



Save the Children

CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

FACTS & FIGURES

EVERY FIVE MINUTES
A CHILD DIES AS A
RESULT OF VIOLENCE

ABOUT 20% OF
WOMEN AND 5–10%
OF MEN SUFFERED
SEXUAL ABUSE AS
CHILDREN

THREE OUT OF
EVERY FOUR
CHILDREN
EXPERIENCE VIOLENT
DISCIPLINE AT HOME

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in around 120 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential. We work to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. Across all of our work, we pursue several core values: accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity and integrity. Nothing is more fundamental to our work than empowering children. Children are our partners in planning, implementation and accountability. We work within communities and so we also work with communities. Partnerships are central to everything we do, and so when we implement a program it is a whole of community effort and not the passive receivership of aid. Save the Children not only helps children directly, we also work with partners, families, communities, schools, state institutions, civil society and governments to benefit children.

Children in every country, every culture and at every social level face various forms of violence. Save the Children works to prevent violence from happening and respond efficiently by: strengthening families and caregivers, implementing laws and policies, work with governments and other partners to develop strong child protection systems, changing attitudes and social norms, listening to and involving children, building the social work workforce and providing services for children. Save the Children makes a difference to millions of children's lives around the world through its child protection work. We believe that all children have the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation so that they can survive, learn, participate, play and develop.

Every failure to protect children has negative effects that continue into their adult life – and also holds back a country's national development. By contrast, where children are protected, their health, education and well-being are improved as well as their ability to contribute to society as future citizens.

CHILD PROTECTION IN ALBANIA

Save the Children has been working in Albania since 1999, earning a reputation for delivering quality programs for children and establishing strong and influential relationships with government and civil society networks.

We work to ensure children and youth are served by a strengthened child protection system with functional mechanisms at local and national level. Save the Children's approach is based on every child's right to be protected and cared for, ideally by their own family or in a family-like environment. We are strengthening community-based mechanisms and national child protection systems and we are working in partnership with governmental and civil society actors. We promote the ethical and meaningful participation of children in all stages of our programming and we address discrimination and poverty to reach the most vulnerable children. We advocate for changes in legislation, policies, services and social norms and increased investment in child protection to prevent and respond to all forms of violence. Through our interventions we have ensured the access to services for children at risk; we have worked to increase resilience of children in front of risk; community mobilization and positive parenting; awareness rising on child abuse and violence; child friendly justice and reintegration of children in contact with the law.

In 2013: **6251** children and **3894** adults benefited directly from our Child Protection Program.

In 2014: **3904** children and **4423** adults benefited directly from our Child Protection Program.

In 2015: **6566** children and **4861** adults benefited directly from our Child Protection Program.

Save the Children's Child Protection priority areas for the period 2010-2015 were:

- Children Without Appropriate Care
- Physical and Humiliating Punishment
- Children in Contact with the Law

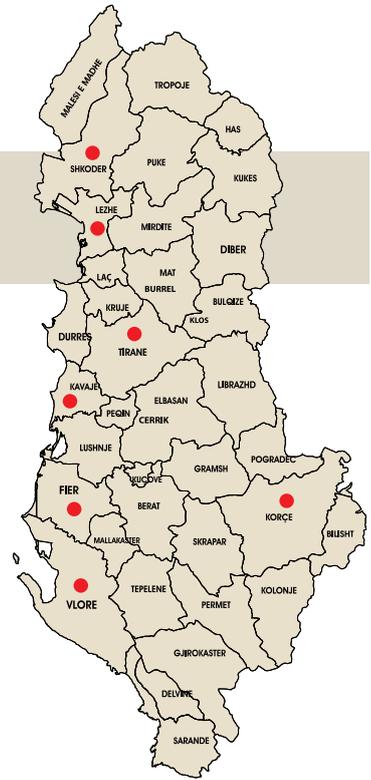


Results of the Strategic Objectives 2013 – 2015

Children without appropriate care

Result 1: Children access and receive quality child protection services – geographic coverage: Tirana, Shkoder, Lezhe, Korçe, Fier, Vlore, Kavajë

Children at risk or victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and children affected by internal or cross border movement, are identified and protection measures have been provided through a process of case management. Save the Children has partnered with local government units to support the strengthening of local protection mechanisms, capacities and services. Family strengthening interventions are developed to guaranty the rights of all children to be protected and to leave in a safe family environment.



