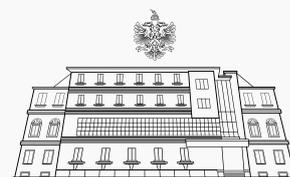
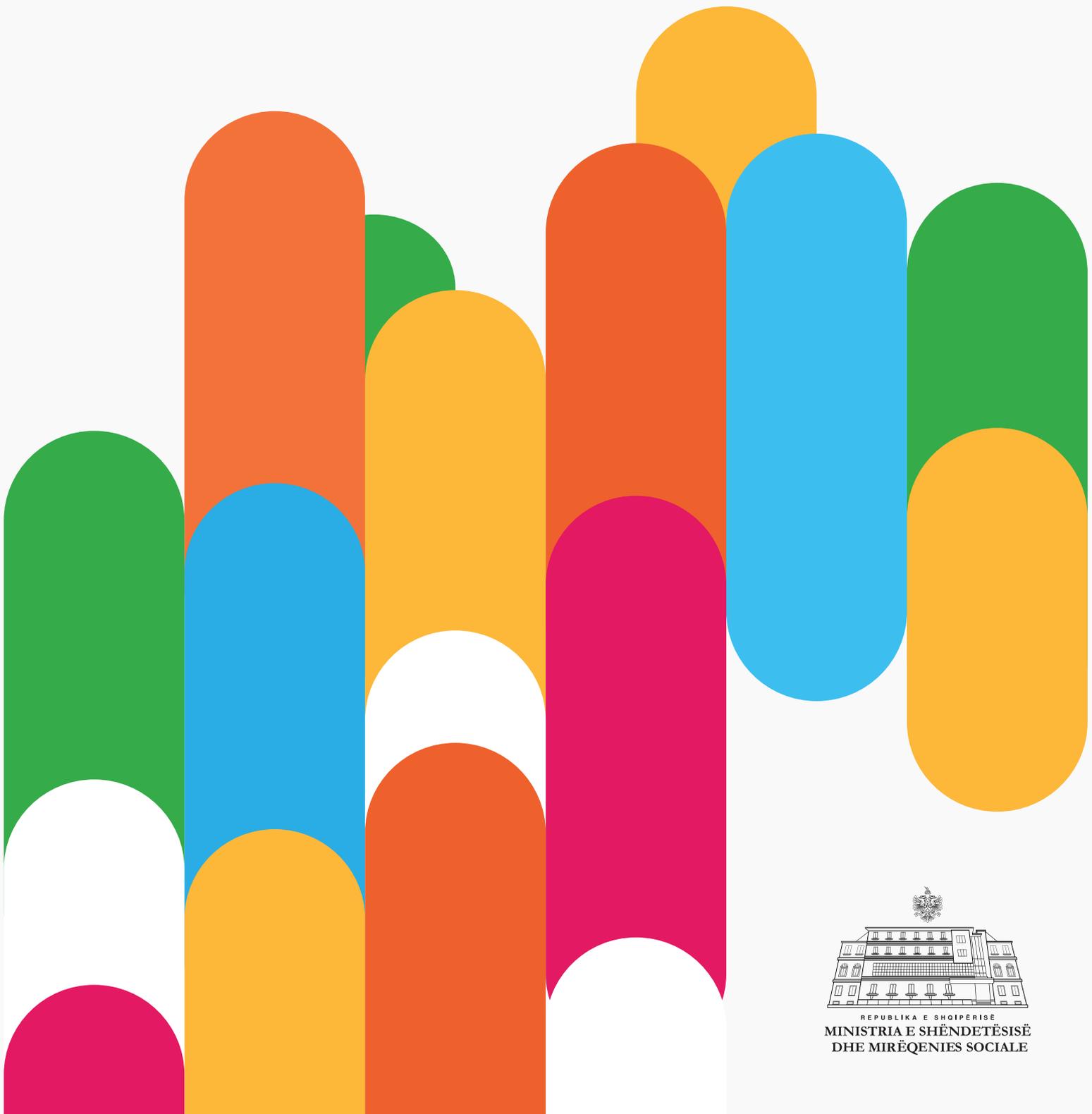


MONITORING REPORT

NATIONAL AGENDA FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

2021-2026



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRIA E SHËNDETËSISË
DHE MIRËQENIES SOCIALE



Leave
No One
Behind

The document was drafted with the technical assistance of UNICEF in Albania. This undertaking was carried out within the framework of the Joint United Nations Programme “*Leaving No One Behind*” (LNB), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

MONITORING REPORT

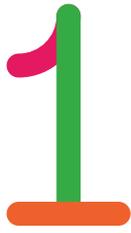
**NATIONAL AGENDA
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
2021-2026**

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMA	Audiovisual Media Authority
AMSP	Audiovisual Media Service Providers
APG	Alternative Professional Guardianship
CFSS	Child and Family Support Service
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CPW	Child Protection Officer
CRIPDP	Commissioner for the Right to Information and Personal Data Protection
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DPUEP	Directorate for Pre-University Education Policies
EA	Economic Aid
ECEC	Early Childhood Education and Care
PLE	Public Legal Education
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPH	Institute of Public Health
ITG	Intersectoral Technical Group
IS	Institute of Statistics
LHCU	Local Health Care Units
LGU	Local Government Unit
LNB	Leave no one behind
LOPUE	Local Office of Pre-University Education
MD	Ministry of Defense
ME	Ministry of Education
MHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MJ	Ministry of Justice
NAIS	National Agency for Information Society
NARC	National Agenda for the Rights of the Child
NARU	Need Assessment Referral Unit
NCCE	National Center for Continuous Education
NCES	National Center for Educational Services
NCMH	National Center for Mental Health
NCRPC	National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child
NCSA	National Cyber Security Authority
NGO	Non-profit Organizations
OP	Ombudsman
PSS	Psycho-Social Service
PUEQAA	Pre-University Education Quality Assurance Agency
PUIMS	Pre-University Information Management System
PwD	People with Disabilities
SARPC	State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child
SASPAC	State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination
SCC	Schools Community Centers
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WVA	World Vision Albania



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Agenda for the Rights of the Child 2021–2026 (NARC) aims to create a supportive environment for the growth and well-being of children, ensuring their access to quality services, opportunities for meaningful participation, support for positive parenting, protection from all forms of violence, and safe development in the digital age.

The NARC envisions that its impact will be reflected in the quality of life for children and adolescents, both within their families and in other social settings. This report presents the progress of implementing the NARC over the period 2021–2025, analyzing the five-year progress of the responsible institutions and their partners in implementing the defined measures. The structure of the report is designed to provide detailed data for each objective of the NARC, as well as a summary of the main results according to the strategic pillars.

In terms of its content, the NARC includes 20 measures, 185 activities and 20 strategic result indicators, which aim to achieve 9 specific objectives, divided within four strategic goals:

1. Good governance for respecting, protecting and guaranteeing children's rights.
2. Eliminating all forms of violence and strengthening child protection.
3. Creating child and adolescent-friendly systems and services.
4. Promoting children's rights in the digital space.

The measures and activities are cross-sectoral in nature, addressing prevention, protection, provision of long-term and friendly services, and the promotion of children's rights in relation to social norms and practices.

The report was prepared with the contribution of 17 central state institutions (of which 13 state institutions, 4 independent institutions), as well as 51 local self-government units (LSGs).

During the reporting period, Albania has made significant progress in the field of children's rights, particularly in the legislative and political aspects, through legal and institutional reforms that have further brought the country closer to international standards.

The collection and use of data/statistics on children is an essential element in the design and monitoring of public policies. In 2021, SARPC introduced a digital platform that enables the publication of data collected by relevant institutions, presenting them in the form of 61 specific indicators for the realization of children's rights. An important innovation is that the National Programme of Official Statistics 2022-2026, has included for the first time the portrayal of statistics on children, adolescents and young people as a main component of social statistics.

The process of establishing and operating the CPUs and CPWs is complex and involves a range of links and actors, based on laws, guidelines and regulations of both central and local government.

Considering that the establishment of CPUs is the first, most important and most indispensable

step, marking the starting point for the implementation of the law and the protection of children, SARPC has undertaken a process with municipalities across the country to continuously encourage them to influence the decision-making of mayors to recognize the establishment and functioning of CPWs not only as a legal obligation, but also as a necessity for supporting children and the communities they represent. At the end of this process, which was lengthy and challenging, a total of 370 CPWs were established.

Child protection mechanisms constitute a key element in guaranteeing children’s rights. Nationwide, during the reporting period, 370 Child Protection Workers (CPWs) were operational, managing cases in accordance with the procedures defined in the regulatory framework. According to SARPC¹, during the period 2021–2025, a total of 4,447 new cases of children identified as being at risk and/or in need of protection, or as victims of sexual violence, were managed. Below are the detailed data on managed cases, new cases, and cases involving children who are victims of sexual violence. Regarding the protection and support of children from sexual violence, two centers with emergency services for child victims/survivors of sexual abuse and other serious forms of violence have been established in the municipal-

ities of Fier and Shkodra. The centers operate with standards for the provision of approved services for this target group of children.

Albania has made progress in the provision of specialized social services closer to the community, with a focus on children. Through the Social Fund, the financial support instrument for the local level, by 2025 a total of 84 Social Care Services have been established (of which 32 are for children), benefiting 59 municipalities and 8 regions, with total funding of ALL 1.5 billion and supporting over 62,744 individuals. The amount of financial support from the Social Fund has increased by 13% in 2025, compared to 2024, and has tripled compared to 2019.

The deinstitutionalization reform has been accompanied by the transformation of residential services into alternative community care services, where priority has been given to programs for the economic and social empowerment of families of children in institutions. Work has been carried out to transform, in four municipalities of Korçë, Vlorë, Durrës and Shkodër, residential services for children aged 0-5 years, into four new community services “Child and Family Support Services/Hub”, in order to prevent the placement of children in residential care.



TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS AT RISK/OR IN NEED OF PROTECTION, INVOLVED IN CASE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Year	Total number of cases managed	Total number of new cases	Victims of sexual violence cases
2021	2389	1047	73
2022	2496	987	73
2023	2163	1027	50
2024	2451	1386	59
2025*			
Total 2021-2024		4447	

* Figures for 2025 are published in early 2026.

1. Note: According to SARPC, the data managed child cases are not closed immediately, but are carried over and monitored continuously. For this reason, it is important that the figures are presented separately by year, to avoid overlap.

The Baby Bonus has been a successful social policy relative to demographic trends and the increase in birth rates, also contributing to a universal policy benefiting all families. From 2019 until the end of 2024, a total of 231,565 baby bonuses were granted, whereas during the January–June 2025 period, a total of 10,679 baby bonuses were granted.

The Economic Assistance Programme is the main cash-based social support scheme for poor families in Albania. Around 62,000 children benefit from this scheme. Over the years, in order to support more families with children, the benefit amounts for families with three or more children have doubled, benefiting 15,000 families with 3 or more children. The benefit amount for women who are heads of households has also doubled, benefiting 5,700 women/families. For children without parental care, the benefit amount has tripled, benefiting 1,220 children. To support unemployed women, mothers with 3 or more minor children, the policy enables 100% subsidisation of social insurance and health contributions based on the minimum wage. A total of 9,200 unemployed women **has** benefited from this policy.

The Albanian government provides special support for the children of parents who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, through an act of self-sacrifice or patriotism, in efforts to protect human life and public property, as a result of carrying out their duties responsibly and exercising their profession under extraordinary circumstances. By decision of the Central Commission for the Status of “Children in the Care of the Republic”, 22 children have benefited from the status.

The Government of Albania has undertaken the reform of the disability assessment system based on the bio-psycho-social model, which is being implemented throughout the country since the beginning of 2023. The implementation of the new scheme represents an important step towards ensuring a fairer and more personalized approach to support for persons with disabilities.

Child health programmes have been an essential component of protecting their rights during the period 2021–2025, focusing on prevention, basic care, and integrated social and health services provided in primary care centers. These programmes have included vision screening, dental care, national immunization, and school health services. From 2022 to the end of June 2025, a total of:

- ▶ 314,746 children from the National Vision Programme (265,584 during 2022–2024 and 49,162 during January–June 2025).
- ▶ 686,448 children from the dental care program for the 6–14 age group (603,622 during 2022–2024 and 82,826 during January–June 2025)².

During the same period, all children benefited from the National Vaccination Programme, which also includes the HPV vaccine for adolescent girls. In the first half of 2025 alone, 4,025 girls received the HPV vaccine.

In the context of early childhood development and children’s education, the Albanian state has put into operation a series of mechanisms with a primary focus on the inclusion of the most marginalized children. Among others, results such as:

- ▶ The National Education Strategy 2021–2026 has been approved, as well as the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence and the Enhancement of Safety in Schools.
- ▶ In collaboration with UNICEF Albania, manuals, modules and brochures have been developed for school principals, teachers, students and parents.
- ▶ A system has been established to identify, prevent and report violence and bullying in schools, accompanied by awareness-raising campaigns and the adoption of legal acts to prevent the employment of teachers convicted of crimes against minors.
- ▶ The number of security officers has increased from 150 to 220 in 2022 and 222 in 2024, including 9-year schools with over 700 students. The officers are trained and certified by the Security Academy.

2. A child may have received services more than once during the reporting years.

- ▶ All schools are covered by psychosocial services, with 595 functional offices and a ratio of 1 employee for 300–499 students. In the 2023–2024 school year alone, 16,891 awareness-raising activities were conducted with students, 3,110 with teachers, and 2,389 with parents.
- ▶ In the 2024–2025 school year, 270 preparatory classes were opened with a total of 5,563 students. In total, 85% of children starting first grade have attended kindergarten/preparatory group.
- ▶ All preschool teachers have been trained (100%) in the implementation of the competency-based curriculum and child-centered learning methodology, including those with disabilities.
- ▶ The number of assistant teachers has reached 2,266, covering 5,233 students with disabilities in mainstream education.
- ▶ 291 resource classes have been established for students with disabilities and special educational and technological programs have been designed for special education. Financial and logistical support has been strengthened: free transportation, free textbooks, as well as didactic and technological equipment.
- ▶ 1,245 professional networks of teachers have been established, trained to implement the curriculum with comprehensive competencies and practices. In 2024, 16,045 teachers received training for one module and 7,046 for two modules.

In implementation of the action plan of the “National Strategy for Cybersecurity 2020-2025”, the National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA) has conducted several training courses and awareness campaigns to promote children’s rights in the digital world. NCSA is the first institution to be committed to piloting the global project of the International Telecommunication Union and partnership with UNICEF Albania “Creating a safe and empowering digital environment for children”.

The institutions have reported through the information they have provided, on the progress of the implementation of 17 out of 20 strategic indicators³. Thus, the reporting within the framework of the strategic goal indicators stands at the level of 85%. Of these, about 95% has been achieved or partially achieved.

Table 2. Status of implementation of strategic indicators for the period 2021-2025 (in number and percentage)

The data collected by responsible institutions at central and local level provide information on 169 activities out of 185 activities foreseen in the NARC according to the breakdown presented in Table 3.

The 170 activities reported by central and local institutions are reflected according to the following categories presented in Table 4.

Regarding financial/budgetary forecasts, the report analyzes actual expenditures for the period 2021-2025 and aims to analyze the relationship between the forecast of NARC budget expenditures and actual expenditures incurred from various funding sources.

 **TABLE 2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC INDICATORS FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2025 (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)**

No. of indicators	Fully realized	Partially realized	Unrealized
17	13	3	1
100%	77%	18%	5%

3. This is explained in the methodology chapter.



TABLE 3. LEVEL OF REPORTING OF ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Number of activities	Number of unreported activities	Number of activities reported
185	15	170
100%	8%	92%



TABLE 4. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2025 (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of reported activities	Fully realized	Partially realized	Unrealized
170	108	46	16
100%	64%	27%	9%

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY REPORTING



170
REPORTED



15
UNREPORTED

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2025



Priority recommendations:

- ▶ The National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child should assume a more active role in monitoring the implementation of the National Agenda for Children's Rights (AKDF) and in advocating for increased public investments that directly impact children's well-being.
 - ▶ In line with the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the EU screening processes, it is essential to review the Agenda for Children's Rights before the end of its current timeframe.
 - ▶ The establishment of more effective cooperation mechanisms among the education, health, justice, police, and social services sectors is necessary to prevent and address cases of children at risk of violence and abuse.
 - ▶ The institutionalization of mechanisms through which children can express their views and priorities in policymaking processes and in monitoring the implementation of the AKDF.
 - ▶ Increasing financial investments in sectors that affect children's lives must remain a priority. Full coverage of AKDF measures requires the mobilization of new resources and sustainable allocation of funds from the state budget and international partners. The creation of dedicated budget lines for children, at both central and local levels, is essential.
 - ▶ Improving the system for data collection and analysis related to children is necessary. Institutions should strengthen capacities and transparency in reporting disaggregated data by age, gender, ethnicity, disability, and other vulnerability factors to enable more effective policy planning and monitoring. It is essential to expand the range of child-related indicators from both administrative sources and survey-based data.
 - ▶ The development and integration of comprehensive positive parenting programs across all levels of services is recommended, including the training and certification of professionals working with children and families at the local level.
 - ▶ A review of the Family Code and the Criminal Code is necessary to reflect the principle of the best interests of the child, strengthen legal protection against phenomena such as early marriage, and institutionalize the role of child protection units within the legal system.
 - ▶ The implementation of the plan for transforming residential services should be accompanied by the establishment of new community-based services in all municipalities, in line with child protection standards and based on a unified model supported at the central level.
 - ▶ Establishing standards and developing specialized services for unaccompanied and separated foreign children is essential, in accordance with international best practices and the specific needs identified in Albania.
- The implementation of measures to ensure children's safety online, including digital education for children, parents, and teachers, as well as strengthening institutional capacities to identify and address online abuse.



INTRODUCTION

The National Agenda for the Rights of the Child 2021–2026 (NARC) has been drafted on behalf of the Albanian government by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, in cooperation with the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child, including the contribution of line ministries, local self-government units, independent institutions, civil society organizations and international partners operating in the field of children’s rights and protection.

The document was approved by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 659, dated 3.11.2021, and represents the institutional commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for the well-being of children. The vision of NARC is to guarantee access to quality services, promote the active participation of children, positive parenting, the elimination of all forms of violence and safe development in the digital world. The NARC was drafted taking into account the following documents:

- ▶ Monitoring Report of NACR 20 21 - 2022;
- ▶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ▶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ▶ Fifth and sixth periodic State reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ▶ National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, Universal Periodic Review of Albania.
- ▶ Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child.
- ▶ National Strategy for Development and Integration 2022-2030 (NSDI II).
- ▶ National Strategy for Social Protection 2024–2030.

The NARC defines four strategic goals:

- (i) Good governance in respecting, protecting and fulfilling children’s rights;
- (ii) Elimination of all forms of violence and protection of children;

- (iii) Child and adolescent friendly systems and services;
- (iv) Promoting children’s rights in the digital world.

In accordance with Law No. 18/2017, “On the Rights and Protection of the Child”, the Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Health is the institution responsible for drafting and monitoring the implementation of the 2021-2026 NARC, supported by the SARPC. The monitoring process is also defined as an obligation by the Council of Ministers No. 659 (dated 3.11.2021) for the approval of the 2021-2026 NARC.

The NARC monitoring process was carried out according to the methodology confirmed by the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, in implementation of the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 290, dated 11.4.2020, “On the establishment of the state database of the integrated planning information system (IPSIS)” which, among other things, is the main system for monitoring the performance achieved against the policies and objectives planned in the strategic documents. The MSHS/SARPC, with the contribution of the Inter-institutional Working Group, established by order of the Minister of MSHS⁴, and the technical support of UNICEF in Albania, completed the drafting of the NARC monitoring report for the years 2021-2025.

Based on the legal obligation, the monitoring report, drafted by the Ministry of Health, Children and Family Development and the inter-institutional group, and will be presented to the National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child.

4. Order No. 519, dated September 23, 2020, “On the establishment of the inter-institutional working group for the drafting of the National Agenda for Children’s Rights 2021–2025” of the Minister of Health and Social Protection.

3

METHODOLOGY

The NARC monitoring report presents an analysis of the results achieved and financial expenditures incurred for the period 2021–2025. The report presents an overview of the progress made so far, as well as the trend for the implementation and achievement of the objectives set by 2026.

In response to the NARC’s monitoring and reporting obligation, the MOHMS, supported by UNICEF in Albania, took the following steps to carry out the drafting of this report:

- agreeing on the methodology for drafting the report with the Inter-Institutional Working Group.
- drafting instruments adapted to each institution reporting on measures/activities, for collecting detailed information on each measure and each result indicator, including budgetary data for the period 2021-2026. These instruments took into account the IPSIS instruments.
- review of published reports and studies related to the field;
- consultation with children.
- drafting the first draft of the NARC monitoring report.
- consultation with line ministries and responsible institutions on the initial draft.
- finalization of the 2021-2025 summary monitoring report.

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES

To report on the implementation of the measures foreseen in the NARC, an instrument was drafted, which identifies all activities planned for the years 2021-2026. The instrument requires each institution identified in the NARC to report on the implementation of the measures/activities, including information on the current status of the

realization/implementation of the activity, what has been concretely achieved, the challenges and issues encountered during the implementation, the actors involved in the implementation, as well as information on the expenses incurred.

The tool allows the status/progress of the implementation of the activity to be reported according to several categories (*realized, partially realized and not realized*).

Legend of the assessment of the progress of the implementation of activities

Legend	Explanation
Fully realized	The scope of the activity has been fully implemented, as defined in the action plan.
Partially realized	The scope of the activity has been achieved to a degree of 50 to 100%.
Unrealized	The scope of the activity has been implemented at a rate of less than 50%.

REPORTING CHALLENGES:

- ▶ Central and local institutions have reported on the implementation of measures and activities in a partial form, creating difficulties in presenting the real status of the implementation or non-implementation of activities. Greater difficulties have been identified in reporting at the local level, where only 51 out of 66 LGUs have reported information.
- ▶ Some of the responsible reporting institutions have provided cursory information on the progress of activities, not reflecting the cross-sectoral approach to the implementation of activities, or being transparent about the difficulties encountered in fulfilling the measures.

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON INDICATORS

A dedicated instrument collected information on the achievement of indicators. Information on the achievement of indicators was grouped according to: a) the result of indicators at the level of strategic goals; b) the result of indicators at the level of specific objectives. Information on activity indicators was included in the reporting of the progress of activities and not separately.

In total, the NARC contains 20 indicators related to the 4 strategic goals and 36 indicators at the level of specific objectives. To collect information on the progress achieved on the indicators, dedicated instruments were designed for each responsible institution.

REPORTING CHALLENGES:

There are indicators for which reporting is not possible, as institutions have not yet invested in their measurement. They are categorized as unreported. For example, among the strategic indicators, 7 out of 20 of them fall into this category, for the following reasons:

- ▶ Two of the indicators are based on surveys that do not occur on an annual basis; therefore, reporting for them is not expected to occur at this reporting stage. These indicators are: 1. 'Proportion of children (1-14 years old) who have experienced physical punishment and/or psychological violence by their parents/guardians'; 2. Educational completion rate (for all three levels) (source: INSTAT/MICS). For two indicators, reporting will be possible with the completion of the MICS in 2026.
- ▶ For one indicator, "Children 0-17 years old in residential centers with a maximum capacity of 10 children", reporting is not possible due to the lack of a methodology agreed upon by the institutions responsible for their measurement.
- ▶ For some indicators, especially those with local self-government units as a source, full reporting was dependent on information collected from all institutions with reporting obligations. Because only 51 out of 61 LGUs reported for this report, difficulties were encountered in reflecting the realism of the indicators.

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL EXPENSES

For reporting expenses, the following information was requested from the responsible institutions:

- ▶ indicative costs of the action plan (in total and expressed as a percentage) for each activity, measure, specific objective and goal;
- ▶ actual expenses, incurred from all funding sources (state budget and partner institutions/organizations);
- ▶ expenses covered by the end of 2025 compared to indicative costs (expressed as a percentage).

