of domestic violence</li> <li>• Children suffering discrimination</li> </ul>
	Lack of documents for enrolment	
	Begging	Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with disabilities</li> <li>• Children with chronic health issues</li> <li>• Children involved in substance abuse</li> </ul>
	Working	
	Doing other things to make money	Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children dropping out of school</li> <li>• Children unable to be registered in school...</li> </ul>
	Not earning/needing any money	
	Generic or specific education	
	Work	
	Improved livelihood	
	Home/family	
	Undefined	
	Child's observed disability	
	Child's observed physical trauma	
	Child's observed toxic substance use	
	Health issues perceived as a family hardship	
	Health issues perceived as a reason for no schooling	

45 Katarzyna Wargan, Larry Dershem, Don't Call Me a Street Child - Estimation and Characteristics of Urban Street Children in Georgia, Save the Children and UNICEF 2009, pg. 15

*Appendix C: Ethical Guidelines*

1. Avoid harm to participants – assess a child’s physical and emotional state to determine whether he/she is sufficiently prepared to be interviewed, and ensure you have a list of contacts you can refer a child to should they require support.
2. Child protection – any actions or situations which may be construed as abusive should be avoided and it in planning interviews, time alone with a child should be avoided.
3. Informed consent – it is important to give all relevant information to the child in a way that he/she understands it, in order to gain his/her informed consent. However, the child must also be informed that consent may be withdrawn at any time should he/she not wish to continue with an interview (see Rights Information sheet in box below). Consent should also be sought from those responsible for the child, be they carers, an institution, a community or his/her family, and the researcher’s contact details left with both them and the child involved.

**Rights of all children involved in the research**

We respect your rights:

- To take time to decide whether to help us;
- To refuse to take part without this affecting your area/education/whatever;
- To refuse to answer some questions;
- To withdraw from this project at any time;
- We will keep notes and tapes from the groups in a safe lockable place;
- When we talk about the research or write reports,  
we always change people’s names so that they remain anonymous.

(After an original by Priscilla Alderson)

4. Confidentiality – children should remain anonymous in any research findings made public and data about them should be securely kept. It is also good practice never to write children’s names on the same documents in which information about them is collected. Though confidentiality is of the utmost importance, protecting a child is even more important. A researcher should be prepared to deal with any distress children may express during the research process. In particular, it is useful to have a plan for dealing with situations where children reveal that they, or someone they know, are at risk of exploitation or harm. It is recommended to discuss the revelation with the child and suggest he/she tells another trusted adult who is able to intervene, and make arrangements for further ongoing support to those who need it.
5. An inclusive approach – it is important that no unethical discrimination is applied in the choice of candidates for interview and that methods are chosen to maximise the chances of girls’ and boys’ full participation.
6. Fair return for participation – this depends on the policy of the organisation but it must be ensured that where children are already part of a remunerated programme of which that organisation is a part, that the children understand that their decision to participate or not will have no influence on their situation.
7. Welfare of research staff – any risks staff may face should be evaluated prior to conducting interviews with children, and ways to handle those risks should be planned. The welfare of cultural mediators and peer researchers who assist in research should also be considered.
8. Wider accountability – though the potential benefits of the research should be described to encourage participation in research, it is important to ensure no unrealistic expectations are raised and to be honest about its use and the limits of its effect on the daily lives of those involved. Feedback on the research should be provided to the respondents’ communities in an appropriate form.

## Appendix D: Tools

## Observation - child ID form

NAME OF AREA	EXACT LOCATION CODE	TIME	GENDER	APPROX. AGE	ALONE / ACCOMPANIED	ACTIVITY	NOTES
CHILD 1			M F	0-1 2-4 10-14 15-17	ALONE WITH KIDS WITH ADULTS	BEGGING-ALMS BEGGING-TOKEN PEDDLING WASHING CARS COLLECTING SLEEPING-IN ARMS SLEEPING STREET PLAYING GAME UNCLEAR OTHER >	
Comment							

**Annex 2***Initial Interview*

Time when the interview starts: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Time when the interview ends: \_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Selection criteria:** Children which are in street situation during observation, involved in different activities in Albania