Accomplishments

- 1.1 Outreach work, identification and case management;
- 1.2 Provision and referral to services: psychological support; birth/civic registration; legal support, housing, and access of children in crèches and kindergarten; registration in school and support with catch up classes; vocational training and support with employment schema;
- 1.3 Direct service provision for children in street situation through the Drop in Centers in Tirana and Shkodra;
- 1.4 Cultural mediation and counseling have been provided to families of children in street situation;
- 1.5 Technical support and mentoring to 7 Child Protection Units on identification and provision of protection services;
- 1.6 Support the establishment of Child Protection Working Groups and mentoring on multi-sectoral case management;
- 1.7 Capacity building of child protection professionals of health, police, social and education services on child protection issues;
- 1.8 Capacity building of multi sectoral professionals on services for children on the move;
- 1.9 Advocacy work on enhancing transnational cooperation and cooperation for protection of children on the move resulted in the opening of the process of revision of bilateral agreements with Kosovo and development of a common procedure for cross border case management.

“All children thrive in a safe family environment and no child is placed in harmful institutions.”



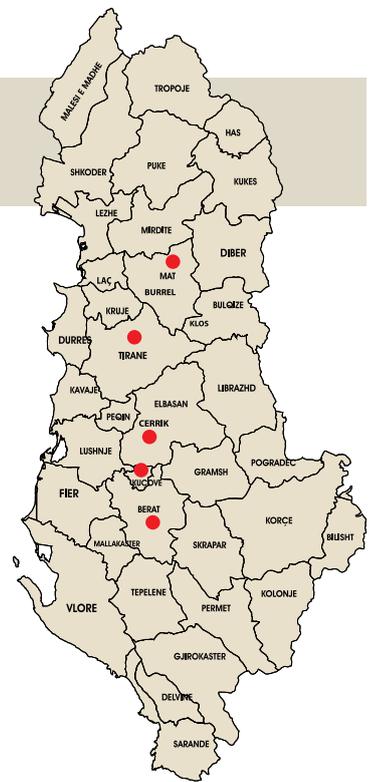
The evaluation of Save the Children Child Protection Quality of Standards found that 87% of indicators are met for services provided by Child Protection Units (CPU) and 100% from Drop in Centers

Protection against Physical and Humiliating Punishment:

Result 2: Children and youth are protected against violence, exploitation and abuse through safe family and conducive community environments. (Tirana, Kuçova, Cërrik, Mat, Berat.)

Save the Children in Albania has partnered with children and youth to strengthen their knowledge and capacities on child rights and child protection issues. Children and youth have been equipped with skills on how to identify risks and how to protect themselves from violence, abuse, exploitation and unsafe migration. Children and Youth have build their capacities on how to advocate to bring change in their lives and to realize their rights; for example Child Consultation Boards of Children on the Move have been established through the application of a child- participatory approach.

Due to Save the Children intervention and project implementation, parents and teachers were introduced with the Positive Discipline methodology, support and guidance on positive parenting through parenting sessions.



Accomplishments

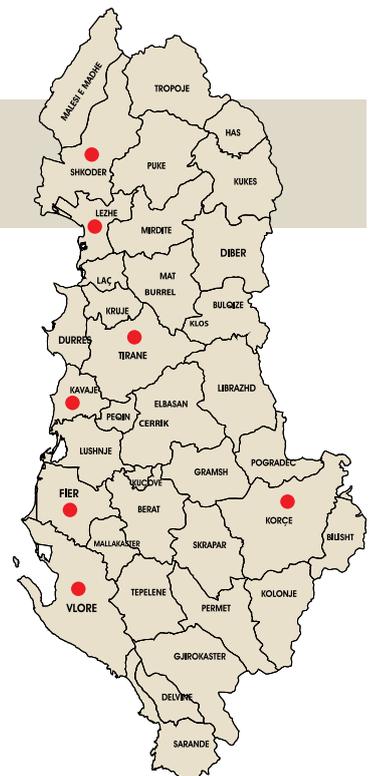
- 2.1 Child led awareness raising campaigns on violence against children and safe environments are designed and led by children of Youth Centers in Kuçove, Cerrik and Mat;
- 2.2 Children and youth from Youth Centers in Kuçove trained to act as peer trainers ;
- 2.3 Training of children and youth on risks of violence, abuse, exploitation and unsafe migration through peer – peer methodology;
- 2.4 Through community outreach work, children and youth reached a large number of peers;
- 2.5 Parents and teachers trained on Positive Discipline and support toward positive parenting;
- 2.6 Child Consultation Board of Children on the move has been established and children were empowered to identify issues of concern and to advocate for change with local and national authorities;