- ▶ The designed instrument enabled data collection according to the “Methodological Guide for Performance Reports”.

REPORTING CHALLENGES:

- ▶ The responsible institutions encountered difficulties in reporting actual expenditure for measures and activities, not reporting actual expenditure, neither in total nor by funding source. In order to estimate actual expenditure for fully implemented and/or partially implemented measures and activities, an indirect methodology was used. Actual expenditure was calculated and reported based on the reporting on the progress of the activity, the results achieved and the description of expenditure (IPSIS format).
- ▶ The progress of some activities has been reported not only by the responsible institution, but also by partner institutions. To increase the accuracy of reporting, information on the progress of measures and expenditures should be consolidated and reported only by the responsible institution. Reporting the same activity by several institutions in some cases creates overlap and may be accompanied by inaccuracies in the reporting of actual expenditures.

CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, in cooperation with the State Agency for Children’s Rights and Protection, the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Educational Directorates in the Municipalities of Saranda, Kukës, Kamëz, Tirana, Elbasan, and Pukë and the support of UNICEF Albania, Save the Children and World Vision led the NARC consultation process with children.

In the frame of the mid-term report in July 2022, 150 girls and boys, aged 11-17, participated in several consultation meetings, enabling them to better understand the strategic document, but also to reflect on the main strategic goals/objectives more specifically and to provide their contribution on the current situation, their applicability and what needs to be done to realize children’s rights in Albania. This document served as a guide for the planned consultation process with children as part of the monitoring report on the applicability of the CRC in Albania.

For the consultation with children, a dedicated methodology was followed, adapted to the age of the children and respecting their interests.

4

CHILDREN'S VOICE

The consultation of children on the implementation of the NARC measures was an important, informative, voluntary and participatory process, carried out in 3 cities in different geographical areas (Saranda, Kukës and Pukë, Kamëz, Tirana, and Elbasan), facilitated by professionals in collaboration with the SARPC and the Education Directorates. Below is a presentation of children's opinions regarding the implementation of the measures of each NARC strategic goal.

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE FUNCTION OF RESPECTING, PROTECTING AND FULFILLING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Children expressed that it is important to be informed about their rights and all processes or decisions that are taken to guarantee their implementation. Institutions responsible for the implementation of children's rights should do more to share appropriate and age-friendly information. Children think that more friendly spaces or appropriate environments should be created, where they can express themselves more freely about ideas, rights and opportunities to report.

Children demand that adults become familiar with the Law on the Rights and Protection of Children, and with the National Agenda for the Rights of the Child, as well as with the institutions that guarantee their implementation and monitor the realization of children's rights, demand greater accountability, and convey this information to children.



"Awareness campaigns, which can be developed by the children/students themselves in collaboration with teachers

and psychologists, to achieve greater information and awareness regarding our rights..."

"We need to have motivation and courage to achieve our goals, the activities created by the municipality need to be expanded further, so that there is higher participation."

Children expressed that adults should make more efforts to include children in decision-making processes and to make them participants in the implementation of their proposals, although there are efforts to establish services that promote the participation and engagement of children and youth.



"Regarding the current situation in our city of Puka, some things have been achieved, for example the youth center where we all have the right to participate, as well as education without distinction of religion, region, belief, language or race; freedom of expression of opinion without violating the rights of others."

Children expressed that they often do not know that they enjoy the right to participate and express their thoughts and opinions in the family, school or community.



"Some things that haven't been implemented are that they haven't included us in some activities that the municipality has organized, and the right to decision-making is not implemented for children and young people in our city."



“The rights that are implemented in our city are: The right to freedom, the right to speech, the right to have a family, the right to a name. The rights that are not implemented in our city are: The right not to be discriminated against, the right not to be trafficked, the right not to be bullied, the right to a special institution for children with disabilities. As for the latter, it is also related to the right not to be discriminated against, as many children or students with disabilities feel separated from the rest, as they do not have a special institution to have full and dedicated care.”

ELIMINATING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AND PROTECTING CHILDREN

The presence of various forms of violence is reported by children, by a good part of them, as a phenomenon that is present and that needs to be talked about more and more efforts made to reduce it.



“In school, there are cases where we encounter different forms of violence, such as: verbal, psychological and physical violence. In most cases, verbal violence occurs more among students, but there are cases where it is also practiced by teachers against students.”

“In cases where a teacher uses violence against a student, we must immediately notify the school principal so that measures can be taken.”

“Domestic violence is fueled by the pressure that parents put on their children. It also comes as a result of the dissatisfaction that parents have in their daily lives, which they show to their children.”

“When children surf the internet, they are exposed to many risks, some of which affect their moral and psychological state.”

Children think that the family, school, the community where they live, the child protection unit, and other institutions should talk more about violence and better address it through concrete actions.



“The majority of children would like to see significant changes in their school environments in terms of bullying, physical violence, discrimination, racism and inequality. If there were major changes in these areas, children would have a more peaceful social life and would feel safer in school environments.”

“Domestic violence is quite widespread today; if parents would change their relationship with their children, but also with all other children, and if they behaved more peacefully and were more gentle with their children, then the children would feel safe and would retain very beautiful memories from their childhood.”

“Violence in the digital world is one of the most widespread forms of violence, considering the rapid development of technology and the effect that social networks have on every child and young person. If parents were more careful with their children and explained more about the world of the internet, children would be more careful.”

“The municipality and the school must take concrete measures in cases of violence of any form”

Children report disturbing relationship dynamics among themselves, which are not always identified or addressed by the teaching staff.



“We would like appropriate places for children and to know where to turn when we feel violated.”

“No child should be bullied, especially those with disabilities.”

Children expressed that more information should be shared regarding reporting different forms of violence, and everyone's role in protecting children.



"To have a functional psychologist at school, so that we can be informed on various topics and where we have the opportunity to express ourselves."

"We ourselves can contribute to the implementation of children's rights by participating in various shows."

"Various organizations that deal with children's rights also have an important role in preventing blackmail, threats or online bullying or any other form of violence"

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT FRIENDLY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

Children indicated during consultation meetings that they need better teaching conditions, with more professional teachers who support inclusion and better opportunities for children with disabilities.



"In our schools, we encounter several problems, such as the difficulty of developing teaching in collective classes and the lack of laboratories, computer rooms and sports fields. These problems are perhaps not as common for city schools, but they are for rural schools, and we think it is necessary that rural schools, like those in cities, have the same educational infrastructure and investments."

"As a solution to the aforementioned problems, we believe that collective classes should be merged, the number of students in classes should be reduced, investment in school facilities should be made, specialist teachers for Physical Education classes should be hired, and

schools should be equipped with gyms and sports equipment. I believe that all schools that do not have these things should and should have them."

"We don't have professionals to advise us on our careers."

Children expressed that they need activities to be held at school that support their education, beyond the school day with a variety of activities.



"The school lacks activities that can be done after school hours."

"For many students, it would be very helpful if after school, an after-school program for homework or projects were developed, where students could help each other, but also have teachers to support us, since not all children can be helped with their homework by their parents, and they may also have difficulties themselves." (Pukö)
Opening a health center in schools to provide a multifunctional service.

"There needs to be better programmes for children with disabilities of all ages."

Children highlight the problems of violence in schools. They expressed that schools should do more to make information about child protection available.



"Developing awareness-raising activities more frequently by psychologists and social workers, regarding informing children about safe internet use and, information campaigns and providing sensitizing messages regarding the violence that children may experience."

"To hold informative conversations from the school with parents on issues of social media use, parental control, age limits, and to encourage conversation between parents and children on issues that both parties consider important."



“Psychologists and social workers can do more hours and information activities on violence and bullying.”

“Training of police officers”

Children describe poverty as the main reason for exclusion, lack of accessibility and discrimination in school. They highlight the impact of poverty in forcing children to work and, thus, drop out of school, as well as the risk of leading them to crime or risky behavior.

“Opportunities for involvement in various activities are not always the same for a child living in the city and for another living in the countryside, because for me, for example, I have to take the van and pay for it myself to come from home to the cultural center and it is something that prevents me from developing an X talent that I might have.”

PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Children reported that the development towards digitalization has positive values such as: obtaining information, communicating with relatives, creating various projects and having fun, but they need to be informed and made aware of the consequences and risks of unsafe internet use, such as: exposure to inappropriate photos and videos, identity theft, threats and blackmail, various dangerous games, and failure to take the necessary measures by relevant institutions to increase children's safety online.

Children reported several difficulties in implementing their right to development in the digital world:



“ The lack of specialized computer programs for children at school and each of us must have a personal computer or laptop at home to work on a specific task since school does not provide this.”



“Lack of specialized teachers for ICT subjects.”

“More computer labs in schools.”

“Very often we are encountering cases of online bullying, or cyber-bullying, where children are harassed, insulted, and mocked by various people on social networks, but no one informs us or advises us on how to protect ourselves.”

“Parents need to be more informed, more careful and explain to their children about the dangers of the digital world, but on the other hand, children also need to be more open with their parents to tell them when they don't feel safe online or when they experience online bullying.”

“Creating sports spaces and appropriate spaces where we can showcase our talents or skills and organizing competitions on these topics.”

The children expressed that information campaigns should be conducted on illegal and unsafe websites for children, as well as developing awareness-raising activities related to safe internet use.

5

PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES

Goal I.

Good governance in the function of respecting, protecting and fulfilling children's rights.

The NARC aims to improve governance in order to promote, respect and ensure children's rights, improve monitoring of the situation of children's rights, as well as establish participatory mechanisms for children in the decision-making of central and local institutions.

The institutions have reported all indicators related to the specific objectives of this strategic goal, and their implementation is complete. Information was reported for 12 out of 19 activities that are part of the strategic goal, of which only 67% were fully implemented.



TABLE 5. LEVEL OF REPORTING OF RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)

Number of indicators	Unreported	Reported
4	0	4
100%	0%	100%



TABLE 6. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)

No. of indicators	Fully realized	Partially completed	Unrealized
4	4	0	0
100%	100%	0%	0%



TABLE 7. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
4	19	12	63%

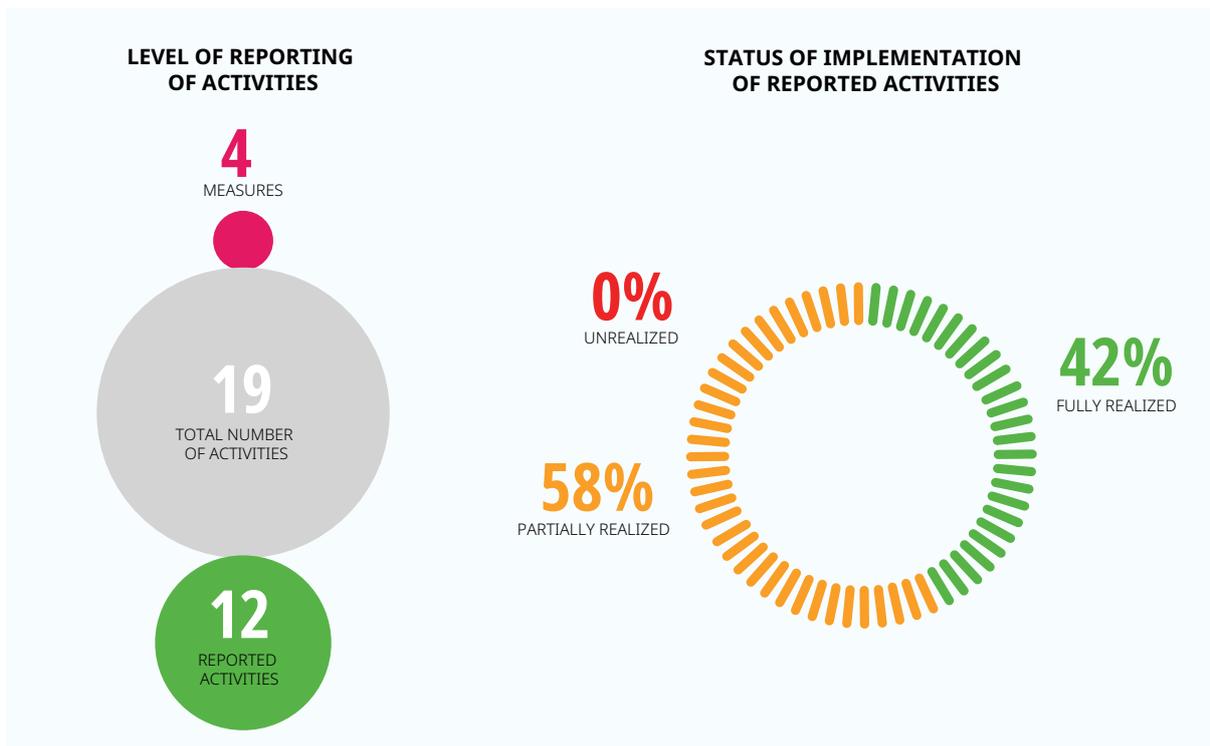


TABLE 8. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORTED ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	5	42%
Partially realized	7	58%
Unrealized	0	

During the period 2021–2025, 100% of planned expenditures was realized, with a distribution that covers both fully implemented and partially implemented activities.



TABLE 9. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	5	33,698,833	42.00%	33,698,83	100%	33.00%	67.00%
Partially realized	7	46,536,483	58.00%	46,536,483	100%	33.00%	67.00%
Unrealized	0						

Specific objective I.1.

Strengthened institutions and mechanisms for respecting, protecting and fulfilling children's rights (4 measures and 19 activities).

The main indicators at the level of specific objectives under this strategic goal are:

→ 100% increase in the annual budget of the SARPC in 2023 (realized).

→ number of LGUs (at least 2) with functional mechanisms/forums for the inclusion of children in decision-making/number of children involved – (implemented, Dibër and Shkodër).

→ 100% of central and local plan policies informed by data analysis – (implemented by all institutions).

→ increase (by 2% per year) in complaints and issues handled by independent human rights institutions on children's rights – (achieved).

In the following, the reporting is organized according to the information collected corresponding to the activities listed in this objective.

Albania has taken important steps in strengthening good governance to ensure the protection and fulfillment of children's rights, by placing children's issues at the core of cross-sectoral policies and mechanisms. At the central level, efforts have been intensified to strengthen the structures responsible for the design and coordination of cross-sectoral strategies that impact children. In this context, UNICEF Albania has actively supported the Government of Albania in integrating the children's agenda into national policies, including through the integration of children's issues into the work of the Integrated Policy Management Groups the National Council for the Rights and Protection of Children (NCRPC). Partnerships for the implementation of the National Agenda for the Rights of the Child have also been strengthened through the establishment of coordination forums with donors and international partners.

During the years 2023–2024, the National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child held two of its regular meetings, with the purpose and main discussion themes focusing on:

1. The presentation of the Monitoring Report on the implementation of the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2021–2026, covering the years 2021–2022.
2. The presentation of the situation of children's rights, including achievements and challenges in addressing issues that affect children's lives and the protection of their rights.
3. The presentation and approval of the action plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
4. The presentation of the "Child Guarantee" model, as one of the priority measures of the National Social Protection Strategy 2024–2030.

At the meeting of the National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child held on 26 November 2025, the following issues were discussed:

1. The presentation of the draft law "On Family-Based Alternative Care in the Republic of Albania."
2. The presentation of the "National Plan for the European Child Guarantee."
3. The presentation of the "National Plan for the Transformation of Residential Social Care for Children into Alternative Child- and Family-Based Services 2025–2026."

The State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child (SARPC) is an institution under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, which coordinates work on child rights and protection issues. UNICEF Albania has helped strengthen the capacities of the SARPC, through training and reviewing the internal structure, enabling

more efficient inter-institutional coordination. In accordance with the measures of the Agenda for Strengthening the Role of the SARPC, by Order No. 23/3, dated 22.10.2024 of the Minister of Health and Social Protection, the number of employees of the Agency has increased from 7 to 9 employees, adding 2 new employees to the structure of the institution.

At the local level, mechanisms for the implementation of the Child and Adolescent Friendly Cities initiative have been established and operationalized in at least six municipalities, supported by detailed analyses of the situation of children in the respective territories. UNICEF Albania has facilitated the drafting of Local Plans for Children and enabled the active participation of children in public consultations. The establishment of local mechanisms for the “Child-Friendly Municipality” initiative has been implemented in the Municipality of Korça and Dibër, with the signing of agreements between the municipalities and UNICEF Albania. Based on the data/statistics and the [analysis of the situation of children in the Municipality of Korça](#), the Municipal Council has approved [the Local Plan for Children 2023-2025, “Korça – Child-Friendly Municipality”](#). Following the same process of evidence policymaking, the [Data for Children for the Municipality of Dibra](#), provided the ground for the [Local plan for Children in the Municipality of Dibra](#).

Improving monitoring and reporting mechanisms has been another key pillar. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA) and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Albanian Government has submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child [responses to a list of questions](#) covering the period 2019-2022 following the State report submitted in 2019. With the support of UNICEF Albania, NCRPC and line structures has prepared a national action plan with around 300 measures to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In terms of budgeting for children, initiatives have been taken to strengthen institutional capacities to analyze funding trends and reprioritize public spending in order to achieve results for children. UNICEF Albania has collaborated with the Parliament and the Ministry of Finance to promote child-sensitive budgeting mechanisms and has influenced the adoption of new policies that guarantee transparency and accountability. Another important achievement is the advancement of statistics and data system in order to realize children’s rights.

The statistical dashboard (statistikafemijet.gov.al) has been updated, with the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child (SARPC) playing a coordinating role with the reporting institutions. Visually, the platform presents data in graphical form and displays trends over time for each indicator. Acknowledging the challenges in reporting various indicators, the necessary changes were approved through Council of Ministers Decision (DCM) No. 471, dated 6 July 2022⁵, and the list of indicators has now been expanded to 61 indicators.

INSTAT, in cooperation with line ministries, has begun preparations for the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2025–2026). The results of this survey, expected to be published in 2026, will enrich the set of indicators focused on children and women and will serve as a data source for monitoring national policies.

For the first time, [the National Programme of Official Statistics 2022-2026](#) portrays child/adolescent and youth statistics as a core component of social statistics. In this framework, INSTAT has established an online dashboard for the visualization of the [official statistics for children and youth](#). INSTAT has also published the 2023 Census data, at national and regional level, which includes data on children with disabilities by gender, age group, status and type of disability.⁶ The secondary analysis report is underway based on the Census 2023 data, focusing on children and youth. The in-depth analysis of the 2023 Census,

5. Decision No. 471, dated 6 July 2022, “On an amendment to Decision No. 636, dated 26 October 2018, of the Council of Ministers, ‘On the determination of the types, methods of exchange, and processing of information and statistical data requested by the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child (ASHDMF) from responsible state structures at central and local levels.’

6. <https://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/censet/censet-e-popullsis%C3%AB-dhe-banesave/publikimet-cesnsusi-i-popullsis%C3%AB-dhe-banesave/2023/publikimet-e-censit-t%C3%AB-popullsis%C3%AB-dhe-banesave-2023/>

with a focus on children and youth, is nearing completion. INSTAT has conducted trainings with municipal employees (budget, preschool education, human resources, etc.), regarding the improvement and production of statistics that inform policies for preschool education and help improve the quality of childcare.

Child participation has been promoted as an essential part of good governance. Mechanisms for the involvement of children at central and local levels have been established, including mechanisms for independent monitoring of the Agenda for the Rights of the Child. The capacities of children and adolescents themselves have been strengthened through programs such as UPSHIFT, Ponder, and training in social entrepreneurship, active citizenship, critical thinking and digital skills. The use of digital platforms such as U-report has also been expanded, giving children a voice to address issues that affect them both online and offline, at local, national and international levels.

Children's participation, according to reports from institutions, local government units and organizations, has been achieved for the most part within the framework of the implementation of programs by organizations through the engagement of student governments, youth groups and children's groups and the youth parliament ⁷.

A concrete example of the implementation of this measure is the Municipality of Elbasan, which has taken important steps to create functional mechanisms for children's participation in decision-making processes. Within the framework of the National Agenda for Children's Rights and in cooperation with the Observatory for Children's Rights, the Municipality has implemented the "Child-Friendly Cities" initiative, which aims to strengthen the active participation of children in the development of their city, giving voice to their opinions and ideas for their well-being and rights. This approach combines institutional decision-making (top-down) with

community and child involvement (bottom-up). In this context, meetings were held with local stakeholders to plan activities that include children in the urban and social development processes of the city. The "How I Love My City" campaign was also held, where children from 9-year-old and high schools gave their ideas for a friendly city, through paintings, videos, models and essays. These ideas were included in an official album, which was delivered to the Mayor of Elbasan by the children themselves, in order to be taken into account in decision-making on urban development, public spaces, safety and children's entertainment. This model represents a structured and documented mechanism of children's participation at the local level, which can serve as a good practice for the independent monitoring mechanism of the implementation of the Agenda for Children's Rights.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) has drafted two documents: 1) the National Civil Emergency Plan and 2) the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. This process has included training on issues related to the effects of climate change and the environment on children ⁸. The MoD is also in the process of integrating knowledge in the field of civil protection into the curricula of the pre-university system.

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Minister of State for Youth and Children, and the Municipality of Tirana have drafted a cooperation agreement in the field of environmental education, which also includes education on the impact of climate change on children's lives and beyond.

A [budget](#) analysis was conducted to provide more information on trends in budget planning and execution in three sectors: education, social assistance, and health. The findings and recommendations from the budget analysis were used to advocate for increased social spending in the annual parliamentary sessions for the 2022 and 2023 budget draft laws.

7. World Vision reported that during the period 2021-2022, 1,381 children and adolescents were involved in training sessions and capacity building for active citizenship and advocacy, promoting critical thinking. 70 adolescents were trained in 2022 on digital literacy and 21st century skills (communication, innovation, critical thinking, etc.), as well as on the use of technology for advocacy purposes. CRCA/ECPAT Albania supported the Children's Group and the Youth Parliament to contribute to the preparation of the Alternative Report on the Rights of the Child, as well as to present it before the DF Committee in Geneva.

8. The Initiative ARSIS, with the support of UNDP within the framework of the "Response Measures for Social Protection after the Earthquake" program, has contributed to the preparation of the Action Plan for emergency response for vulnerable groups, including the response for child protection in the Municipality of Kruië, Durrës and Shijak (2022).

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has strengthened the national Social Protection Management Information System (MIS) to more effectively profile, target, support, access and monitor beneficiaries of social services programs. Training on the MIS of over 500 social welfare workers (CPU/NARU) led to increased use of the system at the municipal level in recording, monitoring and reporting data.

The U-Report platform, an innovative way to expand and use digital technology to realize the rights of children and young people at local, national and international levels to raise their voices on issues that directly affect them *online* and *offline*, has been consolidated and continues its activities to promote it as a key tool to bring the voice of young people to the decision-making level. U-Report⁹ has become a key tool in policy development, such as for the youth strategy, air pollution, the call to action at the Education Transformation Summit, etc.

Although the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2021–2026 does not provide for specific measures for the Ombudsman (OP), the institution has continued its activities in accordance with its constitutional and legal mandate to protect children's rights. The OP has promoted children's participation and has assessed measures for the dignified living and social inclusion of children with disabilities as insufficient. It has also emphasized the necessity of accelerating deinstitutionalization and strengthening community services.

The Ombudsman finalized [the Children's Rights Impact Assessment Report on COVID-19 Response Measures](#), with the support of UNICEF Albania and the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children. The findings and recommendations were launched at the end of 2022 and the commitment of all responsible actors was sought for their implementation.

The Ombudsman (Section for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights) during 2021-2025 has handled 697 complaints/requests, including 276 complaints/requests received from children themselves and 191 complaints/requests on behalf of children and 166 complaints/requests han-

dled through initiatives and inspections, with the object of children's rights and protection according to the source of the complaint/request (by the child, on behalf of the child, on the initiative of the ombudsman) and the status of case management (in process / closed).