**Resources needed:** Staff composed by professionals of social sciences.

**Duration: 10 minutes**

Hello, good afternoon/good evening. My name is..... (\*\*INT.: INTRVIEWER NAME\*\*), I come from..... We would like to know your opinions and thoughts. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Q1. How old are you?**

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q2. Gender:** Circle without asking

Female	1
Male	2

**Q3. Ethnicity:** \_\_\_\_\_**Q4. Where do you live? (Circle the answer)**

1	At home
2	In the street
3	In a shelter

**Q5. With whom do you live? (Circle the answer)**

1	With my parents
2	With one parent
3	With relatives
4	Alone

**Q6. How long have you been living here (It refers to the above answer)?**

1	 _____ Days
2	 _____ Weeks
3	 _____ Months
4	 _____ Years

**Q4. Which area do you come from?**

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q5. What kind of work do you do in the street? (List the activities)?**

1	Begging or car windscreen washing
2	Informal work
3	Sale of items at intersections, bars etc. or providing services such as parking, concierge, polishing Shoes
4	Sexual exploitation
5	In conflict with the law involved in illegal acts as the transport of various substances, sale or transportation of objects / materials smuggling and involved in the theft.

**Q6. Do you go in school?**

Yes	1
No	2

**Q6.a. If yes(code1 in Q6) at what class? (Circle the answer)**

1	Class 1 – 5
2	Class 5 – 9
3	More than 9.

**Annex 3**

FG with Children 6-17 years old

**Discussion guide**

<p>I <i>The Presentation (5 min)</i></p> <p>Presentation of the Moderator, the study and the reason of the discussion:</p> <p>Presentation of children - with a small ball / balloon in hand children will say their name and their age and will then pass the ball to the moderator who will ask who wants the ball / balloon to introduce him/herself</p>
<p>II <i>Children's home (15 min)</i></p> <p>Children will be distributed A4 papers and coloured markers. The moderator will ask the children to draw the house where they live and the environment (or the places where they go often). Then, the moderator will take the drawings one by one and ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With whom do you live in this house?</li> <li>• How many people are at home?</li> <li>• With whom family member do you spend more time?</li> <li>• With whom do you play more / friend, family / relatives?</li> <li>• With whom do you enjoy your time more? With whom do you enjoy your time less? Why?</li> <li>• What do you do during the day? Play, learn, work?</li> <li>• If you work, what kind of work do you do? Why? Where do you go? With who?</li> </ul>
<p>III <i>Types of Child labour in Street situation: (15 min)</i></p> <p>The Moderator will list in the flipchart some photos/images with different types of jobs. Children will be asked to raise their hand for types of jobs that they know.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you know this photo/image? What is this? What does it show? Does it show a kind of job (if they find it difficult to identify what it is)?</li> <li>• Do you know how this job is done?</li> <li>• Have you ever done this work before?</li> <li>• How often?</li> <li>• Usually where?</li> <li>• With whom have you been/ or with whom are you usually when you do this job?</li> <li>• What do you earn from this job? – have you ever earned something? – money? – toys? – ect</li> <li>• What do you do with the money that you get?</li> </ul>



*IV. Help for children in street situation (10 min)*

## Story

Ann and Ben are siblings. They live with their grandmother in a small house. Ann is 8 years old and Ben is 10 years old.

Ann usually sells almonds in some bars near their house while Ben washes cars windows when cars are stopped in crossroads.

Both children want to learn to read and write.

1. Who can help them? Do you know any place where they can go to learn how to read and write?

2. Do you want to learn how to read and write? Where do you go to learn? Who helps you?

In winter Ann and Ben had no warm clothes to wear and they were cold

1. Who can provide them warm clothes? Where do you think they can find them?

2. Where do you find warm clothes? Who helps you?

One day Ann got sick and she had to ask for help

1. Where should she ask for help?

2. Where should she go?

3. Who can help Ann?

4. Have you ever been sick? Who helped you?

.....

*V. The future of children (5 min)*

The moderator will ask the children how they see their future:

When I grow up I want to be.....

I will be helped by .....so when I grow up I can be .....

*VI. The end. (5 min)*

Sharing thoughts with children of what they expect from this study. Children will be asked to give their opinion through drawing or imagination (depending on time available) and make sure they suggest how they want us to "report" back to them.