Children in contact with the law

Result 3: Children and youth are served by a child-friendly justice system – geographic coverage: Tirana, Shkodra, Lezha, Korça, Fieri, Vlora, Kavaja

The Juvenile Justice Strengthening Program aimed at strengthening and maximizing the capacity of the institutions involved in the protection of minors in contact with the law to help them reintegrate into society through a range of rehabilitation, social and legal assistance programs.

This program intended to support the criminal justice system at a local level, through a cluster of activities, in cooperation with the support of the national juvenile justice system. It aimed at achieving a community based solutions (mediation, social control and community based activities) for those minors who have committed (according to the Criminal Code) sporadic minor offences.



Accomplishments

- 3.1 Development of
 - a Standard Protocol on interviewing children in contact with the law and child friendly techniques and instruments which were endorsed by Government of Albania structures
 - a curricula for the education of lawyers, prosecutors and police officers.

- 3.2 *Capacity Building of Law enforcement staff, attorneys, prosecutors and judges on Standard Protocol on Child Friendly interviewing techniques of children in contact with the law;*
- 3.3 *Child Friendly spaces have been created in the Police Commissariats to guaranty right-based interviewing process for children in contact with the law;*
- 3.4 *Modeling and implementation mediation, community conferencing and restorative justice as a form of conflict/ dispute resolution and awareness raising of children, parents and communities of alternative measures to detention;*
- 3.5 *Service provision for children in pre-detention and detention centers: legal and psychological counseling; support with legal procedures and information to access alternative measures to detention;*
- 3.6 *Awareness raising activities on conflict resolution organized for children and youth in schools;*
- 3.7 *A referral mechanism established for children in contact with the law with focus on re-integration of children in contact with the law;*
- 3.8 *Recommendations offered on legal improvements required for the Juvenile Justice reform which were included in the Law through advocacy work and lobbying.*

Measuring the impact of Save the Children Child Protection Program

Save the Children members and country offices produce evaluations of our child protection programmes, adding to the global evidence base on child protection. Save the Children has put in place a robust M&E system to monitor progress towards the achievement of Save the Children's child protection goals.

The key indicators that we track globally are:

1. **Total reach:** the number of children reached directly and indirectly by our child protection programmes
2. **Utilization of child protection services:** the proportion of children and caregivers in a 12-month period who have utilized prevention or response interventions delivered or supported by Save the Children
3. **Quality of child protection services:** the proportion of child protection prevention and response services supported by Save the Children which meet minimum quality standards

FACT SHEET

Children without appropriate care: Children access and receive quality child protection services in Tirana, Shkoder, Lezhe, Korce, Fier, Vlore, Kavaje

Direct Beneficiaries: **4281** children **5099** adults

Protection against Physical and Humiliating Punishment: Children and youth are protected against violence, exploitation and abuse through safe family and conducive community environments: Berat, Burrel, Cerrik, Kucove, Tirane

Direct Beneficiaries: **8268** children **4176** adults

Children in contact with the law: Children and youth are served by a child-friendly justice system in: Tirana, Shkoder, Lezhe, Korce, Fier, Vlore, Kavaje

Direct Beneficiaries: **4172** children **3903** adults



Reaching EVERY LAST CHILD 2016-2018

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

As part of Agenda 2030, the world's governments have set ambitious targets to end violence against children by 2030. Save the Children Albania Country Office and Save the Children globally supports and influences the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children to prevent violence and help make societies safe for children.