With the 2020 amendments to the Law on Protection from Discrimination¹⁰, the protected grounds and forms of discrimination were expanded, the mandate of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination was strengthened, and the obligation of public authorities to promote equality was emphasized. The role of civil society organizations to file complaints and lawsuits in defense of collective interests and individual rights was also strengthened. The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination has handled 57 complaints with children in the field of education and 10 complaints in the field of goods and services. So, a total of 67 complaints with children. Of these, 42 complaints were registered during 2024 and 11 complaints were carried over from 2023.

During the years 2021-2025, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination organized and participated in a series of information and awareness-raising activities in schools across the country, addressing topics such as children's rights, discrimination, segregation, bullying, hate speech and mental health. These activities aimed to raise awareness, promote equality and strengthen cooperation between institutions, parents, teachers and students for the protection of human and children's rights.

During April 2022, the Group of Deputies "Friends of Children" held a hearing session with the young people of the "Raqi Qirinxhi" high school, Korça, who presented their petition to the Speaker of the Parliament, the MPs and the participants, which aimed to strengthen parliamentary control and take legislative measures (if necessary) to increase efforts to prevent sexual crimes against minors in our country. Following this meeting, the Group of Deputies "Friends of Children," in cooperation with the Helsinki Committee, held on 28.9.2022 a hearing session on the topic: "Active young people address their voice in the Parliament" with representatives of other

9. With the support of the Observatory for Children and Youth Rights/UNICEF Albania, 360 young people were actively engaged in the design of surveys and post-survey feedback discussions, 10,000 young people were reached through various information and promotional activities organized by U-reporters.

10. Law 124/2020 "On some additions and amendments to Law No. 221/04.02.2010 on protection against discrimination"

high schools in Albania. On 4.7.2022, the “Friends of Children” Group of Deputies held a hearing on unaccompanied foreign children with the aim of training on the difficulties of responding to their needs in the territory of the Republic of Albania in cooperation with UNICEF Albania and UNHCR. In the framework of the well-being and education of children, during 2022, a program for extracurricular activities has also been developed, which

will be implemented in 200 schools across the country, starting in January 2023. This is a program that aims to offer extracurricular courses in 5 different disciplines for children and young people in the disciplines: arts, crafts, agriculture, environment, sports, and information technology. This will also bring about the application and development of children’s knowledge in the field of tourism.



TABLE 10. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
4	19	12	63%



TABLE 11. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	5	42%
Partially realized	7	58%
Unrealized	0	

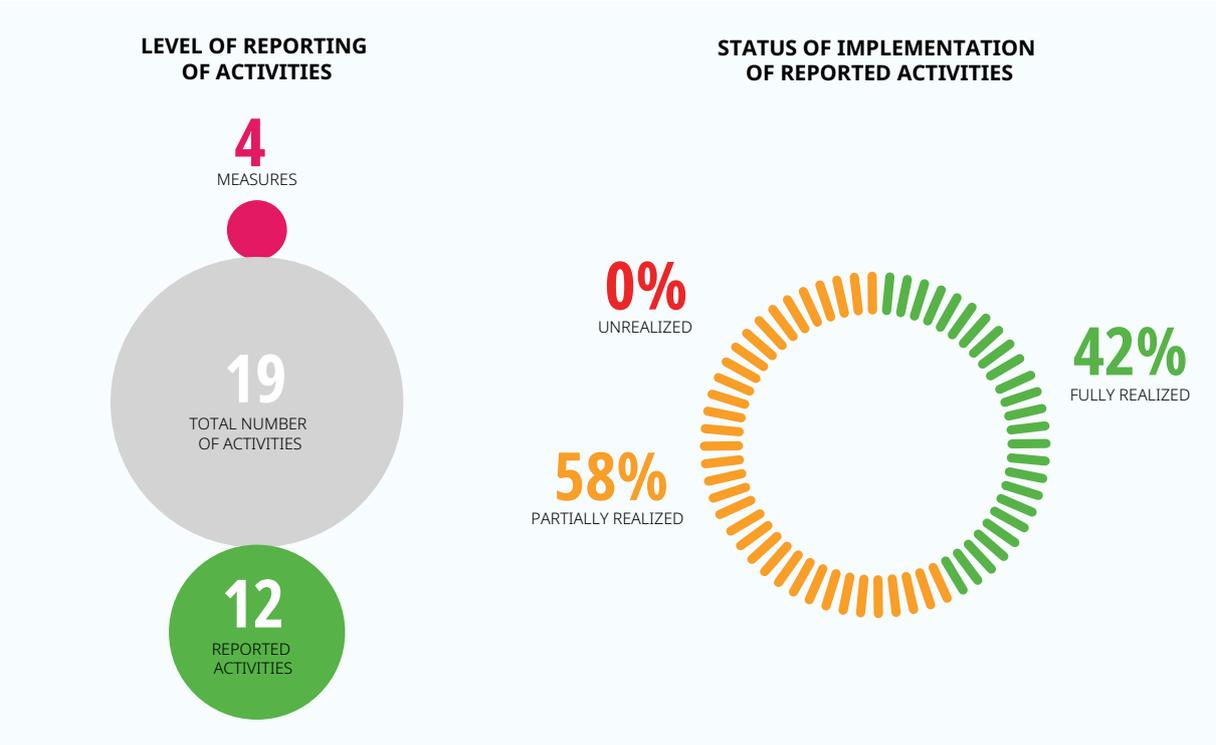




TABLE 12. EXPENDITURES ACCORDING TO THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	5	33,698,833	42.00%	33,698,83	100%	33.00%	67.00%
Partially realized	7	46,536,483	58.00%	46,536,483	100%	33.00%	67.00%
Unrealized	0						

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

The planned expenditures for the activities of this objective have been calculated on the basis of indicative costs and resources identified in the action plan. According to the data, for the period 2021–2026 the planned budget has been fully implemented, distributed between fully implemented and partially implemented activities. In total, 100% of the planned funds have been spent, with no unimplemented activities or financial gaps remaining.

Goal II.

Eliminate all forms of violence and protect children.

Regarding the sources of financing, 33% of the expenditures have been covered by the budget of the responsible institutions, while 67% have been financed by partner organizations and institutions.

Goal II addressed the elimination of all forms of violence and child protection, including raising children in a supportive environment with positive parenting practices that protect them from violence and abuse. This goal focuses on the functioning of an effective and comprehensive system for child protection through improving the normative, budgetary and reporting framework for child protection and strengthening the capacities of mechanisms and services for training on violence against children. This goal prioritized the establishment and improvement of specific and integrated mechanisms and ser-



TABLE 13. LEVEL OF REPORTING OF RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)

Number of indicators	Unreported	Reported
11	1	10
100%	9%	91%



TABLE 14. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORTED RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)

No. of indicators	Fully realized	Partially completed	Unrealized
10	8	2	0
100%	80%	20%	0%



TABLE 15. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
4	51	49	96%



TABLE 16. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORTED ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	27	55%
Partially realized	12	24%
Unrealized	10	21%

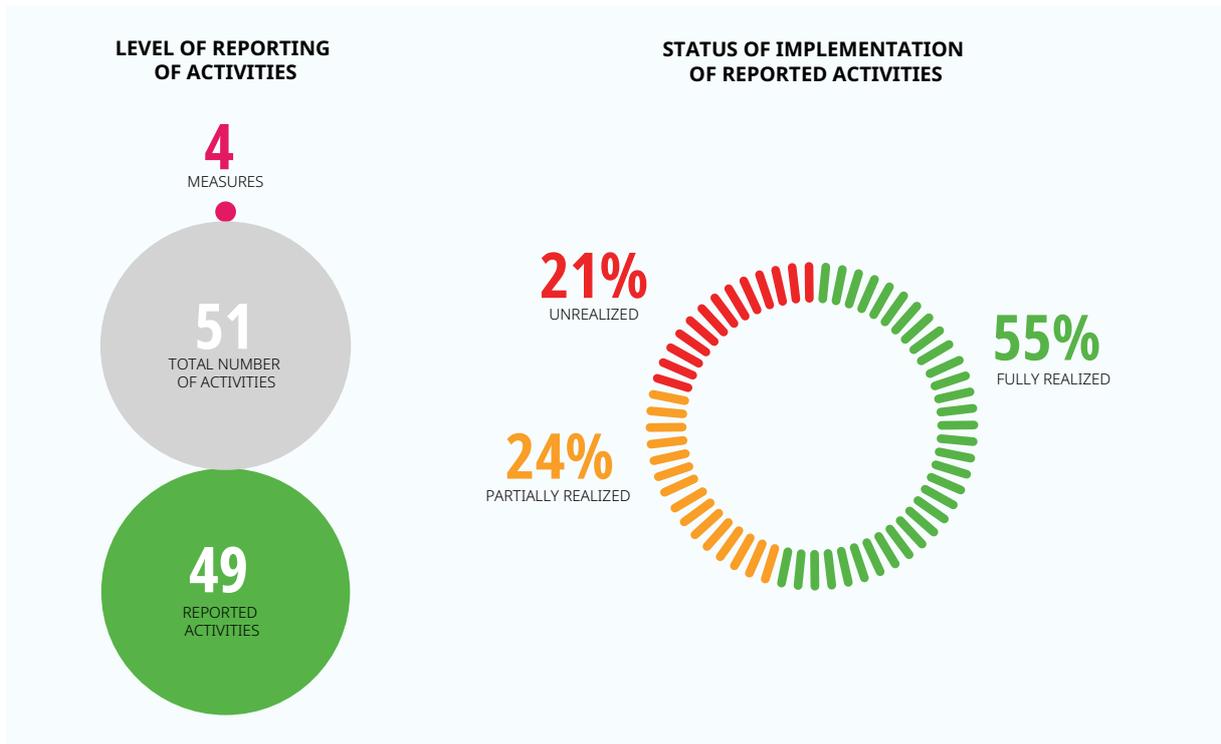


TABLE 17. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	27	7,801,314	55.00%	177,801,314	100.00%	46.92%	53.08%
Partially realized	12	77,586,028	24.00%	77,586,028	100.00%	46.92%	53.08%
Unrealized	10	67,887,775	21.00%	67,887,775			

Specific objective II.1.

Children grow up in a supportive environment, with positive parenting practices that protect them from violence and abuse.

vices for training on the most serious forms of violence, including sexual abuse, *online abuse and exploitation*.

Institutions have reported on 91% of the indicators related to the specific objectives of this strategic goal, and the realization of only 80% of them has been fully enabled.

Information has been reported for 49 out of 51 activities that are part of the strategic goal, of which only 55% have been fully implemented/realized.

Indicator at strategic objective level:

Knowledge, attitudes and positive practices of parents/guardians in the context of violence prevention and training - Realized.

With the support of UNICEF Albania, the first wave of the survey measuring public knowledge and attitudes towards violence against children was conducted. **The results** were published in 2023, also laying the foundations for the comparative methodology to be used in the survey planned for 2026¹¹. This study provides an important comparative basis to measure changes that will be assessed again in 2026. It confirms the existence of negative social norms, which still consider violence against children as a private matter and do not encourage reporting.

To address these norms, UNICEF Albania has supported the development of national and local awareness-raising campaigns, which aim to inform the public about forms of violence, including trafficking, sexual violence, and bullying, as well as the rights of victims of trafficking and exploitation. In this context, campaigns such as “Truth in the Light” have been developed in partnership with influencers and the Ministry of Interior, using contemporary approaches to community education.

Now a tradition, during October, designated as the “month of the fight against human trafficking,” the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with state institutions and partner organizations, has organized sensitization and awareness-raising activities to prevent human trafficking, including children, every year in the 12 regions of the

11. <https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/reporting-violence-against-children-albania>

country. Based on the national anti-trafficking calendar, activities during this month focused mainly on exhibitions with works by high school and 9-year-old school students; discussion forums at the local level on trafficking issues; awareness-raising activities on child trafficking with local representatives, students and high school students; television programs on national and local television; awareness-raising marches in the capital and in regional centers; distribution of awareness-raising materials, information boxes and tents, etc. To promote the National Line 116006 during Anti-Trafficking Month, in addition to its announcement in activities, a minivan with the Line 116006 logo “traveled” through the main municipalities of the 12 counties, also going near schools, squares, visible places, etc. To promote the Line, a communication strategy is being built, targeted for social networks, with the slogan: NO TO TRAFFICKING: CALL FOR CHANGE! which will make the public aware of its importance, have confidence in anonymity and see it as an effective tool to combat trafficking.

During 2021-2025, the positive parenting education module has been designed for professionals at child and family support service centers in two pilot municipalities as part of the process of transforming social care institutions into community services and to support the process of reunifying children with their families in two municipalities, Korça and Vlora, under the monitoring of the State Social Service. There have also been efforts to collect and organize existing modules of organizations based on their experiences in designing parenting modules and to create a unified package of knowledge on positive parenting. The ARSIS Initiative Association, with the support of UNICEF Albania, has designed the “I am here for you” parenting program, with the ultimate goal of reducing the risk of abuse and separation of children from their families caused by emergencies in Albania. The aim of this program is to help families cope with the challenges of everyday life and unusual and unexpected events, reducing the impact that all of these can have on the health and well-being

of the child and the family. Several supporting materials have been prepared in the form of brochures, with the aim of educating and raising awareness about all forms of violence, abuse, trafficking and exploitation of children.

Also, the “Convention on the Rights of the Child” has been published in a child-friendly format, with friendly language, accompanied by illustrations of cartoon characters. Brochures have been prepared in English to inform Afghan citizens accommodated in Albania about the child protection system, forms of violence and the method of reporting and referral.

In line with the National Strategy for Gender Equality, the sharing of parental responsibilities between mothers and fathers, and the education of children without gender stereotypes, has been promoted. This is also reflected in the Reggio Emilia approach to preschool education supported by UNICEF Albania, which encourages the involvement of fathers in education and the creation of an inclusive environment that rejects violence and discrimination.

Meanwhile, the Bebbio digital platform has been used to deliver standardized information on positive parenting and child development, engaging over 20,000 parents, including 3,400 fathers. This platform conveys messages on child protection, early development and gender equality, and has been promoted through public services in at least four counties.

During 2021–2022, 922 people participated in positive parenting trainings by Terre des Hommes. WVA has implemented the “In the Labyrinth” project, which targets raising awareness among the general population, especially parents, about the issue of violence against children. During 2021, a total of 4,836 individuals visited the “Labyrinth”; while in 2022, 1,487 individuals visited this installation.

In the 27 administrative units in the Municipality of Tirana, in some of the community centers, parenting clubs have been established and are functioning (on positive disciplines, on the joint



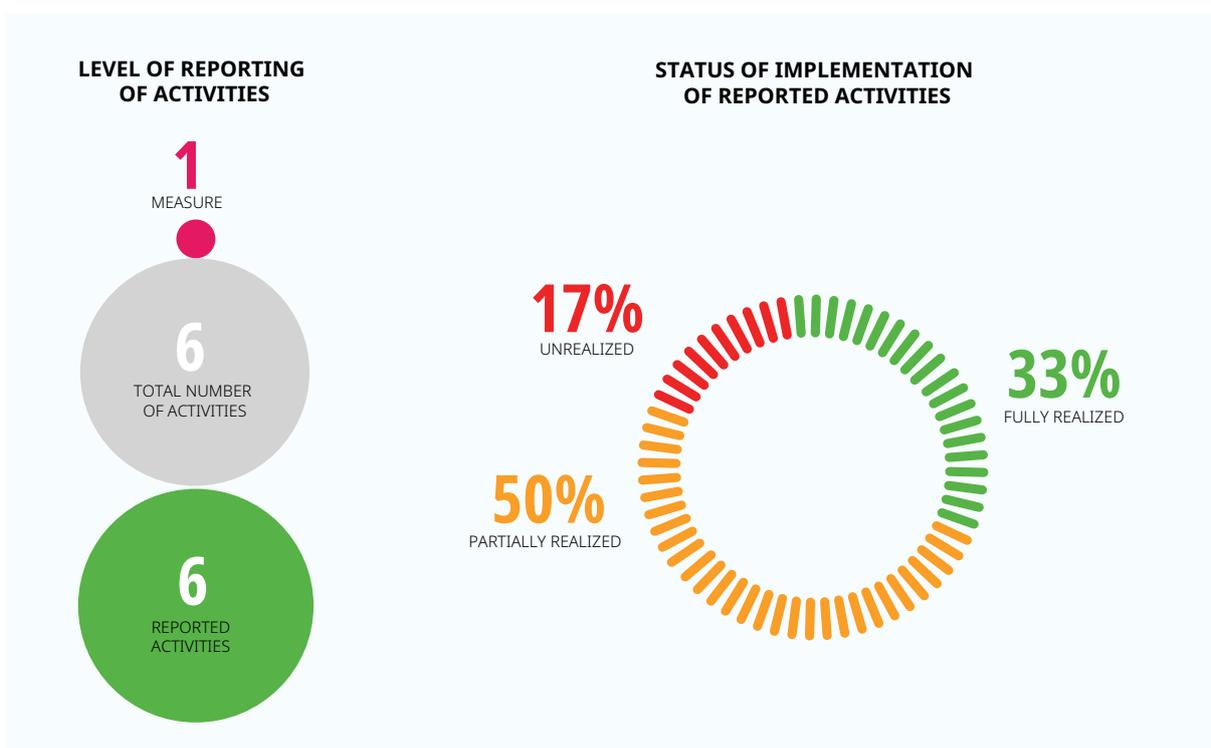
TABLE 18. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
1	6	6	100%



TABLE 19. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	2	33%
Partially realized	3	50%
Unrealized	1	17%





**TABLE 20. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES
(IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)**

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	2	14,787,556	33.00%	14,787,556	100%	49.96%	50.04%
Partially realized	3	22,405,387	50.00%	22,405,388	100%	49.96%	50.04%
Unrealized	1	7,617,831	17.00%	7,617,832			

and equal responsibilities of mothers and fathers towards children, on raising children free from gender stereotypes and educating them on the values of gender equality appropriate for all age groups). The parent training module based on the areas in which they operate has been developed by SOS Villages, Nisma ARSIS, Save the Children and WVA.

Furthermore, initiatives have been taken to create a positive climate in schools, through a National Plan for School Safety, which aims to reduce violence, bullying and extremist behavior. The plan, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, includes a comprehensive approach that links education with a referral system and protective interventions.

In and out of school settings, programs like UP-SHIFT and Ponder have equipped thousands of young people with skills for critical thinking, social innovation, and active citizenship, creating a more aware and engaged young generation in

promoting the values of equality and rejecting violence.

Specific objective II.2.

Functioning of a comprehensive and effective child protection system.

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Strategic Objective II includes three specific objectives. Specific Objective II.1 has only one measure with six activities, two of which are budgeted in other plans. According to the action plan, it turns out that the planned budget for the other four activities of the specific objective should have covered 100% of the indicative costs for the period 2021-2025.

The reported data shows that: 2 activities were fully implemented, with planned expenditures of 14,787,556 lekë and full implementation (100%). The funding was divided almost equally between the budget of the responsible institutions (49.96%) and partners (50.04%). 3 activities were partially implemented, with a planned budget of 22,405,387 lekë, which also resulted in being covered 100% by actual expenditures, with the same division of funding sources (49.96% budget and 50.04% partners).

1 activity was not implemented, with a planned budget of 7,617,831 lekë. In total, for the reporting period, 100% of the planned funds for the implemented activities were used (fully and partially), while only one activity with 17% of the planned budget remains unimplemented. This result indicates a high level of mobilization of financial resources and a balanced division between public and partner funds, eliminating the financial gap identified in the planning phase.



The main indicators at the level of specific objectives under this strategic goal are:

number of normative acts drafted/ revised (at least 2 per year), in consultation with stakeholders and children, and in line with international standards partially implemented.

percentage of local government units that have a separate budget line for managing cases of child violence – partially implemented.

percentage of LGUs with qualified child protection structures in accordance with the requirements of the revised legislation – implemented

number of child protection workers employed – partially achieved (from 236 to 241).

increasing number (5% each year) of children identified as at risk and/or in need of protection, whose cases were managed during the year by the CPU/CPW – implemented.

the increasing number (5% each year) of children for whom the court has made a decision to grant a protective measure – implemented.

number of children (2% increase each year) who have reported some form of violence, registered by educational institutions – implemented.

The number of child victims of violence, registered by health institutions - unreported.

Within the framework of the review of the law “On Alternative Care,” a legal and financial analysis of the existing regulatory and financial framework for alternative foster care was conducted. This analysis served as the basis for drafting the law and for further improving the legal and institutional framework in the field of child protection and care, and a working group was established for its drafting.

The draft Law “On Family-Based Alternative Care” has been prepared. It defines the forms of alternative care (kinship care, family foster care, professional foster care, specialized care, and emergency care); regulates the legal procedures for child placement; formalizes the profession of the professional foster carer, including remuneration, social and health insurance, and a mandatory code of ethics; establishes a national electronic registry for alternative care to ensure traceability, coordination, and transparency; limits the number of children per foster family, ensuring quality rather than quantity; strengthens the role of municipalities as responsible institutions for organizing, monitoring, and supporting foster families at the local level; assigns a clear role to civil society as a strategic partner in the identification, provision, and monitoring of alternative care; and provides for complaint mechanisms and legal safeguards for children and foster families.

This draft law was also presented at the meeting of the National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child held on 26 November 2025. In the framework of the implementation of the measure related to the drafting and adoption of a special law against trafficking in persons and for the protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking, as well as its approximation with Directive 2011/36/EU ‘On preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims’, the Ministry of Interior established an inter-institutional working group with representatives from all line ministries. The working group conducted a comprehensive legal analysis of the existing normative acts and the integration programs in force for T/TVMT and, as a result, recommended the drafting of a special law on this issue. However, the draft law has not yet been approved by the relevant higher-level struc-

tures. However, during the period of implementation of the NARC:

- In 2021, with the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 670, dated 10.11.2021, the National Action Plan for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons 2021-2023 was approved.
- Also, on 10.04.2024, with DCM no. 458, the Council of Ministers approved the National Action Plan for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons 2024-2025, which expresses the commitment of the Albanian government, state and non-state institutions and anti-trafficking actors working in public and non-public structures, to minimize the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. This document is a continuation of the anti-trafficking efforts and objectives provided for in the Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crime 2021-2025, of course, adapted to the dynamics of trafficking, the new government vision in the approach to the phenomenon of trafficking to create a well-oriented platform of strategic goals and objectives, in accordance with other national strategic documents, as well as based on the recommendations of international partners.

In implementation of Law No. 79/2021 "On Foreigners", the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 858, dated 29.12.2021 "On determining the criteria of procedures and documentation for the entry, stay and treatment of foreigners in the Republic of Albania", as amended, the Instruction of the Minister of Interior No. 174, dated 12.09.2022 "On the procedures for the treatment of foreign citizens with irregular stay in the Republic of Albania", section III of which is dedicated to the procedural treatment of the return of an unaccompanied foreign child, as well as the Instruction of the Minister of Interior No. 143, dated 13.10.2023 "On determining the special rules for the crossing of minor Albanian citizens at the border", has been approved.

So far, no amendments have been made to Law No. 121/2016 'On Social Care Services', for the purposes of harmonization with Law No. 18/2017 'On the Rights and Protection of Chil-

dren', or with other obligations stemming from national and international legislation.

The revision of Law No. 8153, dated 3.10.1996, "On the status of orphans" has not yet been finalized with a legal amendment. However, a study of the existing framework has been carried out and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has concluded to draft a new law, entitled "On children without parental care", which will more appropriately address the current needs and challenges in supporting this category of children. Currently, the legal basis in force, consisting of Law No. 8153, dated 3.10.1996 "On the status of orphans", Council of Ministers No. 233, dated 10.04.1998, "On the implementation of the law 'On the status of orphans'", and Instruction No. 20, dated 14.12.1998, has not undergone any changes, but needs to be revised, as it is no longer in line with the changes in the legislation on social services.

During 2024, 255 people benefited from orphan status for the first time, of whom 228 were children born out of wedlock. As part of the reforms for the digitalization of services, the Social Security System has followed the deregulation process for the provision of this online service; however, 60 applications were rejected due to technical problems in the AMS/SQDNE system, which currently does not generate the final document, the orphan status book.