**Annex 4***Focus groups with community / peer educators*

- Who are street children in your opinion?
- In your opinion, what are the main activities that children do on the road?
- What are some reasons why children live or work on the street? Can you think of any situation that may put them at risk so they end up in street situation?
- Should be the community practices considered/treated as risk factors (facilitator should then go throw in more detail to understand the reasons that stays behind this practice.)
- What are some of the risks to which children are exposed or negative experiences which they may face due to their being in street situations?
- What have you done to minimize these risks? Who have you contacted with or who will you contact to act on behalf of their account?
- Have you seen any positive experience of support and intervention to assist street children? Why do you think they are more positive than others?
- Have you seen any intervention that had no impact or has worsened the situation of the child?
- What do you think about X service or intervention available? Are those commendable, why? If they are not effective, why?
- What do you think should be done to improve the situation of street children and prevent the involvement of other children in street situations?

**Annex 5***Semi structured Interview – Key Informants*

Time when the interview starts: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Time when the interview ends: \_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Selection criteria:** Key stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in working with street children.

**Resources needed:** a facilitator, a note holder and registering equipment

**Duration:** Approximately one hour

**Format:** Facilitator makes an entry on the study and an overview of the issues to be discussed during the interview and introduces the interviewee with the opportunity to not answer certain questions.

Hello, good afternoon/good evening. My name is ..... (\*\*INT.: INTRVIEWER NAME\*\*), i come from..... We are conducting a survey on.....and we would like to know your opinions and thoughts. We would like to assure you that all your answers will remain anonymous and will be used only for the purposes of this study and all your data will remain confidential.

**Q1. What is the target group of children in street situations which you work with?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q2. What is the profile of children in street situations, which you know?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q3. How many cases in total have you treated for 2013?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q4. What is your role in working with street children?:**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q5. Is your organization equipped effectively to cope the work with children in street situations?**

Please specify:

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---

**Q6. What kind of analysis and data collection needs to inform the government to design a sensible strategy in the future (it addresses heads of institutions)?**

Please specify:

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---

**Q7. Did the measures plan had any impact for children on street situation?**

Please specify:

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---

**QUESTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WORK DIRECTLY WITH CHILDREN**

**Q8. What are the activities in which children in street situation are involved?**

Please specify:

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---

**Q9. In your opinion what are the conditions in which they do activities of street children?**

Please specify:

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---

**Q10. Can you tell me something more about their family situation?**

Please specify:

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---

**Q11. What are the regions or areas from which children come?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q12. What are the regions or areas where children go?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q13. What are the difficulties of treating cases returned from abroad? CIRCLE CODE.**

Code	Difficulties
1	Services
2	Mechanisms (referral)
3	Human resources (no plus quality)
4	Financial resources
5	Other specify _____
6	Other specify _____

**Annex 6***Closed Questionnaire*Questionnaire – for Key Informants

UNICEF and Save the Children in collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth hired ARSIS and GfK to carry out a study for children in street situation, and your opinions and thoughts will be valuable. We would like to assure you that all your answers will remain anonymous and will be used only for the purposes of this study and all your data will remain confidential. Thank you in advance for your collaboration. First I would like to ask you some questions for statistical purposes.

**County / Region / Town** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q1. Can you tell me which of the following situations occurs more frequently in your area? To do this, I would like you to rate these situations from 0-5 where 0 means fewer situations encountered and 5 is most frequently encountered situation.**

0= fewer situations encountered	1	2	3	4	5= most frequently encountered
---------------------------------	---	---	---	---	--------------------------------

Situation of children in street situation that you have encountered:	Frequency (code one number from 0 – 5)
Children begging and/or washing car windscreens	__
Children working on the street in informal work ( recycling)	__
Children in contact with the law (burglary, sale of narcotics, exploitation etc)	__
Children involved in sexual exploitation	__
Children selling in the street (Cigarettes, fruits, almonds etc)	__

**Q2. How many children in street situation have you or your institution identified during 2013?**

1	0-50
2	51-100
3	101-200
4	201-400
5	401 and up

**Q3. In your opinion, what are the root causes of children being in a street situation?**

1= the most important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8= less important
-----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	-------------------