Save the Children Global Breakthroughs:

Survive: *No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday*

Learn: *All children learn from a quality basic education*

Be protected: *Violence against children is no longer tolerated*

**Albania Country Contribution to global Breakthrough in Child Protection:
Violence against children will no longer be accepted as disciplinary method
and way of communication in Albania**

Rationale: *The child protection system continues to lack sufficient budgetary means, professional staff and agreed minimum standards of operation. It is still not accessible to all children and does not attract the needed public sensitivity for reaction.*

Violence is wide spread and families are lacking necessary support to strengthen their capacities and providing appropriate care for children

Our intervention goals and objectives:

Appropriate Care

- 1.1. Fewer children are in institutional care as a result of stronger families and community based care alternatives.
- 1.2. All girls & boys especially children on the move and street situated children access quality child protection services

In **Albania**, we are developing and introducing systems for providing foster care for children without parental care. Through mapping and assessment of legislation, policies, structures and practices in place, we have identified the gaps and are offering support to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth to pilot integrated interventions that will lead to a functional Alternative Care system (within the Child Protection System) in one location. We have introduced new structures at municipality level that will deal with alternative care services with a special focus on foster care. The Municipality is supported to map, assess and coordinate public and non-public service providers that will be part of a local referral mechanism. In collaboration of the University of Tirana, a group of experts are supported with international expertise to develop post university curricula that will offer specialization on Alternative Care Services to the already graduated social workers.

We are continuing to provide direct services for **Children in Street Situation** and increase the capacities of professionals working in the field. We are supporting a **Network of Drop-In centers** providing child protection support to children in street situation.



Protection of Children from Violence

- 2.1 Parents, community members and school education staff access information on Positive Discipline at national level to improve positive discipline knowledge, skills and application.
- 2.2 Comprehensive and consistent legislation that explicitly bans Physical & Humiliating Punishment in all settings associated with effective monitoring and communication mechanisms are in place and effective
- 2.3 Boys and girls are able (resilient) to protect themselves from violence and exploitation including sexual abuse.

Positive Discipline Methodology – to prevent Violence against children

We are developing and piloting in Albania a knowledge-based resource center on Positive Discipline through which we will ensure high accessibility of professionals, parents and communities on getting to know positive discipline as an alternative way to violent communication. In this way we are aiming at helping parents and other caregivers to move away from physical and emotional punishment toward solutions that nurture their children's healthy development and learning.

Child Protection Systems

- 3.1 Child protection services in Albania meet minimum quality standards (what are minimum quality standards)
- 3.2 Children are protected by a stronger Child Protection System as result of Government providing sufficient financial and human resources investment to address child protection issues with special focus on children in street situation, children on the move and those in contact with the law.

At this stage of shaping the social services reform we are focusing on two long term expected changes;

- monitoring system for child protection standards and
- capacity building of the new structures within the social services at local level.

We are supporting local government structures to develop Child Protection Local Plans together with locally owned monitoring systems and indicators. We will work closely with national and local authorities, providing technical support and building capacities on effective case management and protection responses, including for children at risk of unsafe migration, children in street situations and children on the move.



In **Albania** we are developing child friendly indicators for measuring Quality of Child Protection Services through consultations with children beneficiaries, to allow them to take part in evaluating the protection services they are receiving and their efficiency. This process will provide information on the efficiency of the interventions and impact on the life of children and will influence the planning of better and more effective services. We have started to develop a capacity-building program for State Social Services and Municipalities in order to generate the knowledge and skills that will allow them to adequately prepare and conduct a monitoring process.

Through the support of EU delegation in Albania, we are contributing together with other partner organizations to the protection of the rights of the child in Albania and influencing the proper functioning of the judiciary system in Albania through support and active engagement of civil society and community based organizations.

Supporting the empowerment of civil society and community based organizations by ensuring a higher level of their effectiveness, inclusiveness, and pro-activeness through innovative capacity development and effective funding we are aiming the enhancement of protection of the right of the child.

Capacity building program regarding organizational and project development, advocacy & lobbying, child rights/child protection issues including protection of child victims of violence, abuse, sexual exploitation and street children; on-going technical assistance & mentoring through information sessions at regional level and support the network meetings of CSOs and CBOs active in child rights are in the focus of our interventions.

While through a second EU Delegation grant we are supporting the strengthening of the role of civil society organizations to increase transparency and accountability of the judiciary system and improve access to justice for vulnerable groups in Albania.

The Community Based Services for Children with Disabilities is a regional project in **Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** to improve protection of children with disabilities. In Albania, we are supporting two



Community Centers providing daily services for children with disabilities in a holistic and multidisciplinary approach. Coordination and referral with schools, other existing public services as well support programs for parents will be at heart of this intervention as well. The technical approach, tools and methodologies are being developed; piloted and tested by technical experts and will form the bases for documentation and dissemination of good practices, transforming the services in Centers for excellence. The model will be handed over to local governments for continued support and replication.