The new Law "On the Protection of Personal Data" was adopted in the plenary session of the Parliament on 19.12.2024, marking an important step towards the approximation of Albanian legislation with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the EU Police Directive. The draft law, prepared by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Office of the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Personal Data Protection, was sent for review to the European Commission on 31.10.2022 by the Minister of State and Chief Negotiator. Subsequently, on 28.12.2022, the European Commission forwarded the relevant comments, which were subsequently assessed by the relevant responsible institutions. This law brings a number of important innovations, with a special focus on the protection of the personal data of children as data

subjects, among which are highlighted:

- ▶ Expanding the rights of data subjects and strengthening their guarantee mechanisms, enabling citizens to have greater control over their personal data.
- ▶ Improving the right to information, so that the information provided by the controller is accurate, transparent, understandable and easily accessible, with particular emphasis when it is addressed to children.
- ▶ Strengthening the criteria for granting and validating the consent of data subjects, including addressing the practical specifics of consent given by children, as well as the application of consent through electronic means.

The adoption of this law constitutes an important advancement in the protection of personal data in Albania, strengthening the protection of vulnerable groups, such as children, and guaranteeing a framework harmonized with European Union standards.

The State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child has developed and is implementing a new methodology for quality control of the work of Child Protection Workers. This methodology was approved by Instruction No. 767, dated 28 December 2023, of the Minister of Health and Social Protection, entitled "Methodology for Quality Control of Child Protection at the Local Level." This methodological instruction (developed with the support of UNICEF during 2022) represents a standardizing document that harmonizes procedures in line with legal requirements for case referral and management, regulates the quality control activity of child protection structures at the local level, and guides the professional conduct of the Agency itself throughout the monitoring process. Following the approval of the methodology, ASHDMF piloted it in six municipalities in 2023. In 2024, the methodology was piloted in four administrative units in Tirana, and four monitoring reports were prepared. In 2025, six monitoring controls were conducted, and five quality control reports were drafted.

Child protection mechanisms constitute a key element in ensuring the rights of children. Across the country, during the reporting period, 370 Child Protection Workers (CPWs) were operating, managing cases in accordance with the procedures set out in the relevant regulatory framework.

The revision of Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 617, dated 7 September 2006, "On the determination of indicators for the evaluation and monitoring of economic assistance programmes, payments for persons with disabilities, and social services," was completed with the approval of DCM No. 617, dated 20 October 2021, "On the statistical indicators for the evaluation and monitoring of economic assistance programmes, payments for persons with disabilities, and social services, as well as the periodicity of their collection."

However, for the full implementation of this DCM, it is necessary to draft and approve a new instruction, as its absence leads to deficiencies in the reporting of statistical indicators for social services, including specific indicators for children in the NE and PAK schemes. The current instruction in force, no. 1945, dated 4.10.2010, is in the process of revision and the SSS has provided relevant comments and suggestions for its improvement.

Based on the existing guidance, the available data for the period December 2024 are as follows:

- ▶ Number of children (0-18 years old) blind, para-tetraplegic, with physical and mental disabilities: 10,731;
- ▶ Number of children (0-18 years old) of families on economic assistance: 63,000;
- ▶ Number of children in foster care under the economic assistance scheme: 314;
- ▶ Number of orphans in the economic assistance scheme: 1,063;
- ▶ Number of children born as triplets in the economic assistance scheme: 156;
- ▶ Number of children born as quadruplets in the economic assistance scheme: 4;
- ▶ Number of children in 9 public residential care institutions (RCI): 172;

- Number of children in 21 non-public residential centers: 256.

During 2024, AKEP, in cooperation with the State Police, has taken measures to block internet access to 24 online sites with illegal and harmful materials related to child sexual abuse.

The Municipality of Tirana, with the support of Terre des Hommes, began in November 2022 to draft the methodology for the costing of the Individual Protection Plan for Child Protection Units for the case management of children in need of protection.

In 2022, the Child Protection Unit (CPU) in the Municipality of Berat has benefited from a specific budget from the local government, marking a good practice of allocating funds for the management of cases of children in need of protection. During the years 2023–2025, a special item has been foreseen in the budget of the Municipality's Directorate of Social Services for the support of families in need, which also serves as an indirect mechanism for the protection of children at risk. Also, within the framework of the Joint Plan of Measures "For the prevention and mitigation of the phenomenon of individuals in a street situation," approved by the Mayor of Berat and the Local Police Directorate, an inter-institutional field action structure has been established, which has identified 12 children in a street situation. All cases have been treated according to case management protocols, including assessment, referral and protection by the relevant structures.

The improvement of the case management module, part of the electronic social services registry system, has been carried out gradually, case by case, whenever a problem has been identified by the administrator of the Electronic Social Services Registry in the Social Security System. The reform of social services is closely linked to the functioning of this information management system, which ensures transparency and data security, as well as supports the work of the Needs Assessment and Case Referral Units (NACUs) at the local level, which are responsible for identifying needs, drafting costed social plans and contracting social service providers. During the pe-

riod 2020–2024, significant progress has been made in training system users, improving infrastructure and contracting system maintenance, with the support of UNICEF Albania. To improve the functioning of the case management mechanism, the improvement of the electronic case management module, part of the national social information system, was supported, including the training of local structures (CPU, LGUs) in at least five municipalities with modules approved by the NCCE.

MHSW, in the framework of the continued commitment and fulfillment of all procedures in implementation of Law No. 163/2014, "On the Order of Social Workers of the Republic of Albania," as amended, has established the Order of Social Workers on 18.12.2021. The support of the Order of Social Workers led to the registration and licensing of 1000 workers. A toolkit was developed to enrich the knowledge, build gender awareness and skills of social workers to work with young people in difficult situations and will be used to train social workers.

The functionalization of the education and accreditation system for social service workers is in progress, based on the approval of the Council of Ministers No. 637, dated 7.10.2021, "On the establishment and functioning of the Agency for Quality Assurance of Health and Social Services." The Continuing Education Board for social service professionals has also been established and the process of accreditation of various curricula for their training has begun.

Throughout 2021-2025, employees from different sectors have been trained and their capacities have been improved, contributing to the improvement of the mechanism for identifying, reporting and referring violence and supporting children in need of protection. 80 police officers have been trained in scientific interviewing techniques for minors in contact with the police, and meetings have been held with the Local Police Directorate on the Juvenile Criminal Justice Code, with the support of UNICEF Albania. Within the framework of activity II.2.2.ç, various trainings have been carried out to build the capacities of child protection structures in the LGUs, within the framework of the deinstitutionalization pro-

cess, in cooperation with the Initiative ARSIS. These trainings have been developed on the basis of curricula accredited and approved by the NCCE, supporting the strengthening of the intersectoral approach in the management of cases of children in need of protection.

The Ministry of Interior, in response to the TIP Report recommendations for proactive investigations and convictions of traffickers, as well as **to intensify** cooperation with the justice authorities in September-October 2024, with the technical support of the OSCE, organized 6 interactive meetings/trainings between the police and prosecution structures, the High Prosecutorial Council, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime, and the General Directorate of the State Police. These meetings discussed joint analyses and identification of in-depth issues related to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, increasing cooperation between law enforcement structures, addressing best and positive practices, as well as issues identified during the analysis of cases referred to the Responsible Authority.

During the period 14-17 May and 12-14 October 2022, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in cooperation with the School of Magistrates, the Police, the Courts, the Prosecution Service and the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection, organized the training on the topic "Investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases of trafficking in persons through a victim-centered approach." Participants in this training were representatives of the anti-trafficking police, prosecutors, judges, the Security Academy, the School of Magistrates, advocates for victims of trafficking and child protection representatives.

The State Police reported that training and activities were conducted with the participation of 260 State Police specialists from all local directorates, focused on strengthening capacities for proactive investigation of cases of trafficking in human beings. Topics included: securing evidence, using special investigation techniques, financial investigation and effective criminal prosecution of perpetrators. The training was

conducted in cooperation with international partners such as OSCE, UNODC and CIVIPOL. Training was also organized with the Department of Border and Migration, with the participation of 45 specialists CIVIPOL and 45 from Kosovo and North Macedonia, within the framework of the project with GIZ and CIVIPOL. The focus of the training was the identification and investigation of victims of trafficking and potential trafficking of persons at border points, with particular emphasis on unaccompanied children and vulnerable groups.

During the period 2023–2024, according to the Ministry of Justice, a series of initiatives have been undertaken to build the capacities of employees of various sectors, including the police, the penitentiary system and the media, in the function of child protection. In 2023, 118 police officers were trained on juvenile criminal justice, restorative justice and mediation in schools. The structures for the protection of minors have been strengthened in each Local Police Directorate, through the new position of "Specialist for domestic violence and protection of minors." The new AMA Broadcasting Code (2023) has included a section dedicated to the protection of the image of children in audiovisual media. In addition, 12 consultation tables with media operators and educational programs for children in national and local media have been developed. In 2024, new manuals and curricula were drafted by the State Police and the Directorate of Prisons, in cooperation with UNICEF Albania and Caritas, to improve interaction with children in conflict with the law and strengthen the role of the family in the reintegration process.

The National Education Strategy 2021-2026 has been drafted, which provides for measures and activities aimed at preventing and addressing all types of violence and abuse in school. Among the seven key competencies, two of them, "Personal Competence" and "Civic Competence", are directly and more specifically oriented towards education for the prevention of violence through changing behavior and attitudes in school and in the community, as well as gender equality. Given its field of study, it is naturally thought that the subject of Citizenship addresses issues related to children's rights, conflicts and their res-

olution, children's participation and solidarity, anti-discrimination, gender equality, etc.

Throughout 2025, within the framework of the cooperation program between the Ministry of Education, the Agency for Quality Assurance of Pre-university Education and UNICEF Albania "Prevention of violence in schools," a set of materials (manuals, modules, brochures) approved by the Ministry of Education for school principals, teachers, students and parents has been developed. Approval of the "National Action Plan for Strengthening the Mechanisms for Preventing All Forms of Violence and Bullying to Ensure Safety in Pre-University Educational Institutions." Pre-university educational institutions have established a system for identifying, preventing, and reporting violence, bullying and extremism in schools. Psycho-social service employees in educational institutions undertake various information and awareness campaigns to prevent the occurrence of violence in school and outside of school, in all its forms. The coordinated mechanism for referring cases of domestic violence is being created in each municipality with the child protection unit and aims to prevent and treat cases of violence. Awareness and sensitization sessions have been held, but cases of violence still occur and are treated by school organizations, a fact that shows that this process has been implemented and is improving.

Children's rights have been included in the school curriculum, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Information sessions have been held for children, parents and teachers on the importance of protecting rights and ways to respond to violations. On the occasion of International Children's Rights Day, awareness-raising activities such as essays, paintings, songs and theatrical performances have been organized. Informative materials such as posters and brochures have been placed in school environments, while supporting structures such as the Ethics Commission, the Disciplinary Commission, the Children's Welfare Service, the Security Officer and representatives of the Community Police operate, in cooperation with the CPU and local government. The Local Pre-University Education Offices (ZVAP), in cooperation with municipalities, have worked to

improve the physical conditions of educational buildings and guarantee security.

The increase in the number of security officers in schools is regulated on a legal basis according to the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 553, dated 29.7.2022, "On some amendments and additions to Decision No. 600, dated 9.10.2018, "On the approval of the public security service in 150 pre-university education institutions and the criteria for security officers;" as amended.

The legal basis for the increase in security officers has been regulated. DCM No. 600, dated 09.10.2018 "On the approval of the public security service in 150 pre-university education institutions and the criteria for security officers;" as amended. The number of security officers at the end of 2024 has reached 222. Security officers are also employed in 9-year schools with at least 700 students. Security officers are trained and certified by the Security Academy, as the institution responsible for higher police education aimed at the formation, specialization, qualification of State Police employees, as well as providing training and specializations for other institutions in the field of security and public order. These security officers have been trained by PUEQAA. Security Officers are present in schools every day from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM, supporting students throughout the school day and beyond.

All schools in the country are covered by psycho-social services, where one psychologist covers 300-499 students and 100% of them have been trained. In 2022, to support the work protocols of psychosocial workers, to increase the quality of this service for all students, the following were drafted and approved: "General professional standards of the school psychosocial service;" "Principles of professional ethics of the school psychosocial service" and "Guidelines for the practice of the work of the school psychosocial service". 595 cabinets are functional for the psychosocial service workers to treat the problems of various cases or their assessment. At the beginning of each school year, psychosocial service workers in cooperation with the heads of the IAPs, based on the assessment of the needs carried out in the school, plan and draft the annu-

al plan for the functioning of the service in each educational institution. In collaboration with all stakeholders in the school, activities have been carried out within the framework of the strategies and needs of the school community, awareness-raising meetings on various psychosocial and educational topics in order to increase the level of awareness and education among children and adolescents. For the 2023-2024 school year, 16,891 awareness-raising activities with students, 3,110 awareness-raising activities with teachers and 2,389 awareness-raising activities with parents have been carried out, while the report for the first period of the SHPS's functioning on the activities carried out will be drafted at the end of January.

To prevent violence, instruction no. 23, dated 1.12.2021, "On some amendments to instruction no. 12, dated 10.6.2021, "On the procedures for accepting and appointing teachers to a vacant job position in public institutions of pre-university education and for the administration of the "Teachers for Albania" Portal," as amended, was also approved, which quotes: "All persons who have been convicted by a court with a final decision for committing a criminal offense against minors; those who have been convicted with a final decision for committing a criminal offense related to educational institutions cannot apply for competition to work as teachers, regardless of the fact of rehabilitation."

The development of the capacities of teachers, school principals, social workers/school psychologists, authors of textbooks on gender issues, etc. continues. To prevent violence in schools, with a special focus on changing the attitudes and behavior of educational staff, parents and students, a new methodology for teacher training (Positive Behavior Interventions in School) has been developed that offers teachers new approaches to classroom management; Teachers have been trained in the methodology of positive behavior interventions aimed at preventing violence in school; Each school has a designated teacher coordinator based on the cross-sectoral strategy against violent extremism. The number of teacher coordinators of the extremism network in educational institutions is 1137 and there are also 52 coordinators in each ZVAP. Members

of the Disciplinary Commissions and Ethics and Behavior Commissions have been trained throughout the country.

Based on Article 27 of Law No. 18/2017 "On the Rights and Protection of the Child" and in the Council of Ministers No. 465, dated 3.7.2019 "On measures to protect children from access to illegal and/or harmful content on the Internet," points 7 and 8, the SARPC is tasked with reviewing reports of pages or materials with harmful or illegal content for children on the Internet and referring them to local child protection structures, in accordance with the legislation in force. Over the last two years (2023 – September 2024), around 130 reports have been administered, mainly from children, parents and child protection workers, regarding the misuse of children's data and identity on social networks (such as opening fake profiles, publishing denigrating or bullying materials). Reports were received mainly through the ALO 116-111 hotline and related to platforms used by children such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and WhatsApp. All cases were forwarded to the National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA), which, in cooperation with the State Police, follows the procedures for identifying victims and perpetrators, as well as for closing pages with such content. In cases where the identity of the victim is known, SARPC refers the case to child protection workers for field management and taking the child under protection. During the same period, a total of 27 cases of violence in the digital environment were managed by local child protection structures, which include blackmail, threats, publication of materials with intimate content, online bullying and the creation of fake profiles on social networks.

For the year 2025, there were approximately 109 reports, mainly from children, parents, and Child Protection Workers, related to the misuse of children's data and identity on social media (such as the creation of fake profiles and the publication of denigrating or bullying content). The reports were received primarily through the ALO 116-111 helpline and concerned platforms commonly used by children, including TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and WhatsApp. All cases were referred to the National Authority for Cyber



TABLE 21. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
2	35	34	97%



TABLE 22. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	18	53%
Partially realized	7	21%
Unrealized	9	26%

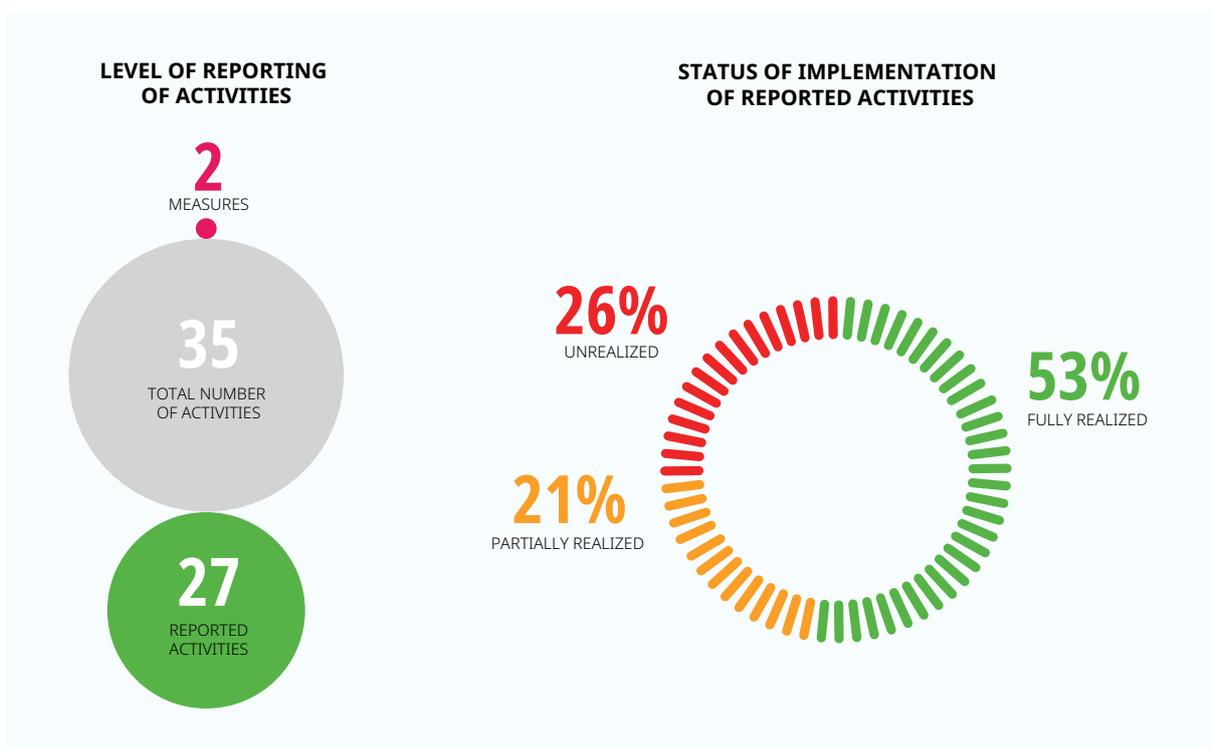




TABLE 23. EXPENDITURES ACCORDING TO THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	18	107,806,342	53.00%	107,806,342	100.00%	51.67%	48.33%
Partially realized	7	42,715,720	21.00%	42,715,720	100.00%	51.67%	48.33%
Unrealized	9	52,886,130	26.00%	52,886,130	100.00%		

Security (NACS).

Strengthening helpline services, such as ALO 116 111, “You are not alone” and the “Report and save” application, has been an essential component in ensuring children’s access to psychosocial support and safe reporting. The National Counseling Line “ALO 116-111”, supported by the MHSW, is a service where children receive or/and are referred to where their needs can be further addressed. During the period for 2024, there were 301 cases referred to the line institution and 967 advice was provided to children. From January to June 2025, there were 203 cases referred to the line institution and 311 pieces of advice were provided to children.

Under the coordination of the Coordination Center against Violent Extremism and the support of UNICEF Albania and Terre des Hommes, the *ad-hoc emergency service* for the reception and short-term accommodation of cases of children repatriated from conflict zones, was provided by a team of different workers for different groups of children, with little professional experience in dealing with children and their mothers from conflict zones, unclear institutional roles and responsibilities, as well as legislative uncertainties. 37 beneficiaries (28 children and 9 women) were supported with the fulfillment of basic and psycho-social needs throughout the rehabilitation process. During 2022, Standard Operating Procedures for the rehabilitation of returnees from conflict zones were drafted.

Specific objective II.3.

Specialized and integrated mechanisms and services for training on serious forms of violence, including sexual abuse and online abuse and exploitation.

During 2023–2024, SARPC supported CPWs in assessing the family situation and managing the cases of repatriated Albanian children, administering 81 repatriation requests and facilitating the process for 13 completed cases. In October 2023, a technical roundtable was organized with 15 municipalities, within the framework of an IC-MPD project on the reintegration of unaccompanied children. As for unaccompanied foreign children, 108 cases were treated during this period (29 in 2023 and 79 in 2024). Children were taken under the protection of CPWs after referral by the police and migration structures. After the emergency stay, most returned to their country of origin of their own free will. Basic services and psychological support were provided during their stay in the centers. SARPC has conducted trainings and inter-institutional activities in cooperation with IOM and other organizations, in the municipalities of Saranda, Konispol, Gjirokastër, Devoll and Korçë, to strengthen capacities in handling cases of unaccompanied children.

The Initiative ARSIS, with the support of UNICEF Albania, during the period 2021-2025, has provided the Emergency Safe Housing Service at the “House of Colors” center in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana for all children, Albanian or foreign, identified in immediate need of protection by Child Protection Structures. In total, support has been provided to 420 children, of whom, 90 are categorized as unaccompanied foreign minors. The duration of the minors’ stay in the emergency service varies from a few hours to 2.5 months. During the period of stay in the emergency center, the children were provided with a full package of services, including accommodation, clothing, hygiene, food, health-care, and psycho-emotional support.

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Specific objective II.2 includes two measures with a total of 35 activities: 16 in the first measure and 19 in the second measure. Of these, 10 activities are planned at zero cost, as they are covered in other action plans. According to the action plan data, for the period 2021–2026 the planned budget aimed to cover about 82.7% of the indicative costs, while the rest was considered a financial gap. The results according to the implementation status show that: 18 activities have been fully implemented, with a planned budget of 107,806,342 lek.

Expenditures have been implemented at a rate of 100%, where 51.67% of the funds came from the state budget and 48.33% from partners. 7 activities have been partially implemented, with a planned budget of 42,715,720 lek. These were also 100% financially implemented, with the same distribution of resources: 51.67% state budget and 48.33% partners. 9 activities were not implemented, with a planned budget of 52,886,130 lekë. In total, for the reporting period, 100% of the planned funds were spent on implemented activities (fully and partially), while about 26% of the planned budget belongs to unrealized activities.

The main indicators at the level of specific objectives under this strategic goal are:

number of specialized services established and functional for children, victims of violence and sexual abuse: implemented (Shkodër and Fier).

number of cases of child sexual abuse and online exploitation investigated by the responsible authorities (30 cases each year): implemented.

In implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and Law no. 18/2017, the Instruction of the Minister of Health and Social Protection no. 564, dated 5.10.2022, "On the approval of standards for treatment centers for child victims or witnesses of sexual abuse and serious forms of violence" has been approved. This instruction defines the principles of operation, the cross-sectoral structure and the standards for the provision of integrated, coordinated and immediate services for child victims. This instruction defines the principles of operation, the cross-sectoral structure and the standards for the provision of integrated, coordinated and immediate services for child victims.

In collaboration with UNICEF Albania, two "one-stop" centers have been established and are operational in the Municipalities of Fier and Shkodra, providing specialized services for child victims of sexual abuse. These centers provide integrated services for child victims of sexual violence and severe abuse, including legal assistance, psychological and medical support, as well as coordinated case follow-up by cross-sectoral groups. In addition, investments have been made to build the capacities of the one-stop centers, providing training focused on sharing experiences in working with traumatized children and youth from the Center for Child and Youth Protection in Zagreb, Croatia. During the period from November 2022 to date, a total of 69 cases have been treated:

- ▶ The center in Fier treated 50 children (31 girls

and 19 boys) and 24 non-abusive parents;

- ▶ The center in Shkodra has treated 19 children (12 girls and 7 boys) and 9 non-abusive parents.