Place a number from 1-8 or 9, evaluate with 9- if you add any additional cause except those in the list, (not the same number twice), in the right-hand column, 1 being the most important cause and 8 the least important. →	Rate of evaluation
a) living conditions	<input type="text"/>
b) families on the move	<input type="text"/>
c) social situation of the family (children without parental care)	<input type="text"/>
d) violence/abuse/neglect/discrimination	<input type="text"/>
e) health (mental skills or limited physical skills)	<input type="text"/>
f) education (attendance/non attendance of educational institutions)	<input type="text"/>
g) administrative status	<input type="text"/>
h) trafficking/exploitation	<input type="text"/>
i) other specify:	<input type="text"/>

**Q4. Which of the following factors would you rate as most detrimental to the improvement of children in street situations' lives?**

1=the most important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8= less important
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Place a number from 1-8 or 9, evaluate with 9- if you add any additional cause except those in the list, (not the same number twice), in the right-hand column, 1 being the most important cause and 8 the least important. →	Rate of evaluation
a) need for further law reform	<input type="text"/>
b) lack of services due to lack of implementation of already existing laws	<input type="text"/>
c) lack of money	<input type="text"/>
d) lack of coordination between social actors	<input type="text"/>
e) stigmatization of street-connected children reducing access to services	<input type="text"/>
f) family situations (families cannot access services or do not encourage their children to do so, or actively impede access?)	<input type="text"/>
g) lack of awareness amongst street connected children of their rights and services available	<input type="text"/>
h) economic crisis (more children turning to streets due to poverty)	<input type="text"/>
i) other:	<input type="text"/>

**Q5. Where do you think efforts should be more urgently concentrated to improve children in street situations' conditions?**

1=the most important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8= less important
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	-------------------

Place a number from 1-8 or 9, evaluate with 9- if you add any additional cause except those in the list, (not the same number twice), in the right-hand column, 1 being the most important cause and 8 the least important. →	Rate of evaluation
a) law reform	<input type="text"/>
b) fundraising or correct budget allocation	<input type="text"/>
c) awareness raising amongst institutions of gaps and critical issues	<input type="text"/>
d) multiagency training to increase coordination	<input type="text"/>

e) awareness raising amongst families to increase empowerment/proactive capacities	<input type="text"/>
f) more outreach to encourage children to access services independently	<input type="text"/>
g) more direct intervention by social services and law enforcement	<input type="text"/>
h) more direct intervention by NGOs	<input type="text"/>
i) other:	<input type="text"/>

**Q6. Please list the types of services for street children and assess their impact?**

0= no impact	1	2	3	4	5= more impact
--------------	---	---	---	---	----------------

Enclose a number from 0-5, where 0 is no impact and 5 when there is much impact	Impact (code one number from 0 - 5)
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

**Q7. Specifically regarding services, what would you say is the priority to improve children's access?**

1=the most important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8= less important
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	-------------------

Place a number from 1-8 or 9, evaluate with 9- if you add any additional cause except those in the list, (not the same number twice), in the right-hand column, 1 being the most important cause and 8 the least important. →	Rate of evaluation
a) services are located nearer to the children	<input type="text"/>
b) children are more aware of them	<input type="text"/>
c) families are more aware of them	<input type="text"/>
d) more services are opened	<input type="text"/>
e) different kinds of services are opened	<input type="text"/>
f) services become more user-friendly (less bureaucracy)	<input type="text"/>
g) coordination between social services and service providers for referral	<input type="text"/>
h) social services are more aware of all services	<input type="text"/>
i) other:	<input type="text"/>

**Q8. In your opinion, which of these elements are important for improving the analysis and data collection for policy makers to influence local, regional and central politic-makers to the establishment of a sensitive strategy for street children in the future?**

1=the most important	2	3	4	5	6	7	8= less important
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	-------------------

Place a number from 1-8 or 9, evaluate with 9- if you add any additional element except those in the list,(non the same number twice ), in the right-hand column, 1 being the most important element and 8 the least important.→	Rate of evaluation
a) recognition of existing mechanisms <sup>1</sup>	<input type="text"/>
b) establishment of a unified database	<input type="text"/>
c) identification of terminology	<input type="text"/>
d) coordination between actors involved	<input type="text"/>
e) implementation of VKM 267 of coordination	<input type="text"/>
f) capacity building for data collection and analysis	<input type="text"/>
g) strategies and policies that build on the database	<input type="text"/>
h) meetings and intersectorial data analysis	<input type="text"/>
i) other specify:	<input type="text"/>

**Annex 7**

*Semi-Structured Interview with Children*

Time when the interview starts: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Time when the interview ends: \_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Selection criteria:** Children in street situation.