These centers represent a genuine model of coordinated inter-institutional intervention for the protection and rehabilitation of child victims. Standards for the operation of one-stop centers for the treatment of child victims of sexual violence and other serious forms of violence have been adopted, and new models for the provision of specialized rehabilitation services have been developed, with the aim of ensuring that interventions are sustainable, integrated and broadly scaled at the national level.

On April 29, 2024, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare organized a workshop on the topic: "Sharing experiences in supporting survivors of sexual violence in Albania." Representatives from three crisis management centers for sexual violence cases, along with the relevant referral mechanisms, participated in this activity. The workshop served as a platform to present two models of rehabilitation services, to share best practices and to identify the main challenges in providing support to minor victims of sexual violence. This activity constitutes a concrete step towards drafting proposals for specialized rehabilitation services for this category of children in need.

The inter-institutional cooperation agreement between the National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA), the Prosecution Office and the State Police is currently being drafted. The purpose of this agreement is to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation to increase the level of cyber security in the country and to improve the response to online crimes affecting children and young people. The agreement aims to create a specialized group with representatives from the police, the prosecution office and internet service providers, which will provide expertise, technical and operational support for the investigation of illegal content on the internet that poses a threat to public safety and the protection of children. The



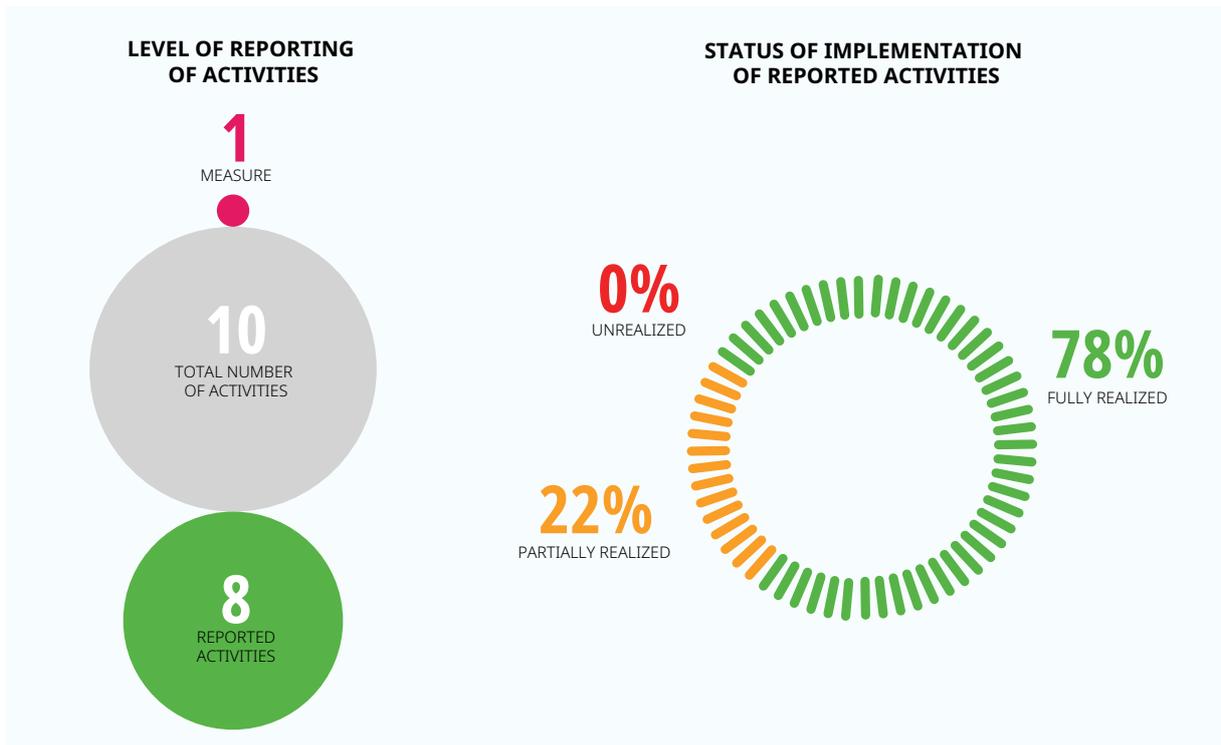
TABLE 24. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
1	10	9	90%



TABLE 25. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	7	78%
Partially realized	2	22%
Unrealized	0	0%





**TABLE 26. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES
(IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)**

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	7	58,543,796	78.00%	58,543,796	100.00%	32.28%	67.72%
Partially realized	2	16,512,353	22.00%	16,512,353	100.00%	32.28%	67.72%
Unrealized							

official approval of the document is expected.

During May 2024, the General Directorate of the State Police, in cooperation with UNICEF Albania, conducted 3-day trainings on “Scientific Techniques of Interviewing Minors” in Lezha, Vlora and Tirana, with the participation of 150 police officers. A 1-day training was also organized for 17 police chiefs in Tirana. In cooperation with UNICEF Albania and the CPJMR, 14 police officers were trained on the use of the Integrated Juvenile Criminal Justice Data System. Within the structures of the State Police, specialized units for the investigation of child pornography operate: at the central level (1 sector chief and 2 specialists), in Tirana (1 section chief and 1 specialist), and in the local directorates (each 2 specialists for computer crime investigations).

During 2024, 6 training activities and workshops on online crimes against children were also carried out, with the participation of 10 police officers from investigative structures.

At the end of 2024, as part of structural changes, the 24/7 Analysis and Monitoring Sector was established in the Cybercrime Investigation Directorate, with 3 specialized experts who deal with the analysis of digital evidence related to online crimes against children. So far, the examination of digital evidence has been carried out by the Computer Examination Sector at the Scientific Police Laboratory. The State Police cooperates closely with NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) and has access to the ICACOPS program, through which data on cases of sexual exploitation and pornography of

Goal III.

Child and adolescent-friendly systems and services

minors on the Internet is exchanged, as well as the IP addresses of suspected perpetrators are identified. Also, a collaboration is being developed with the OUR Rescue organization from the USA, which will contribute with specialized equipment and software for the identification of perpetrators of criminal offenses in the digital environment, further strengthening the investigative capacity of the State Police.

Continuous coordination has been carried out

with the National Agency for Cyber Security (NACS) for the real-time handling of cases related to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children online. Thanks to this cooperation and interaction with the Authority for Electronic and Postal Communications (AEPC), it has been possible to close several websites and online platforms that offered illegal content.

The National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA)¹² has administered the reports sent by the

 **TABLE 27. LEVEL OF REPORTING OF RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)**

Number of indicators	Unreported	Reported
17	0	17
100%	0%	100%

 **TABLE 28. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)**

No. of indicators	Fully realized	Partially completed	Unrealized
17	15	2	0
100%	88%	12%	0%

 **TABLE 29. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)**

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
9	103	96	93%

12. In the NARC, it is found with the first name National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity (NAECC), in this report with the changed name National Authority for Cybersecurity



TABLE 30. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORTED ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	66	69%
Partially realized	25	26%
Unrealized	5	5%

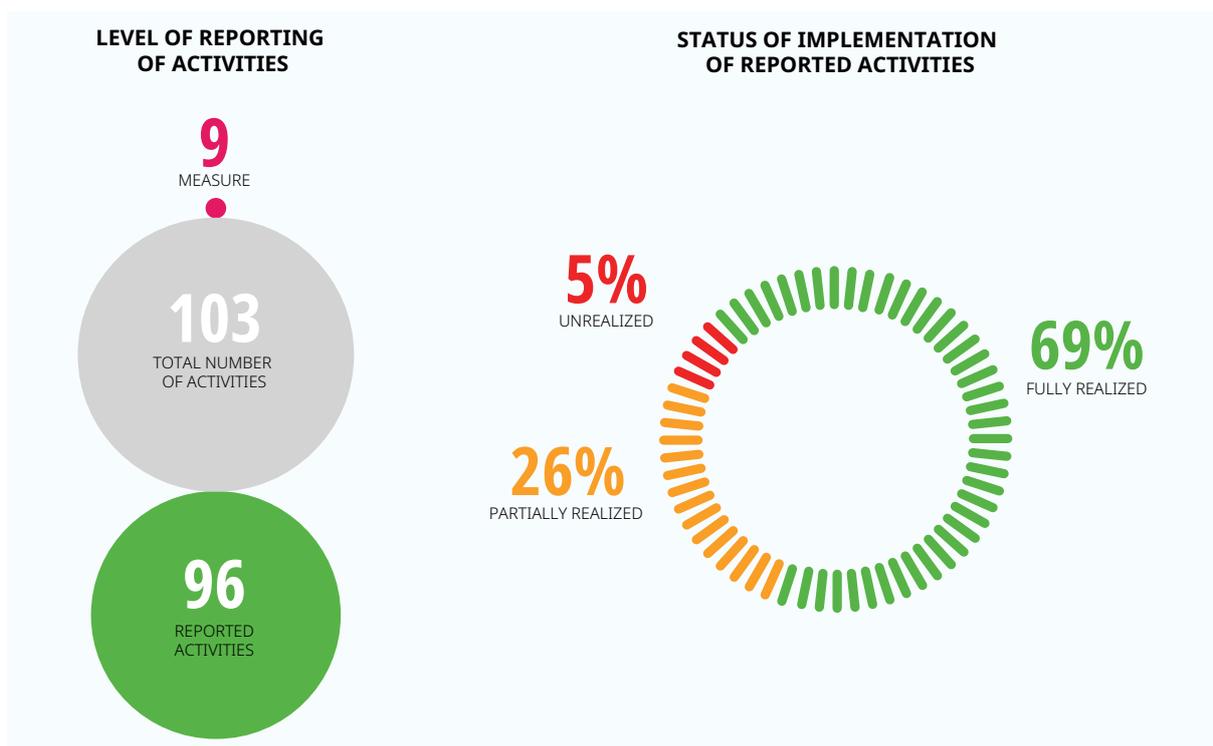


TABLE 31. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	66	811,290,613	69.00%	811,290,613	100.00%	62.78%	37.22%
Partially realized	25	305,703,709	26.00%	305,703,709	100.00%	62.78%	37.22%
Unrealized	5	58,789,175	5.00%	58,789,175			

Specific objective III.1.

Equal opportunities for skills development and learning: from early childhood to adolescence.

SARPC during 2021 and 2022, with the aim of coordinating the work and handling in real time the reports made regarding the abuse and sexual exploitation of children on the internet. According to the reports made on the portal, in 2021 there were about 72 reports, while in 2022, 25 reports. Also, on December 6-8, 2021, NCSA organized Cyber Camp, with the aim of increasing the level of child safety in the *online environment* and building the capacities of professionals in the field, including those of the justice system. On April 19-21, 2022, the innovative workshop “Regional Cyber Camp Albania” with about 100 young people and 50 professionals from Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Montenegro. In February of each year, awareness-raising activities are organized as part of “Safer Internet Day”. In this context, in 2022, an awareness-raising activity was organized with students from 9-year and high schools, parents and teachers, invited to the COD Center at the Prime Minister’s Office.

Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between SARPC and the National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA), 34 awareness-raising and training activities were carried out at the national level during the period February-December 2024. 30 meetings were held in 9-year and high schools in Tirana, Durrës, Kukës, Shkodër, Fier, Berat, and other municipalities, raising awareness among 1,277 children and 244 professionals (teachers, psychosocial workers, parents). The activities aimed to provide information on reporting cases of online bullying, harassment and blackmail, as well as education on contemporary practices for safe surfing on the Internet. In addition, 4 workshops were held for professionals and parents in Tirana, Kukës, Durrës and Cërrik, with 243 participants. In 2023, SARPC and NCSA organized meetings with 76 justice

professionals in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan and Krujë, on the punishability of online abuse. Trainings were also conducted with CPW in Dibër, Klos, Tirana and Lushnje on the module “Cyber Hygiene and Child Protection on the Internet”, with 55 participants.

During the period January–December 2025, in cooperation with ASHDMF and World Vision Albania (WVA), as well as by NCSA itself, a total of 38 activities were carried out, including: 2 Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions, involving Child Protection Workers (CPWs) and high school student senators, who subsequently conducted awareness-raising activities based on the knowledge gained from the trainings; Workshops, webinars, and 1 roundtable discussion with the participation of several institutions responsible for the protection of children and young people in the online environment; 33 awareness-raising meetings with children and professionals in lower secondary schools and high schools in the city of Tirana. The total number of individuals reached through these activities was 1,327 children and young people, and 1,192 questionnaires were completed.

The focus of these activities was the online protection of children and young people, through continuous guidance on how to use digital spaces safely, encouraging them to think before acting when sharing information with strangers. Children and young people were informed that, unknowingly, they may be exposed to online threats, violent language, online bullying, or sexual harassment. They were also informed that, if they encounter any of the above-mentioned situations, they should report them via the red “REPORT” button on the website aksk.gov.al. During 2025, 225 reports were received and handled on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with the State Police.

As part of awareness-raising efforts on the on-line protection of children and young people, a television spot was also produced and broadcast on three television channels over a 10-day period in November.

The Ministry of Interior, within the framework of inter-institutional cooperation for the notification and removal of illegal and harmful materials related to online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and in implementation of Decision No. 494, dated 30.12.2020, has approved the Strategy for the Investigation of Cybercrime and is continuing to follow the relevant processes for the protection of children online.

Also, work has been advanced to improve the capacities of the Police Scientific Laboratory, to analyze digital data related to online crimes against children (measure II.3.1.ë), as well as to establish specialized courses at the Magistrates' School and the Security Academy for young prosecutors, judges and officers, to deepen expertise in the field of sexual and cybercrimes against children.

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Specific objective II.3 consists of a measure with a total of 10 activities, of which 2 activities are budgeted in other plans. For the reporting period 2021–2026, the planned expenditures aimed to fully cover the indicative costs set out in the action plan. The reported data shows that: 7 activities were implemented, with a planned budget of 58,543,796 lek or 78% of the total. Actual expenditures were fully implemented (100%) and were financed to the extent of 32.28% from the state budget and 67.72% from partners. 2 activities were implemented, with a planned budget of 16,512,353 lek or 22% of the total, also with full implementation (100%).

Again, the distribution of funding sources is 32.28% budget and 67.72% partners. There are no unfulfilled activities. In conclusion, 100% of the planned funds have been spent for the period 2021–2025, fully covering the estimated costs for the activities of this specific objective. The funding has been combined, but the main support has come from partner organizations and institutions, which have covered about 2/3 of the actual costs.

The third goal focuses on child- and adolescent-friendly systems and services and includes promoting child-friendly processes and systems, such as in education, health, social services and justice. In this regard, the main aim is to identify key measures of sectoral strategies to achieve an assessment of the progress of children's rights in these areas.

Institutions have reported on 100% of the indicators related to the specific objectives of this strategic goal, and 88% of them have been fully achieved.

Information has been reported for 96 out of 103 activities that are part of the strategic goal, of which only 64% have been fully implemented.

The main indicators at the level of specific objectives under this strategic goal are :

percentage of children enrolled in first grade compared to the total number of 6-year-old children – achieved.

school dropout rate - partially implemented.

number of children benefiting from the financial support mechanism (scholarships) for categories of children in need (VKM no. 854)¹³ - achieved.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education (ME) and with the support of UNICEF Albania, early childhood education and care (ECEC) policies in Albania were aligned with EU standards and an action plan was developed for the reform of ECEC for children aged 0–6 years¹⁴. Led by PUEQAA, a working group is finalizing the Guide on Standards of Service Provision in Kindergartens, based on the French model, while the¹⁵ “Kindergarten Quality Assessment Framework” and the “Methodological Guidelines for Conducting Internal and External Evaluation of Kindergartens” have been approved. The entire pilot procedure with children aged 5–6 years in preparatory classes is being prepared.

During the years '23-'24, the capacity building of teachers and leaders of educational institutions continued, preschool education where 100% of them have been trained in the implementation of the competency-based curriculum and child-centered learning methodology, including those with disabilities (CwDs).

Raising awareness among parents and the community about the importance of preschool education continues through well-planned activities at the level of local pre-university education offices (LOPUE) and preschool institutions, as well

13. The cited Council of Ministers' Decision No. 666, dated 10.10.2019, “On financial quotas for food in canteens and dormitories and determining the criteria for obtaining scholarships and payments for pre-university education students in public educational institutions”, as amended.

14. UNICEF Annual Report, 2024

15. Based on order no. 199, dated 7.05.2024

as basic education schools to which preparatory classes are attached, in cooperation with local government. The activities have helped raise awareness among parents and the community about the importance of preschool education, although it continues to remain a challenge. accurate planning of the number of parents of children with disabilities to be included in awareness-raising activities.

In parallel, in within the framework of community awareness and promotion of a caring approach towards preschool children Numerous initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen positive parenting ¹⁶. In collaboration with partner organizations with proven expertise in this field, such as UNICEF Albania, OSCE, EW, Tdh and Save the Children, educational modules on positive parenting have been developed for local professionals and a joint training package is being developed to unify practices.

During the year in the 2024-2025 school year, 270 preparatory classes have been opened and the number of students registered with them is 5563. The LOPUEs cooperate annually with local units to identify school-age children and intervene in cases at risk, through awareness-raising meetings with interest groups.

Financial support/bonus of kindergartens and nurseries for low-income families, to enable their attendance, has been reported only by the municipality of Korçe, where during 2024, 35 children were financially supported with the kindergarten/nursery bonus¹⁷. Meanwhile, only two municipalities, Kamza and Fier, have reported the exemption of Roma and Egyptian children aged 3-6 from financial fees and food payments. In these municipalities, children from the community, registered in kindergartens and nurseries, benefit from the service for free and do not pay a monthly fee.

All schools now use the SMIP system¹⁸. The Ministry of Education (ME) has approved and disseminated the regulation for the use and full functioning of the system, which has finalized the roles of all relevant institutions, namely the ME, PUEQAA, NCES, and DPUEP to ensure its proper operation. The training of all personnel has also been completed. Currently, in coordination with NAIS, the SMIP is being populated with all educational videos produced by RTSH Shkolla during the pandemic, enabling SMIP to also be used as an e-learning system.

There are currently about 1245 professional networks, which have been continuously trained by PUEQAA specialists, on the network operating guidelines, on the annual work planning of the networks, on the reporting method, as well as on substantive topics such as: implementing a competency-based curriculum, implementing the curriculum in all grades, etc. Also, during the period July-December 2024, the capacities of 300 assistant teachers and classroom teachers, with whom they collaborate, were built on inclusive practices in the classroom and at school.

The national teacher professional development program began to be implemented in March 2024 by 7 Higher Education Institutions such as: the University of Tirana, Korça, Durrës, Elbasan, Vlora, Shkodra, Gjirokastra. By December 2024, a total of 16,045 teachers had been trained for one module and 7,046 teachers for two modules related to improving the quality of the teaching-learning process with a focus on applying knowledge in real-life situations as well as using effective teaching-learning methods during class.

Since 2023, a system for preventing and responding to non-enrollment in school and dropout of students in primary education has been estab-

16. During 2023-2024, 190 parents were trained as part of the initiative implemented in collaboration with WVA.

17. Data on financial support/bonus for daycare/kindergarten is based only on information provided by 51 municipalities, based on the reporting instrument for the 2021-2026 NARC

18. The Pre-University Information Management System is a digital database that combines administrative data with learning outcomes. The system creates an electronic record of students' grades, absences, and classroom activity, while parents are informed about their children's progress through a mobile application.



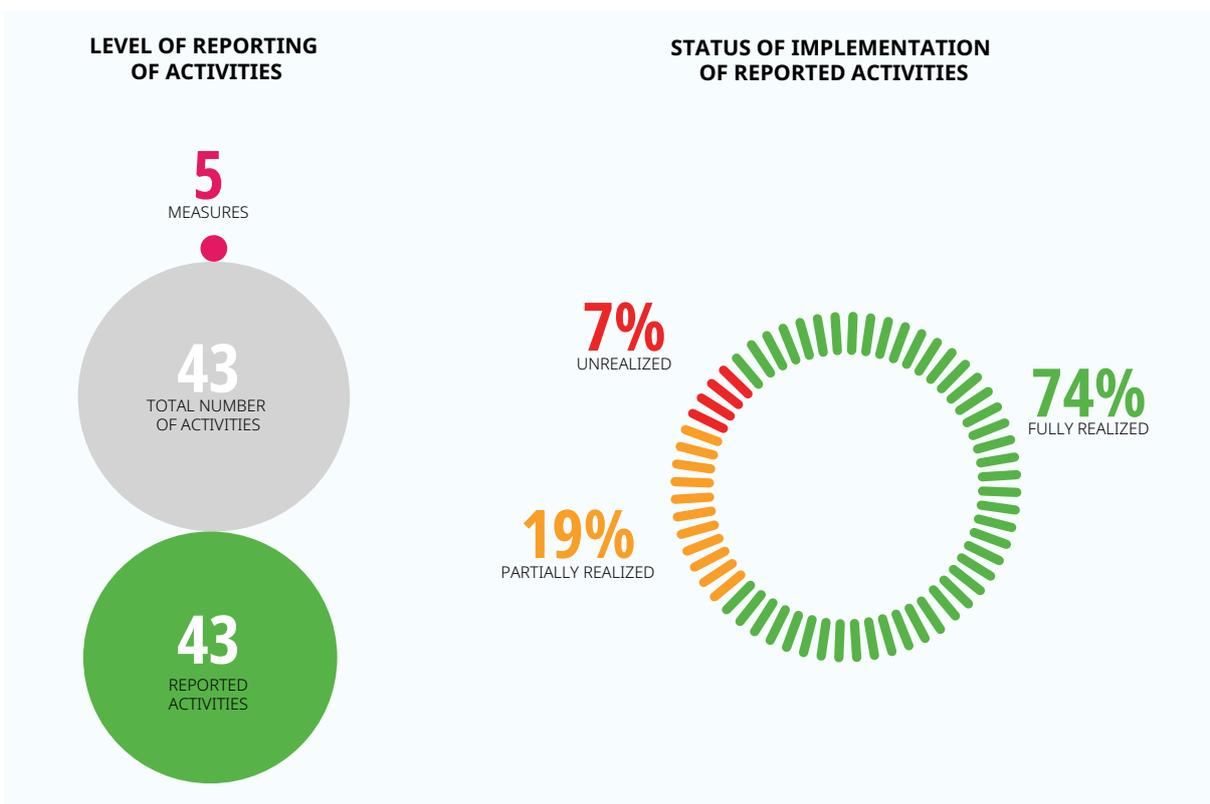
TABLE 32. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
5	43	43	100%



TABLE 33. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	32	74%
Partially realized	8	19%
Unrealized	3	7%





**TABLE 34. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES
(IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)**

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	32	182,743,610	74.00%	182,743,610	100.00%	40.87%	59.13%
Partially realized	8	46,920,654	19.00%	46,920,654	100.00%	40.87%	59.13%
Unrealized	3	17,286,557	7.00%	17,286,557	100.00%		

lished and made functional in compulsory education institutions. In 2024, with the support of UNICEF Albania and PUEQAA, this system was extended to 84 upper secondary schools and 14 vocational training schools nationwide. The relevant manual, approved by PUEQAA, guides the steps and procedures to be followed, and over 970 school employees have been trained to implement it¹⁹. One of the features of this system is the inclusion of techniques for developing socio-emotional skills in students, as part of the preventive approach. So far, 17,261 students have been supported, of which 400 adolescents

(260 boys and 140 girls) have benefited from individual plans for the prevention of dropout. In some municipalities, structured measures have been taken for cooperation between schools, local units and communities, to identify cases of children at risk of dropping out, who have subsequently been supported through inclusion in scholarship schemes according to DCM No. 666. Also, a new structure of field groups has been created through a program supported by UNDP²⁰, which operates at the local level to identify and refer cases in real time, making the intervention more effective and comprehensive.

19. Annual Report '24, UNICEF Albania

20. Annual report '23, '24 of the LNB (Leave no one behind) program implemented by 5 UN agencies

Specific objective III.2.

Integrated social protection system, sensitive to the needs of children and families.

Regarding the efforts to address the full inclusion of students with disabilities in the education system, currently part of the pre-university system are 2266 assistant teachers, supporting 5233 students with disabilities in mainstream educational institutions assessed by multidisciplinary commissions at the LOPUE. Compared to 2022, the ratio has decreased from 3 students with disabilities to 1 teacher, to about 2.5 students with disabilities to 1 assistant teacher. In each LOPUE, professional networks of assistant teachers have been established and are periodically included in seminars and trainings organized by PUEQAA, as well as various NGOs in cooperation with the ME, to provide professional support for children with disabilities. In implementation of the Internal Order, No. 42 Date 15.01.2024, "To increase the capacities of assistant teachers to support students with special needs," capacities have been increased with 66 networks of assistant teachers, which have monitored and trained around 300 assistant teachers each year across the country.

Budget planning for the provision of didactic materials according to the specific requirements of different categories of children with disabilities in pre-university education has been implemented and includes the benefits for children with disabilities: free transportation; free treatment in special education institutions; free textbooks, according to the relevant annual DCMs²¹.

Meanwhile, work is underway to equip schools

with the necessary technological tools and programs. Within the framework of the "EU for inclusive teaching" project, investments were focused on the learning environment of the Institute for Blind Children by equipping them with Braille paper and the process for the production of about 17 DAISY 3 audio books has successfully begun. For the integration of students with disabilities in pre-university educational institutions, 291 resource classes equipped with didactic tools have been opened, with the aim of developing the potential and academic growth of students, while they are not yet equipped with technological tools and programs.

During '23-'24, the process of returning special schools, namely "Luigj Gurakuqi", "Institute for Deaf Students" and "Institute for Blind Students" "Ramazan Kabashi" to Resource Centers was finalized, in implementation of three MES orders issued in 2024. ²²Special school teachers are 100% trained.

The Psycho-Social Service (PSS) in collaboration with educational institutions, has held meetings with parents of children with disabilities (CwDs), with the aim of assessing and supporting their progress in school. At the same time, to support parents, information sessions and training on disabilities, children's rights and support resources have been organized, focusing on an approach that emphasizes the child's abilities and potential. Support groups have also been established for parents and psychological counseling has been provided, with the aim of emotional em-

21. Based on Internal Order No. 22, dated 15.01.2024 "To develop a package of didactic tools and technological programs for 8 special education schools" and Internal Order No. 17, dated 15.01.2024 "To develop curricula for secondary education oriented to "TECHNOLOGY AND ICT"; for deaf students, grade XII"; the curricula for the secondary school oriented to "Technology and ICT" for deaf students, grades 10, 11 and 12 have been developed and approved.

22. Order no. 448, dated 26.08.2024, "On the approval of the reorganization of the special education institution "Luigj Gurakuqi" into the Resource Center, its name, structure and organization"; Order no. 449, dated 26.08.2024, "On the approval of the reorganization of the Institute for Deaf Students, into the Resource Center, its name, structure and organization"; Order no. 450, dated 26.08.2024, of the Minister of Education and Sports "On the approval of the reorganization of the Institute for Blind Students "Ramazan Kabashi".

powerment and building a positive and inclusive relationship with the child, as well as creating an inclusive school environment that welcomes every child with disabilities.

Meanwhile, it is worth mentioning that during '23-'24 the cooperation agreement between the State Social Services and the Regional Education Offices was finalized and made operational, for supporting education services for children with disabilities.

Educational institutions (EIs) are engaged in developing plans for the inclusion of children from vulnerable groups, including Roma/Egyptians, in formal and non-formal education. Schools are specifically engaged in eliminating barriers that affect the enrollment of students from marginalized Roma/Egyptian communities (such as interventions and direct assistance in the electronic enrollment process in the SMIP, which is usually the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian). In some LOPUEs, the service of a coordinator with the Roma and Egyptian communities is provided to enable schools to contact families in cases of a tendency to drop out of compulsory education. The steps specified in the school dropout prevention manual are systematically implemented by the IA, starting with the identification of students with tendencies, assessment of their situation, establishment of an individual work plan, monitoring, etc., as well as the implementation of individual techniques for school retention, promotion of successful cases, engagement in school activities, encouragement, etc.

Financial support for Roma, Egyptian and vulnerable groups students has been fully implemented, with the entry into force of the Council of Ministers No. 119, dated 01.03.2023, "On the use of public funds for the transportation of educational employees who work and students who study outside their place of residence" and the revision of the Council of Ministers No. 666, dated 10.10. 2019, "On financial quotas for food in canteens and dormitories and determining the criteria for obtaining scholarships and payments for students of pre-university education in public educational institutions"; as amended. The Council of Ministers makes it possible to support with scholarships several social categories, such as students, children of families in need, who are

enrolled in basic education, but, due to financial difficulties, do not attend basic education, students of Roma and Egyptian minorities and students with one parent, when one of the parents does not live, to regularly attend education.

In accordance with the DCM no. 511, dated 28.07.2022, schools attended by Roma and Egyptian students are designing and implementing special after-school programs. The "Do Your Homework" initiative, for the 2023-2024 school year, has included 189 schools across the country (from 138 schools until '22), around 8,665 students (from 7,647 in '22) distributed in 451 classes. This project enables children, including Roma/Egyptian children and those from marginalized groups, to do their homework with their friends and under the care of teachers, in school environments, creating facilities for the children's parents as well as equality and socialization for all. By September 2024, based on the "Standards for Community Center Schools" and the selection criteria, there are 541 schools that function as Schools as Community Centers (SCC) and that develop various activities by functioning as after-school clubs after the learning process.

Meanwhile, it has been reported by municipalities that 3,968 Roma and Egyptian parents, who do not have literacy skills, have participated in literacy and basic skills courses. All of them are parents belonging to the Roma minority; they are female and come from urban areas.

The Akademia.al platform was created with the support of UNICEF Albania. This platform is complete with materials according to the competency-based curriculum. About 1,200 ICT teachers have been trained for its use in online learning. Other online platforms have also been created that aim to use digital content within the competency-based curriculum. PUEQAA has prepared and published a document on "On the methodology of blended online learning". During '23-'24, 570 network managers were trained on the use of ICT in the teaching process, 200 heads of schools equipped with smartlabs, 400 primary education teachers on the use of smartlabs, as well as 200 ICT teachers in these same schools; meanwhile, a manual accompanied by video tutorials was also developed to facilitate access

and use of the portal and its data.

Following the implementation of the AKE-LIUS *online system* for hard-to-reach groups (migrants/refugees), 300 teachers have been trained and two guides have been developed, which can be accessed on the PUEQAA website. To date, the system has been used by 1,567 refugee students, with the largest percentage of users being male (861).

The initiatives for the development of the capacities of the Student Parliament and Government have been fully implemented, including the election of the third legislature of the Student Parliament of Albania (SPA), the formation of the Steering Board and the restructuring of 8 functional committees composed of new deputies. The members of the parliament have been fully trained on their duties and responsibilities, while they have organized a series of activities according to the calendar of the marked days, strengthening their participation in the decision-making processes within the school.

The network of democratic and inclusive schools is functioning, as well as the network of teachers "Teacher-Net" with about 250 members. Activities have been developed with teachers, students and parents on topics such as civic education, digital citizenship, internet safety, media education, climate change and the fight against bullying. A guide for teachers has been drafted and published, while 720 leaders of professional networks have been trained on the competence of democratic citizenship. Teachers from the DRAPs of Durrës and Lezha have been included in these networks and the relevant trainings. Education for democratic citizenship has an important role in the education system, as part of the curriculum, but also through projects such as the one developed with the Council of Europe and SIDA "Strengthening Education for Democratic Citizenship in Albania".

Only a limited number of municipalities have established dedicated entertainment and cultural services. In many of them, this role is performed

by youth centers or multifunctional centers. The municipalities of Kavajë, Sarandë, Mat, Vlorë, Korce, Berat and most recently the Municipality of Shijak have these centers operational, which, supported by local or international organizations²³, have tried to keep cultural / entertainment life alive for young age groups.

MES has drafted a national plan for the recovery and resilience of the education system to civil emergencies and natural disasters and PUEQAA has drafted training modules for teachers on civil emergencies and natural disasters. Information sessions have been held in regional education directorates on the guide "Education for emergency management and school safety", which aims to assist 9-year schools in planning activities for managing emergencies, developing life skills and a sustainable school safety culture. Each pre-university educational institution has drafted an annual disaster risk management action plan.

There have been intensive and significant developments in the direction of career orientation for the pre-university education system during '23-'24. A series of guides have been drafted and published that constitute the career guide model, namely: "Guide for career orientation in grades 6-9", approved by no. 246/1, date 13.1.2023 and published; "Guide for the career counseling coordinating teacher at AML" drafted and published; "Guide for the career counseling coordinating teacher at AMU drafted and published". In parallel, all career counseling coordinating teachers at AML have been trained.

23. Dozens of local, artistic activities and concerts have been held within the framework of the UNDP ReLOaD program in Kamëz, Kukës, Lushnje and Patos with children and young people during 2021-2024

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Specific objective III.1 consists of five measures with a total of 43 activities, of which 12 are budgeted in other plans. For the period 2021–2026, the planned expenditures for this objective aimed to cover 93.0% of the indicative costs. According to the reported data: 32 activities have been fully implemented, with a planned budget of 182,743,610 lek (74% of the total). Actual expenditures have been fully implemented (100%), with 40.87% financed by the state budget and 59.13% by partners. 8 activities have been partially implemented, with a planned budget of 46,920,654 lek (19% of the total).

These activities have also had full implementation of expenditures (100%), with the same allocation of resources (40.87% budget, 59.13% partners). 3 activities were not implemented, with a planned budget of 17,286,557 lekë (7% of the total). In conclusion, for the period 2021–2025, 100% of the planned funds were spent on implemented activities (fully and partially), while only 7% of the budget belongs to unrealized activities.



TABLE 35. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
2	26	25	96%



TABLE 36. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	15	60%
Partially realized	8	32%
Unrealized	2	8%

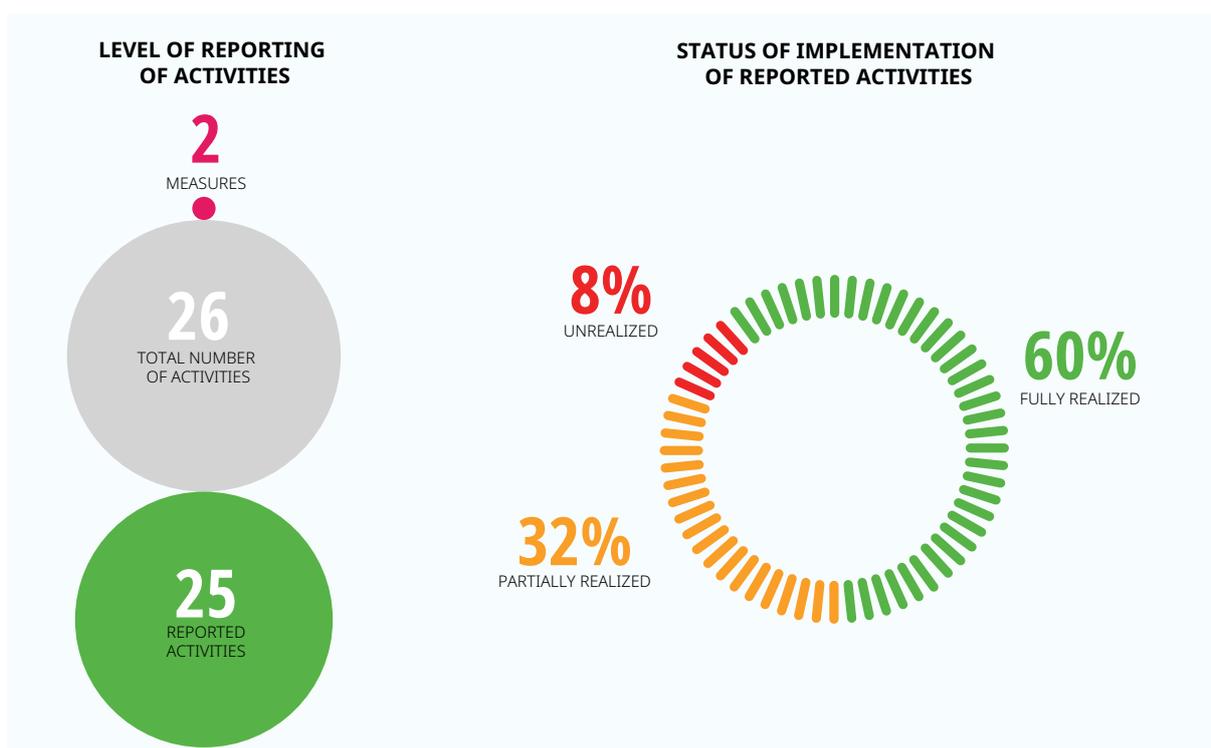




TABLE 37. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	15	401,030,688	60.00%	401,030,688	100.00%	71.00%	29.00%
Partially realized	8	213,883,033	32.00%	213,883,033	100.00%	71.00%	29.00%
Unrealized	2	53,470,758	8.00%	53,470,758	100.00%		

Indicators at the level of specific objectives under this strategic goal are:

number of children living in families receiving economic assistance (decreasing trend): implemented.

number of children benefiting from disability payments (increasing trend): partially implemented.

number of municipalities that have established NARU structures according to legal provisions: unreported; 29 municipalities

number of services established with the social fund for children: implemented.

number of centers transformed into community services for children and families: implemented.

Number of children in foster care: partially implemented.

INSTAT has regularly published the reports of the Income and Living Standards Survey in Albania for the years 2019, 2022, 2023 ²⁴and is in the process of publishing the one for 2024.

Today in Albania, social services are provided

24. <https://www.instat.gov.al/temat/kushtet-sociale/anketa-et%C3%AB-ardhurave-dhe-nivelit-t%C3%AB-jetes%C3%ABs-aanj/>

Specific objective III.3.

Improving the health of children and adolescents.

for all vulnerable groups in 446 care centers.²⁵ or about 30% more than in 2021. These centers provide social care services to 68,724 beneficiaries, individuals in need; of these, the beneficiaries of social care services are mainly children up to 16 years old (47%).



In 2025, 13% of the total number of Specialized Care Services (SCS) are residential services and 87% are community-based services; 71% of institutions operate at the local level. People with disabilities constitute the main group of beneficiaries in all regions, with 28% of them being able to receive services at the national level.



Public centers provide about 61% of total social services, while non-public ones provide 39%.

The bio-psycho-social model of the disability assessment system has now been progressively extended throughout the country. The assessment process based on this model is carried out through the use of the National Electronic Disability Registry, which enables transparency and effectiveness in this scheme.

For about 62,000 children from families on the economic assistance scheme, subsidies are offered to promote education and vaccination, electricity compensation, free health services in both primary and secondary education, exemptions from fees at all stages of education, and scholarship benefits and facilitations in some processes.

Measures have been taken to increase cash transfers, particularly for households headed by women and those with three or more children, for whom the amount has been doubled. From this increased allocation, approximately 62,000 children have benefited. Financial assistance for children without parental care has been tripled.

The Baby Bonus policy, in place since 2019, directly supports children and families by guaranteeing a cash grant (bonus) for every newborn (ALL 40,000 for the first child, ALL 80,000 for the second child, and ALL 120,000 for the third child). More than 42,000 new mothers (42,767) have benefited from the Baby Bonus. From 2019 to date, a total of 231,565 Baby Bonuses has been granted, including 10,679 bonuses awarded during the period January–June 2025. A new policy is being implemented from 2023 to support unemployed women with three or more children through state subsidies for social and health insurance payments.

Since 2023, a new policy has been implemented to support unemployed women with three or more children through state subsidies covering social and health insurance contributions. To support unemployed women mothers with three or more minor children the state provides a 100% subsidy of social security and health insurance contributions, calculated on the basis of the minimum wage. A total of 9,200 unemployed women has benefited from this policy.

Family support (with packages composed for families with many children, beneficiaries of the economic assistance scheme) is provided by non-profit organizations within the framework of support programs in different regions or by local businesses. During the year '23-'24, World Vision has supported 2,458 families with food packages and hygiene and sanitary items, while during 2024, the number of children supported was 28,873²⁶. Terre des Hommes, during 2023, has supported 136 ²⁷families through economic empowerment strategies. During the years 2021-2025, about 3,500 children were supported by the Initiative ARSIS with direct services including food packages and hygiene and sanitary items. During 2021–2022, CRCA/ECPAT Albania,

25. Including social services supported by the Social Fund Mechanism for 2025

26. Report annual 2023 and 2024, World Vision Albania

27. Annual report 2023, Terre des Hommes Albania

with the support of UNDP and the Social Fund, as well as donations from the companies ONE Communication, SPAR, etc., have supported around 1,000 children in Albania with free clothing, food, bags and learning materials, almost half of them in the Korça Region.

DCM 224/2024 has been approved on the new methodology for calculating and distributing funds from the social fund, as well as DCM 613/2024, on some changes to DCM 111/2018 on the establishment and functioning of the local Social Fund, where municipalities must now raise social funds in local "Social Care" plans. There has been significant progress in the number of municipalities that have benefited from the Social Fund, 19 in the year 2021 (51 in 2024; 59 in 2025), financing services for 3,932 of beneficiaries. All 61 municipalities in the country, by the end of 2024, have been equipped with budgeted and approved social plans, as a mandatory prerequisite for applying for financial support from the Social Fund mechanism.

Within the Social Fund, 24 specialized services for children have been created, including 9 mobile services for children with disabilities, 8-day centers, 4 services for strengthening the biological family, 4 multifunctional centers, as well as a national counseling line. Over 3,800 children in various situations have benefited from these services, including children with disabilities and children at risk of abandonment. During 2024, thanks to a 7% increase in the budget (324 million lek), 73 services at the municipal and regional level have been supported, covering 51 municipalities and benefiting over 32,800 individuals in need. Interventions also include improvements in the regulatory framework, to encourage inter-municipal cooperation and the integration of the social fund into local medium-term budgeting. In 2025, the fund has increased by 14.2%, reaching 369 million lekë, enabling the financing of 84 services in 59 municipalities and the benefit of over 62,700 individuals, an increase of almost 12,000 beneficiaries compared to the previous year. This support continues to be essential for strengthening local social services and increasing access for the most vulnerable groups.

In order to increase the capacities of local government units and structures to benefit from the Social Fund, a continuous process of training

and technical assistance has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Wellbeing, State Social Services and international partners. Within the framework of the EU4SITA program, a methodology for optimizing social services and a guide for their procurement have been developed, while all local structures in 61 municipalities have been trained to implement these procedures, aiming to increase the effectiveness in the use of funds allocated from the central budget.

During the years '23-'24, a good number of municipalities have taken concrete steps to build the capacities of the LGU structures and cooperate with NARU employees, to inform and support families benefiting from economic assistance for access to social measures and services. In some of them, all social administrators have been trained for this function and direct information activities have been developed with families on economic assistance, orienting them towards additional social services. Although many municipalities have taken important steps, the implementation of this activity is not uniform and requires reinforcement through systematic training and formalization of cooperation between administrators and NARU at the local level. Within the framework of the LNB2 Programme, training and mentoring have been provided to local government administration staff on the planning and delivery of social services for 420 professionals, and support has also been given to the consolidation of methodologies for home visits.

DCM 768/2021, amended by DCM 292/2024 on the procurement of social services, has been approved, and the Implementation Guide for this decision has been drafted. The amendments to DCM 292/2024 have standardized and simplified the procedures for the procurement of social services by municipalities. These acts regulate the way public funds are used to contract social service providers, increasing transparency and efficiency. The Implementation Guide helps local units to implement the decision clearly and uniformly.

The Framework of Basic Standards for Social Services has been approved by Ministerial Instruction 281/2024, and the standards for residential social care services for children aged 0-5 years have been revised, approved by Ministe-

rial Instruction 169/2024, as have the standards for residential care services for children aged 6-16 years, approved by Ministerial Instruction 631/2022. Compared to previous standards, these revisions and approvals represent a step forward in the professionalization and quality of social services for children in Albania.

A review of the baby bonus policy is foreseen, where, in addition to immediate financial support, a monthly payment for the well-being of the child will be provided, divided according to the child's age. It is in the planning process in the first phase of the preparation of the 2026-2028 medium-term budget. Meanwhile, support for the baby bonus has continued for all newborns and their families, through a financial reward, regardless of social or economic status, as well as within the framework of the incentive to increase fertility.

The Framework of Basic Standards for Social Services was approved by Ministerial Instruction 281/2024, and the standards for residential social care services for children aged 0-5 years were revised, approved by Ministerial Instruction 169/2024, as were the standards for residential care services for children aged 6-16 years, approved by Ministerial Instruction 631/2022.

The process of deinstitutionalization of children in residential developmental centers has begun through the establishment of specialized alternative care services for children with disabilities. This includes: **18 mobile services for persons with disabilities**, providing services to **665 children with disabilities**, of whom **188 are children with autism spectrum disorders**, in the municipalities of Librazhd, Lezhë, Rrogozhinë, Elbasan, Maliq, Vau i Dejës, Dropull, Dibër, Has, Gjirokastrë, Patos, Tirana, Selenicë, Dimal, Libohovë, Finiq, Shijak, and Kuçovë. These municipalities offer specialized mobile services delivered in the child's home. This is an integrated service that supports the child's access to school, education, and health services whenever needed. The service also covers the psycho-social support of both the child and their family members. Seven Day Care Centers for Children with Disabilities are currently operational, providing services to a total of 983 beneficiaries in the municipalities of Lushnjë, Kavajë, Gramsh, Bulqizë, Kamëz, and Patos. In parallel, a comprehensive assessment process for children with disabilities

has been conducted within the development centers, supporting individualized service planning and the delivery of needs-based interventions.

In the context of deinstitutionalization, the referral and cooperation mechanism continues to operate based on the Child Case Management Guidelines, covering the entire process from identification, counselling, and information provision, to the development of intervention plans and case follow-up during service delivery. The Guidelines were developed by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in cooperation with UNICEF. In Shkodër, Tirana, and Durrës, efforts were intensified to prevent the separation of children from their families and to support family reunification. Social service staff provided dedicated support to 83 children at risk and their families through home visits, parenting courses, and psychological counselling. In addition, 160 professionals across five municipalities received training on the deinstitutionalization reform and support services for children.

Two social care centers for children aged 0-5 years have been transformed into child and family support services (CFSS) in the municipalities of Korça and Vlora. This process has used a replicable methodology, developed by MHSW in cooperation with UNICEF Albania and approved by the deinstitutionalization steering committee. The process is ongoing with the municipalities of Durrës and Shkodër. As part of the transformation of the two aforementioned residential centers, a specialized alternative care service has also been piloted. A costing model for care services was finalized in 2024 to support sustainability.

The Foster Family Register format has been developed and piloted in the municipalities of Tirana, Shkodër, Vlorë, and Korçë. A total of 139 new parents were trained on family reunification processes and family-based care models. The next steps include: drafting and approving the Law on Alternative Care in line with international standards; establishing and promoting foster care programmes supported by financial and professional assistance; and expanding specialized, community-based services for children with disabilities, ensuring accessibility and inclusive service provision.