**Resources needed:** a facilitator, a note holder and registering equipment

**Duration:** Approximately one hour

**Format:** Facilitator makes an entry on the study and an overview of the issues to be discussed during the interview and introduces the interviewee with the opportunity to not answer certain questions.

Hello, good afternoon/good evening. My name is .....(\*\*INT.: INTRVIEWER NAME\*\*), I come from..... We would like to know your opinions and thoughts. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**T.1. Case:** \_\_\_\_\_

**T.2. Gender: Circle without asking**

Female	1
Male	2

**T.3 Age: How old are you?**

Write age: \_\_\_\_\_ **old**

<sup>1</sup>Existing mechanisms are: VKM 264, VKMCOM 265, National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking, children's observatory, Mechanism of Domestic Violence, Education System, and Health System



**T.4. Ethnicity:**

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**T5. Family situation:** Please tell me about your family

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**T.5.1. Do you have brothers / sisters?**

Yes	1
No	2

If yes (code 1 in T.4.1, ask T.4.2):

**T.5.2. How old are they?**

0 – 1 year old	1
2 – 4 year old	2
5 – 9 year old	3
10 – 14 year old	4
15 – 17 year old	5

**T.6. Where do you live?**

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q1. Which area you come from?**

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q2. Have you come with your family or alone?**

With family	1
Alone	2

**Q3. For how long have you been here?**

0 – 6 months	1
6 months – 1 year	2
1 – 2 years	3
2 – 4 years	4
More than 4 years	5

**Q4 Do your mother and father work?**

Yes	1
No	2

**Q5. What do you and your brothers and sisters do in your family?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q6. Are there problems in your family with registration in the Civic Status?**

Yes	1
No	2

**Q7. Are your parents, brothers and sisters in good health?**

Yes	1
No	2

**Q8. Is there violence in your family?**

Yes	1
No	2

**ACTIVITY IN THE STREET**

**The facilitator should use the issues table and children's profile to talk with the child about what they did yesterday in order to their activities on the street.**

**Stimulation of the activities on the street:**

**Q.9. Tell me whether you work or do anything to earn money?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.10. What do you do when you're not working, and when you're not in school?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Reasons for involvement in various activities on the street::****Q.11. How long have you done (X activity identified by previous questions)?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.12. Why did you start doing this? (Find out if it was associated with a family event / or only one aspect of an adult).**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.13. How did you learn to do this job? Did someone teach you?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.14. Who decided that you start to do this activity?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.15. Do you remember how you felt when you started working for the first time? Do you feel the same way now or otherwise?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.16. Which are the risks that you encounter on the street? Have you ever been harmed on the street?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Exploration of feelings**

**Q.17. What does work involve/how does it change/are certain periods busier than others?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.18. Are some aspects of the work more difficult than others?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.19. Do you think you are good at accomplishing this (or other work activities that the child does)?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.20. Can you tell us how much money do you earn with this job?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.21. What do you do with this money?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.22. What don't you like in the situation (work) you are involved in?**

Please specify:

---

---

**When they find out an aspect that they don't like, should involve these questions:**

**Q.23. Have you talked with someone about this problem?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.24. who helped you? Where can you go to get help?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.25. What did they do to help you?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.26. Have things changed for better?**

Please specify:

---



---

**EDUCATION****Q.27. have you ever been to school before?**

Yes	1	Quest. Q.28.
No	2	Quest. Q.34.

If the answer is yes (code 1 in Q.27), go to the following questions

If the answer is no (code 2 in Q.27) ASK Q.34.