As part of the human resources development



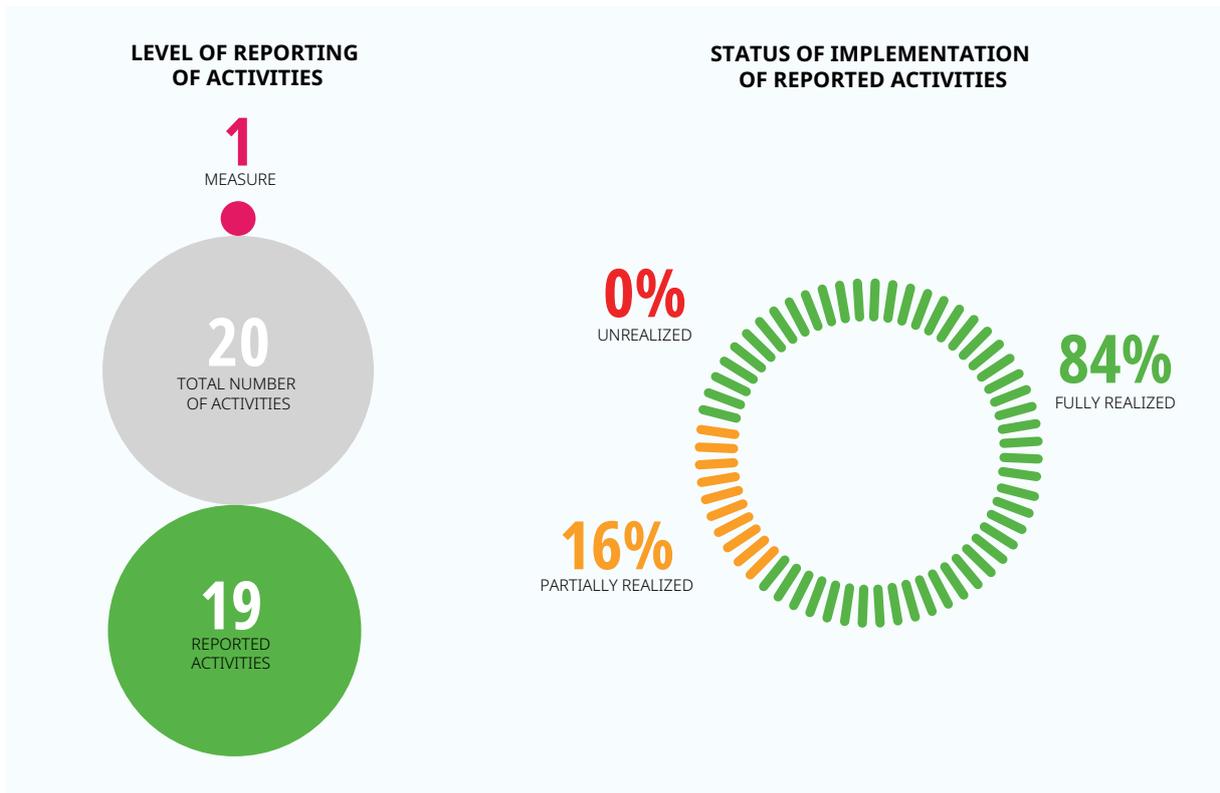
TABLE 38. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
1	20	19	95%



TABLE 39. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	16	84%
Partially realized	3	16%
Unrealized	0	0%





**TABLE 37. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES
(IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)**

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	16	185,832,771	84.00%	185,832,771	100.00%	61.50%	38.50%
Partially realized	3	35,396,718	16.00%	35,396,718	100.00%	61.50%	38.50%
Unrealized							

initiative, in collaboration with national and international partners, the training of 132 local professionals who work directly with children, youth and families in need (public care institutions, community centers and child protection structures) was completed. The training focused on critical topics such as the reintegration of children into biological families, case management approaches and methodologies for preparing young people to leave care. This capacity building took place in Shkodër and Tirana, empowering professionals with the skills and knowledge to better support vulnerable populations. During 2022-2023, various professionals with proven parenting programs and staff of public care institutions in Vlorë and Korçë were also trained on the topic of reintegration.

A good number of local units have taken concrete steps to build the capacities of CPUs and NARUs. Several municipalities such as Tirana,

Durrës, Elbasan, Korçë, Cërriku, Kuçovë, Librazhd, Kamzë and Krujë report on direct training regarding the process of early identification of children and families at risk, the development of individual plans for protection and family empowerment, as well as the strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation through mechanisms such as Intersectoral Technical Groups (ITGs). In these municipalities, structured practices of case management and the construction of coordinated interventions at the community level have been identified. Concrete examples of the use of the gatekeeping approach include the case of the Municipality of Tirana, where through 423 meetings of the ITG during 2024, decisions were made to provide protective measures and develop family empowerment plans before any institutionalization of a child. The Municipality of Elbasan has conducted mentoring sessions with employees of the NARU, social services, police, health system and students, within the frame-

Specific objective III.4. Child-friendly justice.

work of the RISE Her project, which also touch on aspects of action plans and gatekeeping.

However, many other municipalities report more general information or awareness-raising activities, without clearly specifying training for CPU/NARU staff regarding early identification and gatekeeping mechanisms. On September 10, 2024, the meeting of the National Council for the Rights and Protection of Children was held. The purpose of this meeting was to present and approve the plan of measures for the implementation of the recommendations given by the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the presentation of the "Guarantee for Children" model, as one of the priority measures of the National Strategy for Social Protection 2024-2030. This strategy, approved by Council of Ministers No. 152, dated 13.03.2024, also provided for the review of the response to crises and financial schemes and benefits for individuals in its strategic objectives.

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Specific Objective III.2 consists of two measures with a total of 26 activities, of which 4 are budgeted in other plans. According to the action plan, for the period 2021–2026 the planned expenditures were expected to cover 69.8% of the indicative costs, while the remaining part (around one third) was identified as a financial gap. From the reported data: 15 activities have been fully implemented, with a planned budget of ALL 401,030,688 (60% of the total). Expenditures were realized at 100%, of which 71.0% were covered by the state budget and 29.0% by partners. 8 activities have been partially implemented, with a planned budget of ALL 213,883,033 (32% of the total).

These activities also had full financial realization (100%), with the same financing breakdown (71.0% state budget, 29.0% partners). 2 activities were not implemented, with a planned budget of ALL 53,470,758 (8% of the total). In total, for the reporting period 100% of the planned funds were spent for the activities implemented (fully and partially), while a small portion of the budget (8%) remains tied to the unimplemented activities.

The main indicators at the level of specific objectives under this strategic goal are:

percentage of children under 5 years old, underweight, decreasing: implemented;

percentage of children under 5 years of age with stunted growth for age, decreasing: implemented;

percentage of children who are exclusively breastfed up to 6 months: partially implemented;

number of neonatal intensive care units implementing new newborn care standards: implemented.

MHSW has drafted the Reproductive Health Action Plan 2021–2030 and has approved 10 standard treatment protocols for neonatal care and the implementation of neonatal screening for the early identification of genetic diseases or other disorders in children²⁸. 21 doctors and 120 nurses from the neonatology service have been trained in neonatal care and the implementation of screening programs.

In the country's 362 Primary Health Care Centers, a total of 831 medical professionals has been trained on the Clinical Practice Protocols for Supporting the Growth and Development of Children 0–6 Years Old. In addition, about 3,400 nurses have been trained on providing health care in the home. In these centers, another 1,436 professionals have been trained on monitoring feeding practices for children 0–2 years old and on growth monitoring for children 0–5 years old. Meanwhile, in Hospital Health Care, in 11 Regional Hospitals and 24 Municipal Hospitals, 49 doctors and 221 nurses from the obstetrics-gynecology service have been trained

on the implementation of protocols in maternity wards and maternal care.

The health promotion and education units of the 36 Local Health Care Units have organized 1,359 awareness campaigns or meetings on care during pregnancy at home. A total of 4,469 pregnant women has benefited from these meetings. Meanwhile, for the period 2023-2024, it results that the 36 Local Health Care Units have conducted about 312 trainings on safe parenting during the first phase of life and adolescence, from which about 3,391 parents have benefited. Also, during this period, 545 health personnel attached to the provision of services in kindergartens and preschool education were trained, and 255 trainings were conducted in the framework of child well-being and psychomotor development, organized in about 30 municipalities in the country.

The Health Promotion and Education Units at the Local Health Care Units have carried out a series of activities and awareness campaigns with children and adolescents in 9-year schools and high schools across the country. More specifically, over 1,200 activities have been carried out on topics related to reproductive health, sexual education in children and adolescents, and drug abuse²⁹, with the participation of around 41,272 children and adolescents. Also, the IHP in collaboration with the LHCU have organized a considerable number of systematic activities on healthy behaviors, including sexually transmitted diseases with focus groups of young people from vulnerable categories.

Many of these activities have been carried out within the framework of the development of health service capacities in schools of the "Schools for Health" project. At the national level, it turns out that there are about 295 9-year schools involved in this initiative with the

28. Based on order no. 727, dated 30.12.2022

29. Substance abuse prevention issues, including drugs and alcohol, are extensively addressed in the "Action Plan for the Prevention, Treatment and Reduction of Drug Harm in Albania 2023 - 2026," approved in March 2024, as well as in the document of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Reduction of Alcohol-Related Harm in Albania 2025 - 2030, which is in the process of being drafted by the working group established for this purpose, where the component of primary and secondary prevention interventions among young people will occupy a special place.

prospect of further expanding to other regions of the country with a focus on promoting the health and well-being of school students, their families and the health community on “Healthy Lifestyles in Albania”. At the same time, within the framework of the Health Education Program, with a focus on “Sexual Education as a Life Skill in a Safe School Environment”, a program undertaken by PUEQAA in collaboration with ME and UNFPA, in implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2030, activities have been carried out on the prevention of sexual violence and assistance for timely intervention, creating a safe school environment³⁰.

The manual for the use and training of personnel providing vaccination services, collecting and entering data into the vaccination health information system has been updated, and for the period January 2023 - December 2024, about 1,086 medical personnel, doctors/nurses of health centers and staff of the LHCU involved in entering data into the VIS (Vaccination Information System), have been trained. All children benefit from the nationwide immunization program. During ‘23-’24, this program has also widely implemented the vaccination of girls 13 years of age and older, with the newest vaccine in the scheme, HPV³¹.

The MHSW has planned, in collaboration with the Solidar Project, to draft documents and operational plans for civil health emergencies, focusing on children and adolescents.

The integration of psychosocial staff in the provision of primary and hospital healthcare has had a particular focus during the 2 years, ‘23-

’24, increasing the number of professionals, respectively: in 103 Socio-Health Centers as part of Primary Healthcare, 88 psychologists/social workers provide services, while in the Hospital Service, the number of this personnel is increasing, reaching 21, in 16 regional and municipal hospitals in the country.

An extensive analysis of the mapping of mental health services for youth and adolescents was conducted by the MHSW and the Institute of Public Health in 2023. The relevant report was prepared for this and the findings were included in the “New National Mental Health Plan” approved in 2024. The Institute of Public Health has prepared information materials and organized training for 60 health professionals (doctors) and school teaching staff,³² part of which were topics related to the mental health of youth. Part of the topics addressed were also the challenges of mental health in emergencies, based on the “Guide for non-professional providers and caregivers on strategies for promoting and protecting mental health and reducing self-harm and other risks”³³, which was translated and adapted during 2024.

Access to mental health information and services, especially for children and adolescents, has increased during 2024. The scientific resource of the European Alliance Against Depression/EAAD, such as “IFight4Wellbeing”, which provides reliable information on issues related to depression, was introduced to the psychosocial staff of schools, socio-health centers and National Centers for Mental Health, as well as the presentation of the “Ifightdepression” instrument, which is an online tool that can be used for a preliminary assessment, orientation and support in

30. Some of the products of this initiative are: Development of the training program “Health education with a focus on sexual education as a life skill in a safe school environment”, 2022-2026; Development of training modules “Health education with a focus on sexual education as a life skill in a safe school environment”, 2022-2026; Awareness and preparation of national and local capacities for the implementation of the “Sexual Abuse” training package in schools, 2022-2026; Preparation of awareness-raising materials with a focus on sexual abuse as well as for online access; Identification of schools that will serve as coordination centers for the continuity of the “Sexual Education as a Life Skill” program in a safe school environment and the creation of these coordination centers.

31. Human papillomavirus (HPV)

32. Training activities to address mental health problems for teaching staff were developed by school psychosocial staff.

33. Based on the WHO and UNICEF manual, “Helping adolescents thrive toolkit” and the “Teacher’s Guide and Comic Book” as part of the WHO and UNICEF “Helping adolescents thrive toolkit”.



TABLE 41. THE MINORS WHO BENEFITED FROM ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE ACCORDING TO THE TERRITORIAL BRANCHES FOR 2024

DEGËT TERRITORIALE		LLOJET E DËNIMEVE ALTERNATIVE					GJITHSEJ
		Neni 59 i KP, Pezullimi	Neni 59/a i KP, Qëndrimi në shtëpi	Neni 64 i KP, Lirimi me kusht	Neni 63 i KP, Punë në interes publik	Neni 58 i KP, Gjysmëliria	
1	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Tiranë	34	0	0	4	0	38
2	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Durrës	8	0	0	0	0	8
3	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Fier	8	0	0	0	0	8
4	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Shkodër	12	3	0	2	0	17
5	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Lezhë	1	0	0	0	0	1
6	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Elbasan	3	0	0	4	0	7
7	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Korçë	6	0	0	1	0	7
8	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Gjirokastrë	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Mat	1	0	0	4	0	5
10	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Vlorë	4	0	0	1	0	5
11	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Berat	0	0	0	4	0	4
12	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Kukës	2	0	0	3	0	5
13	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Pogradec	1	0	0	1	0	2
14	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Lushnje	2	0	0	2	0	4
15	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Kurbin	3	0	0	1	0	4
16	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Krujë	4	0	0	0	0	4
17	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Pukë	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Sarandë	1	0	0	0	0	1
19	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Kavajë	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Dibër	0	0	0	1	0	1
21	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Tropojë	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Dega territoriale e Shërbimit të Provës Përmet	0	0	0	0	0	0
		90	3	0	20	0	121



TABLE 42. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
1	14	10	71%



TABLE 43. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	4	40%
Partially realized	6	60%
Unrealized	0	0%

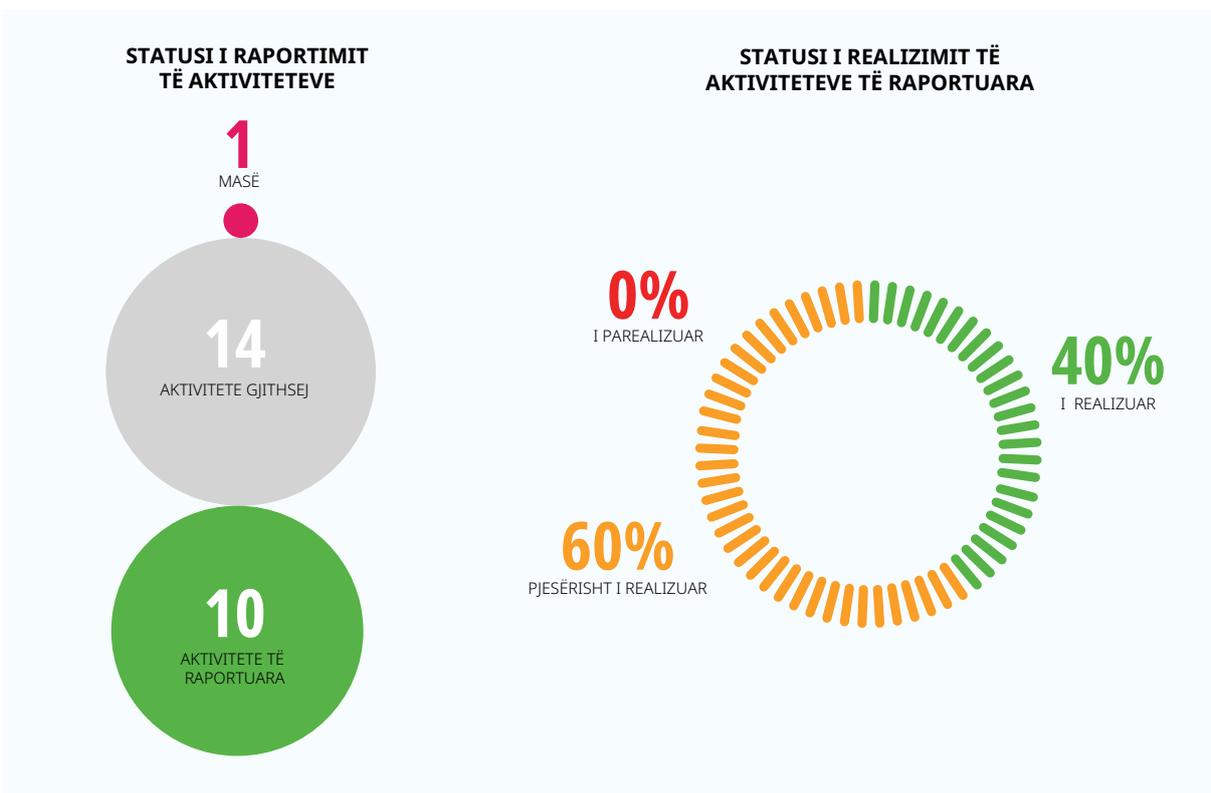




TABLE 44. EXPENDITURES ACCORDING TO THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	4	15,687,487	40.00%	15,687,487	100.00%	71.58%	28.42%
Partially realized	6	23,531,231	60.00%	23,531,231	100.00%	71.58%	28.42%
Unrealized							

the online service, mainly in a self-help format.

With the support of HAP³⁴, the MHSW has developed a guideline for the management of mental disorders and trained over 600 trainers for its implementation. In addition, protocols for children aged 0-6 have been updated to include early identification of autism, mental retardation and ADHD, and numerous trainings have been organized for health and psychosocial personnel throughout the country. In parallel, work has been initiated on a national suicide prevention programme, which will last until 2030. In collaboration with UNICEF Albania, international guidelines for teachers and caregivers have been adapted. As mentioned, the HBSC 2022 study has served as a basis for assessing the mental state of young people and planning further interventions, and the aforementioned tools have been presented and made available to increase access to information and services.

The work done on healthy nutrition of pre-university education students has played a very important role in raising awareness and active participation of the younger generation on issues related to the care and protection of their health. These topics are integrated into various subjects of the pre-university curriculum. The drafted regulation aims to guarantee the health of children

through food standards and aims to regulate in a unified manner the standards of food provision in pre-university educational institutions, which includes the list of permitted and prohibited foods.

34. The "Health for All" (HAP) project is an initiative funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Goal IV.

Promoting children's rights in the digital world.

During the 2023-2024 school year, in collaboration with PUEQAA, local educational institutions responsible for pre-university education and partner organizations/associations have carried out a considerable number of activities, such as: implementation of the curriculum package "For a healthy diet" for the prevention of malnutrition and education for a healthy diet, for the age group 5-16; development of questionnaires, awareness-raising topics, sensitization meetings, focus groups, individual and group counsel-

ing with students and teachers from the school's psychosocial services (PSS) on healthy nutrition and the prohibition of the use of energy drinks in school environments; avoidance of exposure to unhealthy foods in school environments; development in October 2024 of the "Autumn Fair" with the contribution of students and their parents to advertise autumn products as healthy food; The "Land at School" initiative continued, where mini-plots were created near the school; the implementation of the "Eat Healthy" project



TABLE 45. LEVEL OF REPORTING OF RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)

Number of indicators	Unreported	Reported
4	0	4
100%	0%	100%



TABLE 46. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESULT INDICATORS (IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES)

No. of indicators	Fully realized	Partially completed	Unrealized
4	4	0	0
100%	100%	0%	0%



TABLE 47. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
3	12	12	100%



TABLE 48. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	9	75%
Partially realized	2	17%
Unrealized	1	8%

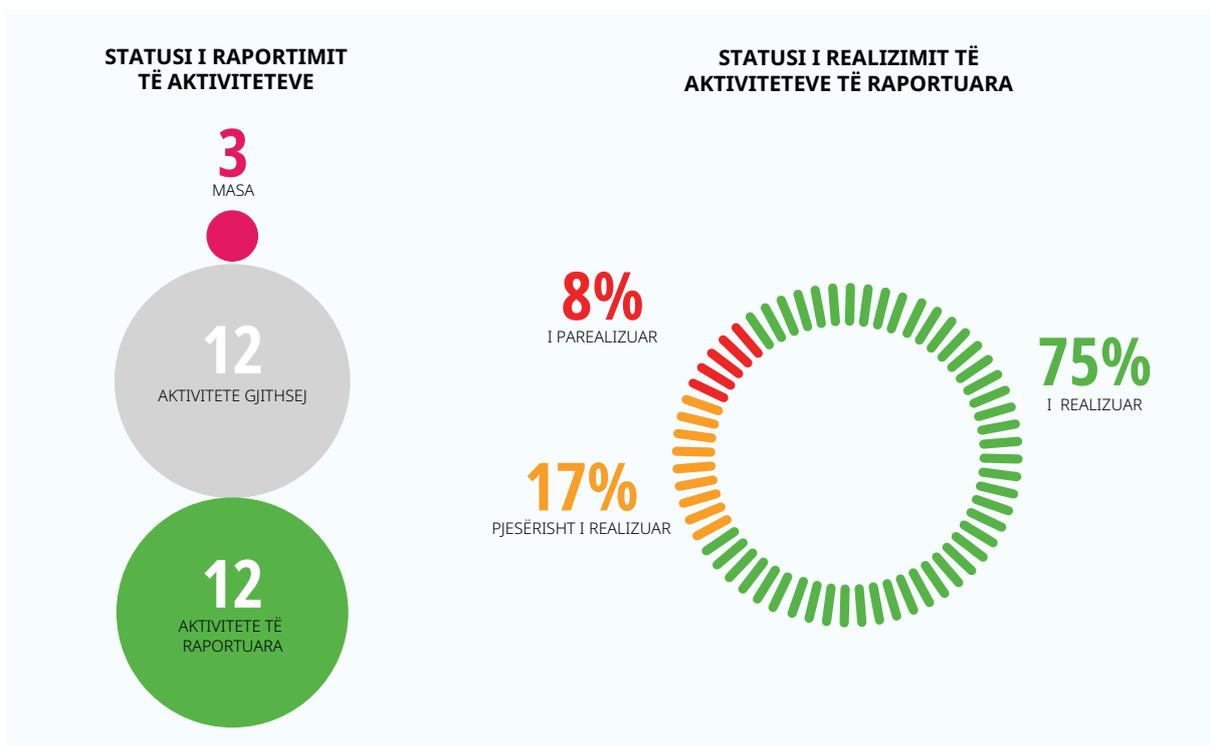


TABLE 49. EXPENDITURES BY STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	9	18,491,192	75.00%	18,491,192	100.00%	35.85%	64.15%
Partially realized	2	4,191,337	17%	4,191,337	100.00%	35.85%	64.15%
Unrealized	1	1,972,394	8%	1,972,394	100.00%	35.85%	64.15%

Specific objective IV.1

Promoting children's rights in the digital world.

and the "School and Health" project, etc.

→ The National Vision Care Programme for Children in Albania was approved by the government in 2022. This is the first programme of its kind in the country, aiming to provide periodic vision checks for all children from birth to age 14. It includes free screenings in schools and health centers, with the aim of early identification and treatment of vision problems in children. As of February 2025, the number of children who have benefited from the National Vision Programme is 265,584.

→

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Specific objective III.3 consists of a measure with a total of 20 activities, of which only 1 activity is budgeted in another plan. For the period 2021–2026, according to the action plan, the planned expenditures aimed to cover 82.2% of the indicative costs. The reported data shows that:

16 activities were fully implemented, with a planned budget of 185,832,771 lek (84% of the total). Actual expenditures were fully implemented (100%), with 61.5% of the funds coming from the state budget and 38.5% from partners. 3 activities were partially implemented, with a planned budget of 35,396,718 lek (16% of the total). These activities also had full financial implementation (100%), with the same allocation of resources (61.5% state budget, 38.5% partners).

There are no unrealized activities or activities with missing information. In total, for the period 2021–2025, 100% of the planned funds for the implemented activities were spent (fully and partially). The majority of the funding was covered by the state budget (61.5%), while partners contributed 38.5% of the expenses.

Treguesit kryesorë në nivel objektivash të veçanta nën këtë qëllim strategjik, janë:

number of children benefiting from free legal aid: implemented.

number of cases handled by the probation service: partially implemented.

number of child defendants (14–18 years old) under investigation reported by the prosecution: partially implemented.

Number of children treated with protection orders in court as victims of domestic violence: implemented.

The EU negotiations provided an opportunity to strengthen complementarity between the EU *acquis* and UN standards, in particular on children’s rights and access to justice. In this context, the Albanian government, with the support of UNICEF Albania, drafted a five-year Children’s Justice Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2026. The scope is more ambitious than the previous strategy, going beyond the concept of criminal justice for children to other areas of justice, such as family, civil and administrative.