**Q.28. Who decided that you should not go to school (evaluate the role of the child in this decision)?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.29. Do you know why you are not allowed to go to school?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.30. What grades did you get in school before you stopped going?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.31. Do you like/ did you like school?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.32. What do you like/what did you like more in school?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.33. What do you like/what did you like less in school?**

Please specify:

---

---

**ASK only if the child has answered NO (code 2) in Q.27.****Q.34. What are the reasons that you have never gone to school?**

Please specify:

---

---

**If work is combined with school:****Q.35. How are you doing in school?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.36. How do find work and work in school?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.37. Who helped you with this?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.38. What would help you to improve things?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Health**

**Q.39. Do you have health problems?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.40. Are you vaccinated? Do you have a health card?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.41. Are you a user of harmful substances?**

Please specify:

---

---

**The future/Interventions****Q.42. Do you expect to return to school?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.43. Do you know what job would you like to do in the coming years? (If children have a feeling about this?)**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.44. Tell me what would make your life better?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.45. What would make the lives of other children that work better?**

Please specify:

---

---

**Q.46. What would you like to tell people who rule about this situation for children that work?**

Please specify:

---

---

**(For children 15-17 years old explore youth changes and life chances in details)**

**Q.47. Do you think you will return to school / to finish school?**

Yes	1
No	2

**Q.48. You mentioned that you would like to do X work when you grow up..... Do you think it is possible to do this here in Albania? Do you think you and your friends will have the possibility to do this kind of work?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.49. What training would you need to do this job??**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.50. Does the job that you today helps you to be prepared for what you will do in the future?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.51. Does school help you to be prepared for this job?**

Please specify:

---



---

**Q.52. Is there anything else that helps you to be prepared / can help you to be prepared?**

Please specify:

---



---



## Appendix E: Counting Wave 1&amp; 2

## Counting Wave 1:

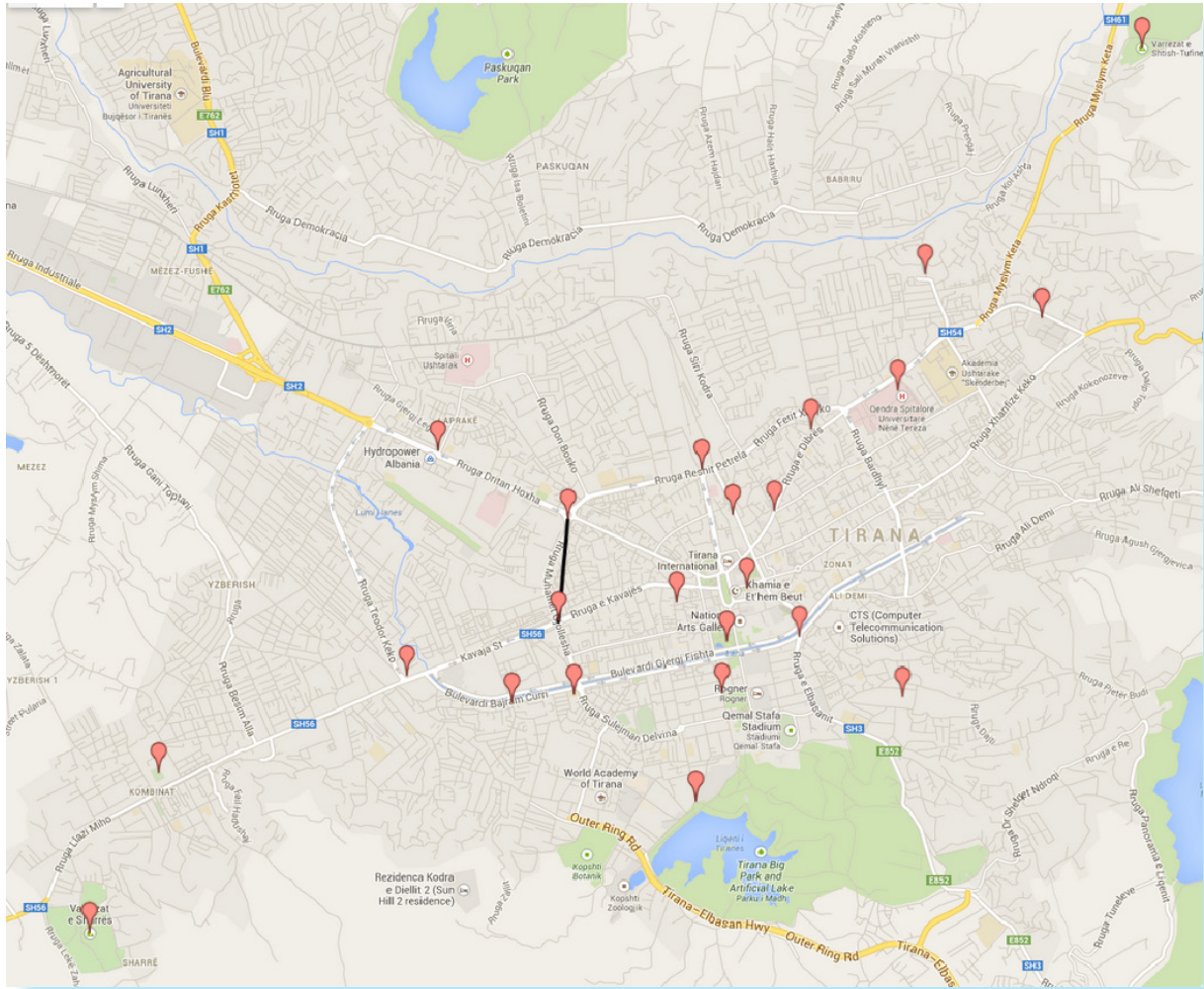
TIRANE		DURRES		VLORE		SHKODER		ELBASAN		POGRADEC		SARANDE		DIBER	
Varrezat Tufine	14	Shkemb Kavajes - Plepa	79	Divjake	26	Tale		Elbasan	68	Shen Naum	13	Llogara	10	Thumane	2
Kinostudio	8	Ura - Plepa	43	Seman	1	Lezhe		Cerrik	0	Qytet Brenda	14	Dhermi	12	Fushe Mamurras	1
Spitali Nene Tereza	10	Plazhi midis Urave	84	Vlore Port	19	Shengjin		Paper Komune	1	Tregu	5	Palase	2	Lac	13
Medreseja	29	Ura (Hyrije e Portit)	7	Vlore Qytet	15	Ure E Bunes - Muriqan		Total	69	Plazhi	12	Ksamil	32	Karice (Bushkash Burrel)	3
Stacioni i Trenit	38	Shinat e Trenit (Stacioni)	21	Vlore Plazh	26	Shkoder				Drilon	8	Sarande	51	Burrel (Qytet)	1
Zogu i Zi	0	Porti	31	Orikum Plazh	1	Velipoje				Total	52	Vrion	8	Suc (Burrel)	29
Laprake	39	Xhamia - Bashkia - Spitali	13	Total	88	Total						Himare	0	Fushe Klos	31
Spitali Ushtarak	0	Vollga	22									Qafa E Vishes	5	Klos	9
Rruga e Durrës + e Kavajës	32	Curilat	16									Bunec	1	Bulqize	5
Xhami Qender	12	Shkozë	23									Total	121	Zerqan	4
Selite	51	Gjiri i Lalzit	36											Shupenze (Tregu)	37
Pallati me Shigjeta	43	Total	375											Maqellare Peshkopi	2
Vasil Shanto	23													Peshkopi	80
Drejtoria e Policise	8													Total	214
Myslym Shyri	36														
Total	343														

Counting Wave 2:

TIRANE	DURRES/KAVAJE	VLORE	SHKODER/LEZHE	ELBASAN/KORÇE	DIBER/KUKES	GIROKASTER/BERAT							
Ndroq	7	Shijak, Sukth	15	Sarande	25	Qeret, Thumane	9	Segmenti Erseke Korçe, Erseke	12	Shkopet	2	Segmenti Levan - Tepelene	42
Kombinat	13	Kavaje Repart dhe komunitet	113	Çuke	15	Thumane	4	Korça	81	Burrel	8	Gjirokaster qytet	12
Tajvani	14	Kavaje qytet	52	Vrion	11	Milot	4	Bilisht, Kapshtice, Plase, Devolle	16	Suç	11	Kavaje (pike kufitare)	2
Blllok	40	Durres qytet, Porto Romano	187	Delvine	2	Lezha	55	Liqenas, Prespe, Zverde, Pojan	8	Klos	15	Periferi Gjirokaster - Lazart	297
Komuna e Parisit	4	Sarande Borsh	367	Sarande Borsh	1	Balldren	4	Vashtmi, Maliq, Gurishte, Sovjan	8	Bulqize	21	Tepelene - Memaliaj	1
Kompleksi Dinamo	2	Himare, Llogara	5	Gjader	3	Çerave, Pogradec, Buçimas, Guri i Kug, Lin, Qafe Thane (pike kufitare)	24	Shupenze - Komuniteti Rom	12	Shupenze treg	21	Berat Qytet	31
Liqeni	16	Vlore	35	Dajç	2	Perrenjas	2	Shupenze treg	21	Berat Qytet	21	Berat Qytet	31
Rr. Myslym Shyri, Tregu Cam	13	Npovesele, Zverec, Narte	4	Bushat	5	Hotojisht, Librazhd	8	Peshkopi - Komuniteti Rom	34	Rroskosvec	34	Rroskosvec	4
Dogana	2	Llakatund	9	Harku Berdise	4	Elbasan	95	Peshkopi - Treg	16	Komuniteti Bregu i Lumit	16	Komuniteti Bregu i Lumit	16
Pedonalja	2	Selenice	4	Ura e Baçallekut	3	Autostrada Tirane-Elbasan, Baldushk, Frake	11	Peshkopi Qytet	3	Çorovode	3	Çorovode	1
21 Dhjetori	2	Levan	7	Shkoder, Iliria	287	Shkoder, Iliria	265	Kukes	5	Poçem	5	Poçem	2
Stadiumi Dinamo	6	Fier	59	Mjede, Tregu	22	Krume	0	Lapardha	0	Lapardha	0	Lapardha	1
Bulevardi	6	Patos	7	14	1	Bajram Curri	0	Komuniteti buze Lumit Berat	0	Komuniteti buze Lumit Berat	0	Komuniteti buze Lumit Berat	40
Parku i Autobuzave	6	Ballsh	7	15	0	Rreshen, Komuniteti Rome	17	Stan Morave	17	Stan Morave	17	Stan Morave	1
Yzberisht	5	Lushnje	23	Kruje	3	Rreshen qytet	8	Kuçove	8	Kuçove	8	Kuçove	8
Unaza e Re	1	Kolonje Lushnje	1	Laç	22	Rubik	8	Cerrik	8	Cerrik	8	Cerrik	8
Tregu Ushqimor	0	Seman I Ri	1	Mamurras	3	Paper	3	Paper	3	Paper	3	Paper	3
Selite	26	Grabian, Rrogozhine	10	Fushe Kruje	83	Gramsh	6	Gramsh	6	Gramsh	6	Gramsh	6
Stacioni i Trenit	3	226	514										
Vasil Shanto	1												
Fusha e Aviacionit	2												
Varrezat e Sharrës	17												



Appendix F: Location of children in street situation in Tirana



## Appendix G: The list of Social Workers and other Professionals implementing the Study in the field

Name/Surname
Hergert Koroveshi – FBSH-DN
Fation Qama – FBSH-DN
Arjel Trajani - SHKEJ
Olsi Buta – SHKEJ
Eriola Locaj - SHKEJ
Gazmir Memaj – SHKEJ
Erjon Prendi - SHKEJ
Denita Kota - SC DiC
Nertila Topulli – SC DiC
Zini Kore – ARSIS
Violeta Kola - ARSIS
Enkeleda Karaj - ARSIS
Ana Majko – ARSIS
Malbora Shahini - ARSIS
Erjola Kaci – ARSIS
Ardit Reka – ARSIS
Fatjona Lumani - ARSIS
Tauland Sadiku – ARSIS
Ilirjan Karaj – ARSIS
Greta Troka – ARSIS
Ilda Zajmi – ARSIS
Nazmie Sinani – ARSIS
David Sadiku – ARSIS
Andi Huqi – ARSIS
Melinda Maliqati – ARSIS
Ada Xhomaqi –ARSIS
Alba Spahiu – ARSIS
Andi Shima – ARSIS
Mirjan Ferruku – ARSIS
Ana Jaupllari - ARSIS
Mrjonda Metaj - ARSIS
Gjergji Xhaholli – ARSIS
Marjeta Shuli - ARSIS
Orjalda Fili - SC DiC
Fatjon Bastri - SC DiC
Sarina Lamaj - ARSIS
Eduart Bashllari - SC DiC