Child victims of violence in the prosecution system are assisted by the coordinator for subjects with special status. They are interviewed by the prosecutor or judicial police officer, always in the presence of the coordinator, who provides psychological support to the victim and carries out a needs assessment report. The coordinators are trained in issues of domestic violence, sexual abuse, issues of human trafficking and minors in conflict with the law.

An information material has been drafted for the minor’s familiarization with the alternative measure of avoidance provided for in articles 55 et seq. of the Criminal Justice Code for Juveniles, approved by Law No. 37/2017. These materials and model acts have been approved by the Prosecutor General and have become part of General Instruction No. 8, dated 15.11.2021, “On the effective investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses involving minors in conflict with the law, victims and/or witnesses”, which the Prosecutor General has issued.

The establishment of a working group to draft

criteria for training, licensing and crediting professionals in the framework of the implementation of the juvenile criminal justice code has not yet been completed; however, under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, many activities have been carried out to build their capacities during '23-'24.

Thus, the National Chamber of Mediators has conducted 3 trainings related to this code and informs that the number of specialized mediators in this framework is 17. Meanwhile, the school of magistrates during '23-'24 has conducted 11 trainings in the field of juvenile justice on various topics such as the implementation of medical and educational measures, on criminal, civil, family and administrative matters where the child participates or their decision-making affects the child. At the same time, in cooperation with the Center for Civic Legal Initiatives has organized several training courses in the framework of the implementation of possible alternative measures for avoiding criminal prosecution and referral to restorative justice programs, in which acting magistrates and professors have participated.

The General Prosecutor's Office, in collaboration with Terre des Hommes, has organized several trainings aimed at empowering law professionals in child-friendly interviewing techniques for minors, victims of physical violence and sexual abuse. Participants in this training were 62 prosecutors, officers and coordinators from all prosecutors' offices of general jurisdiction.

The Center for the Prevention of Juvenile and Youth Crimes has participated in trainings organized by local and international partners, such as IPO, UNICEF Albania, OSCE, CFD, etc., in the framework of strengthening the capacities of the Center's employees and in cooperation with the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection, has organized trainings in the municipalities of Dibër, Gjirokastër and Malësi e Madhe, in municipalities where Child Protection Units have managed cases of children in conflict with the law. The trainings were conducted with local actors who are part of the ITG.

For 2024, a successful round of information sessions on the prevention of crimes among

minors and youth was carried out, in cooperation with the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of Child and the Center for the Prevention of Crimes against Juveniles and Youth. The activities were held in the municipalities of Koplik, Dibër, Berat, Kuçovë, Dimal, Gjirokastër, Përmet, Këlcyrë, Tepelenë and Memaliaj. For this activity, 129 frontline workers were engaged, including representatives from local police departments, social services, child protection units, probation service, prosecution, regional education and health authorities, as well as schools. The aim was to build capacities for early identification of cases and strengthen referral mechanisms for more efficient inter-institutional cooperation in the prevention of crimes among youth.

During 2025, the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child organized information sessions/workshops in the municipalities of Tirana, Fier, Shkodër, Lezhë, Kukës, Dibër, Cërrik, and Elbasan with frontline professionals, including staff of Child Protection Units (NJMFs), school psycho-social service staff, teachers, police officers, and representatives of local organizations. A total of 64 representatives from various institutions participated.

The purpose of these information sessions/workshops was the early identification and strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation to prevent violence and criminality among youth, as well as to enhance referral mechanisms and case management for children in conflict or contact with the law.

The sessions were conducted with NJMFs and local actors who are part of the Technical Working Groups (GTNs). NJMFs and other frontline workers were informed about procedures for managing cases involving children below the age of criminal responsibility who are in conflict or contact with the law, as well as the importance of inter-institutional cooperation in preventing violence and crime among children and young people.

15 local police directorates have established child-friendly interview units³⁵ in local directorates and police stations, in the implementation of the obligations of the Juvenile Criminal Justice Code, for the interview of minors, regardless of

35. 12 Child Friendly Interview Units were implemented by UNICEF, within the framework of the implementation of the Swedish program and 3 child friendly interview units were established by World Vision in partnership with the ARSIS Initiative.

whether they are suspects, victims, or witnesses, to take place in an environment that ensures the protection of minors and the quality of the information provided by children. These interview units have been established based on the Standard Procedures for the “Juvenile Interview Unit, technical standards and procedures for the use of these facilities”, which were approved by order of the General Director of the State Police no. 715, dated 5.6.2019. The units are equipped with audio and video recording tools for the interview, and provide friendly conditions for minors in contact with the police. The rules for questioning a minor victim or witness are set out in Article 39 of the Juvenile Criminal Justice Code, “Special rules for questioning a minor victim or witness”. Special training has been organised for police officers working in these units, focusing on techniques for investigating crimes involving minors and a gender approach. The Ministry of Justice has signed agreements with municipalities to establish multidisciplinary centres, where technical teams (psychologists, social workers, doctors) assist in handling cases.

The General Directorate of the State Police, in collaboration with UNICEF Albania, has prepared the Manual on “Scientific Techniques for Interviewing Juveniles” and has distributed it electronically to State Police employees who were part of the trainings conducted by all local police directorates in the country. The General Directorate of the State Police, in collaboration with the National Chamber of Mediators, has organized 2 trainings related to restorative justice and mediation, in which police employees from all local police structures have been trained. The Directorate has also drafted and approved the “Protocol of the Referral Mechanism for the Reintegration into Society of Juveniles and Youth in Conflict with the Law”, which describes the obligations and responsibilities of the institutions involved in this process.

The use of the Integrated Children’s Justice Data System has improved. 1,898 cases of children in criminal justice processes were registered within the first six months of 2022 and the number of regular users has increased by 76%. The High Judicial Council ordered all courts to enter data into the system.

Educational activities have been conducted for

145 students of 9-year schools and high schools, to strengthen their legal knowledge and raise awareness about staying away from criminal activities. Meanwhile, the number of cases handled by the probation service has increased by at least 20 cases per year, where only in 2024, 121 minors who benefited from alternative justice being handled. The minors who benefited from alternative justice according to the Territorial Branches for 2024 are listed in the table 41.

For the period January ‘23-December ‘24, 268 employees of civil status offices in municipalities / administrative units were trained on identifying, registering and granting statelessness status to children.

In 2024, a joint agreement was drafted and approved between the SARPC and the Center for the Prevention of Crimes against Juveniles and Youth for the management of cases of children in conflict with the law. This agreement aims to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation to guarantee the protection of children in conflict with the law, in accordance with the legal framework for child protection, the National Agenda for Children’s Rights 2021–2026 and the Juvenile Justice Strategy 2022–2026.

There has been no report on the capacity building of procedural representatives for the management of children in conflict with the law. The Directorate of Protection and Social Inclusion in the Municipality of Tirana mentions that it has appointed 6 Child Protection Officers who support cases of children in conflict with the law as procedural representatives.

During the period 2021 – 2025, the psycho-social service of the ARSIS Initiative was provided during the interview process at the police stations of Tirana, Kamëz, Vorë, etc., for 2748 children, of whom more than 40% were cases of children in need of protection or at risk and were reported to child protection units. The use of friendly units for interviewing child victims, perpetrators and witnesses of criminal offenses by the police, prosecution and courts according to national and international standards remains a challenge. In many cases, the use of friendly interview units comes as a request from the prosecution for cases of children at high risk, such as cases of child victims of sexual abuse. Cooperation between justice system actors with other

care systems remains a problem. Only a small number of municipalities have implemented interdisciplinary case management for children in contact with the law.

The Strategy for Public Legal Education (PLE) 2019-2023, approved by Decision No. 47/2019 of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, has already expired. The measures and activities related to the public legal education are addressed in the Intersectoral Justice Strategy 2024-2030, its action plan and indicator passport, approved by Decision No. 787, dated 18.12.2024, of the Council of Ministers, which foresees the conduct of an assessment of the training needs of public administration employees for legal education, the design and review of training modules, as well as the development of annual trainings for updating knowledge, all under the responsibility of ASPA, with the contribution of the MoJ.

The distribution of PLE materials, for groups of the population in need, in language understandable to children and PwDs, has also been postponed as an initiative, to be adapted within the framework of the Intersectoral Justice Strategy 2024-2030, which foresees for the following years information and legal aid guaranteed by the state, distribution of information materials, realization of information sessions in all municipalities, including those for vulnerable groups, etc.

And finally, through the Intersectoral Juvenile Justice Strategy 2022-2026, the right to participation and the right to be heard in the process, the right to legal and psychological assistance for children with imprisoned parents, has been guaranteed.

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Specific objective III.4 consists of a measure with a total of 14 activities, of which 2 activities are budgeted in another plan. According to the action plan, for the period 2021–2026 the planned expenditures aimed to cover 83.7% of the indicative costs. From the reported data: 4 activities were fully implemented, with a planned budget of 15,687,487 lek (40% of the total). Actual expenditures were implemented at 100%, with 71.58% of the funds coming from the state budget, while 28.42% from partners. 6 activities were partially implemented, with a planned budget of 23,531,231 lek (60% of the total).



TABLE 50. STATUS OF REPORTING ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

No. of measures	Total number of activities	No. of reported activities	Percentage of reported activities
3	12	12	100%



TABLE 51. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	Activity status number	Activity status percentage
Fully realized	9	75%
Partially realized	2	17%
Unrealized	1	8%

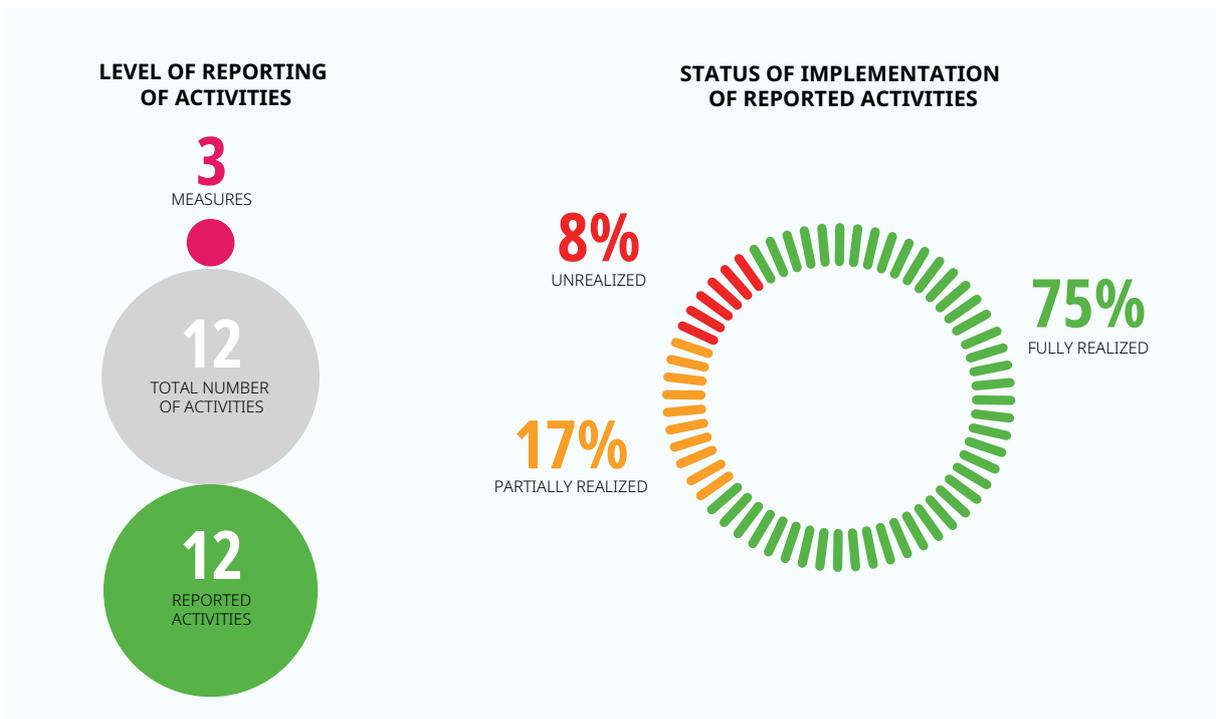




TABLE 52. EXPENDITURES ACCORDING TO THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES (IN NUMBER, VALUE AND PERCENTAGE)

Status	No. of activities	Planned expenses	Expenses in %	Actual expenses	Expenditure realization in %	Source of funding	
						State budget	Partners
Fully realized	9	18,491,192	75.00%	18,491,192	100.00%	35.85%	64.15%
Partially realized	2	4,191,337	17%	4,191,337	100.00%	35.85%	64.15%
Unrealized	1	1,972,394	8%	1,972,394	100.00%	35.85%	64.15%

These activities also had full financial implementation (100%), with the same allocation of resources (71.58% budget, 28.42% partners). There are no unimplemented activities or activities with missing information. In total, for the period 2021–2025, 100% of the planned expenditures for the implemented activities (fully and partially) have been realized. Financing was mainly supported by the state budget (71.58%), while partners contributed about 28.42%.

Goal IV focuses on promoting children’s rights in the digital world, including ensuring access and engagement of children in the digital environment, in full compliance with objective 5 of the Council of Europe’s Strategy on the Rights of the Child. Learning and creativity in the digital environment through the development of digital competences through information and communication technology (ICT) is seen as a priority and important goal for children, assessing as important in this process, the best interests of the child by all institutions contributing to the digital environment.

The institutions have reported all indicators related to the specific objectives of this strategic goal, and their full realization is at a rate of 100%.



IDENTIFIED ISSUES

The issues addressed in this chapter are those reported as challenges by the reporting institutions of the NARC, as well as issues reported in other publications. The issues also relate to unfulfilled activities and are organized below according to strategic goals.

Information has been reported for 12 of the 12 activities that are part of the strategic goal, of which 75% have been fully implemented.

Indicators at the measure level:

percentage of schools with appropriate ICT infrastructure, including the internet: implemented;

number of municipalities (2 new municipalities per year) that provide safe internet service for children and families in public environments or institutions: implemented;

number of businesses (2 new businesses per year) engaged in the promotion and protection of children's rights in the digital world: not implemented;

Number of complaints reviewed by AMA on violations of children's rights: implemented.

In order to create and improve the information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure in pre-university educational institutions, internet service coverage has been provided for all public schools, based on contract no. 4881, dated 14.09.2023, concluded by the NAIS. Wireless service has also been installed in 200 schools, facilitating access to digital teaching and learning. The Ministry of Education and Sports has also continued to gradually equip schools with computer cabinets, as well as improve information platforms, including real-time notification of parents on student results and recognition of assessments achieved abroad. These interventions aim to create a modern and inclusive educational environment, prepared for the chal-

lenges of digital education.

So far, 100 SMARTLabs have been installed in 100 basic education schools. So far, 110 professional network leaders have been trained on the network plan, the activities they will carry out during this school year, as well as on the use of *online platforms*.

Digital competence has been integrated as part of the professional standards of teachers in pre-university education and in the new curriculum framework, in the implementation of order no. 610, dated 20.12.2024 of the Minister of Education and Sports. This framework defines the integration of technology as a general principle and supports the development of key competencies in the field of STEM and the learning methodology according to the STEM approach. Currently, the new ICT curriculum ³⁶for grades I–III is being piloted in 352 schools, with approximately 39,925 students benefiting, thanks to the support of various projects such as ElementIT, the World Bank, OSFA, and other partners. Also, the national coding program Codemonkey was implemented during the 2024–2025 school year in 342 schools, in 1,703 basic education classes, as a concrete tool for the development of digital competencies from an early age. The project provides an *online* platform (codemonkey) to support the teaching and learning of coding and critical and logical thinking for first-grade students in 100 schools for the 2022-2023 school year, as well as the training of teachers for the new ICT curriculum. The long-term goal of this project is to reformat the entire curriculum of the Information Technology subject, including the current curriculum that is followed from grades four to nine, but also in high school.

The Minister of State for Youth and Children has led a series of initiatives to increase digital competence among young people and students, in line with European Union standards. Digital competence is included as part of teacher standards and is promoted from the first grade through ICT subjects and interdisciplinary programs in all subjects. Through the National Coding Program

for Young People, launched in January 2023 and implemented in cooperation with MEKI and NAES, 1,285 young people have graduated and 636 are currently in training in 6 academies and 35 types of courses. The program is offered with support of up to 100% from the state budget, with the aim of increasing the employability and digital skills of young people across the country, including cities such as Korça, Shkodra and Dibër. As part of the “Coding in Schools” project, 316 Smart Labs have been built in public pre-university education schools, involving 66,368 beneficiary students in all grades. The project has been extended nationally and aims to use ICT as an interdisciplinary tool for the development of 21st century competencies.

The Ministry of Education has continued to implement concrete measures to raise awareness among students regarding internet safety and the responsible use of technology. One of the main priorities has been to inform children about the risks of cyber violence, including online bullying, blackmail, sharing personal data and sexual abuse on the internet. In this context, continuous activities have been organized with basic education students, through information meetings, creative activities and the active involvement of students in discussions on the protection of their rights in the digital environment. So far, around 150,000 students have been raised aware through these initiatives. The activities have been carried out in various forms such as essays, drawings, artistic performances and creative works, with the aim of raising awareness and developing healthy and safe attitudes in the use of social networks. In parallel, a professional network of 1,200 ICT teachers has been created and supported, who are regularly trained by PUEQAA on the safe and effective use of online platforms, as well as on the handling of highly sensitive topics, such as violent extremism or illegal content on the Internet. MA has also taken technical measures such as applying filters to public and private school networks, to prevent access to inappropriate sites. Teachers are informed and committed to reporting any suspect-

36. 100 schools funded by the ElementIT project – 20,231 beneficiary students (Grades I, II, III) - 200 schools funded by the WB project – 15,907 beneficiary students (Grades I, II) - 5 schools replaced with smart labs – 339 students (Grades I) - 6 schools funded by OSFA – 255 students (Grades I, II) - 41 private schools – 3,193 students (Grades I, II)

ed incidents in the virtual environment.

Also, there is a “Report Illegal Content” section on the official websites of the Ministry of Education and educational institutions, which is linked to the national cybersecurity portal www.cesk.gov.al, providing a direct mechanism for reporting and blocking dangerous content on the internet. This section is of assistance to children, parents and educators, promoting a culture of digital safety in school and beyond.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is a curriculum that aims to educate students in an interdisciplinary manner through an applied and practical approach in these four areas. As part of this approach, during the 2021–2022 school year, the Ministry of Education and Sports, in collaboration with UNICEF Albania and the Vodafone Albania Foundation, trained teachers and equipped 24 9-year schools with 840 tablets, 48 smart boards and high-speed internet. 20 STEM laboratories were created, equipped with electronic tools and robotics kits, where 258 students participated, including the training of at least 100 girls.

In continuation of this collaboration, during the period 2021–2024, the STEM project was expanded to 120 public schools across the country, involving 1,200 teachers and students in training with the STEM methodology. The schools were equipped with practical equipment such as Arduino and robotics kits, encouraging active learning and the development of creative solutions by students. In ZVAP Elbasan, 5 schools were included (“Jeronim De Rada”, “Bardhyl Popa”, “Fadil Gurmani”, “Shushicë”, “Sulë Harri”), where over 100 girls and 30 boys from grades VI–VIII participated in the training. The “Fadil Gurmani” school was awarded the first prize in STEM for the project “Dreaming Cube and Night Lighting”, while “Sulë Harri” was awarded the third prize on World Science Day by the Edu Act Albania Center. At the national level, 450 professional network leaders, mostly women, have also been trained on PISA and STEM topics, contributing to the dissemination and institutionalization of STEM education in schools and the empowerment of girls in technical and scientific fields.

The Office of the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Personal Data Protection has carried out a series of ongoing activities at the national level to raise awareness among students, teachers and parents on the importance of protecting personal data in the digital environment. During the period 2021–2022, in cooperation with the General Directorate of Pre-University Education, the “Digital Education, Play and Learn – Happy On-life” campaign was implemented, which aims to promote critical thinking and safe use of the Internet. 55 meetings were organized in 9-year schools in different cities of Albania with the participation of over 1,000 students in grades 6–8 and teachers of computer science, English and citizenship subjects. In December 2022, the Commissioner signed a cooperation agreement with the Institute for Deaf and Blind Students to ensure access to public information and data protection for this category. Specific funds were provided for the implementation of the objectives of this agreement. During 2023, as part of January 28, Personal Data Protection Day, an awareness poster was published for young people, while in collaboration with ASDO and the Swiss Embassy, activities were held in schools such as “1 Maji”, “Ali Demi” and “Elina”, where students and teachers were introduced to the principles of data protection, the risks of social networks and the educational game “Happy Onlife” was presented.

In 2024, in partnership with the OSCE, 3 awareness-raising meetings were organized in Tirana, Shkodra and Korça, to present the Unifying Recommendation on Legal Obligations in the Protection of Personal Data in Upper Secondary Education. Representatives of municipalities, ZVAs, teachers, psychologists, parents and students engaged in discussions on confidentiality, privacy and avoiding the exposure of minors on online platforms. In addition, the training module “On the Protection of Personal Data and Privacy While Surfing the Internet” was presented, which serves as a guide for educational structures to educate children on digital risks and safe ways of online behavior. Overall, these interventions represent a sustainable institutional



SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AREAS OF ACTION

commitment to increasing digital culture and strengthening child protection mechanisms on the Internet, in accordance with national legislation and international commitments.

With the support of UNICEF Albania and in collaboration with the staff of the LGUs, the BiblioTech model has been extended to the city libraries for digital training and *online protection* in Shkodër, Tirana and Korça. 100 local library staff have been trained and a digital training curriculum has been developed for the libraries.

In implementation of the action plan of the “National Strategy for Cybersecurity 2020-2025”, NCSA has conducted several trainings and awareness campaigns to promote children’s rights in the digital world. NCSA is the first institution to be committed to piloting the global project of the International Telecommunication Union and partnership with UNICEF Albania “Creating a safe and empowering digital environment for children”. 37 trainings ³⁷(750 participants) were conducted in this framework with industry stakeholders, representatives from public institutions in 12 regions of the country, students of 9-year schools in the cities of Patos, Roskovec, Belsh, Divjakë, Librazhd, Mallakastër, Dimal, Përrenjas, Selenicë and Kuçovë as well as parents and teachers of High and 9-year schools in Babrru, Kamëz, Paskuqan, Vorë, Kavajë, Kukës, Shkodër, Has, Vau i Dejës, Fushë-Arrëz, Pukë, Tropojë, Dibër, Klos, Burrel, Bulqizë. NCSA has

also drafted two educational manuals for children and teachers, with information on child safety on the internet. In addition, three awareness videos were produced, which were published on the authority’s social media and beyond, reaching an audience of 6,000 unique *online users*. ³⁸NCSA has also drafted a unified message on the care that parents and children should take when sharing personal data *online*.

Throughout 2023-2024 In line with the objectives of the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2020–2025 and the National Agenda for Children’s Rights, the National Cybersecurity Security Authority (NCSA) has undertaken a series of initiatives to raise awareness and strengthen the capacities of public, private, and community actors to ensure a safe online environment for children and young people. One of the key projects is “Creating a Safe and Prosperous Cyberspace for Children”, implemented in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Organization (ITU) in the period 2021–2023. This project has contributed to:

- ▶ Preparation of National Guidelines for Online Child Protection,
- ▶ Organizing trainings and workshops for the public sector, civil society and the private sector,
- ▶ Creating an inter-institutional cooperation network for child safety in the digital space.

37. Detailed information from the trainings can be found at the link: <https://cesk.gov.al/aktivitete/itu/Trajnime%20per%20sigurine%20ne%20internet.pdf> Also, the results of the trainings and the impact assessment for different target groups can be found at the link: shorturl.at/moEL9.

38. Video with tips for children: shorturl.at/klnP7. Video with tips for parents and educators: shorturl.at/hmël2. Industry advice video: shorturl.at/gkALO. The impact of the videos and the results of the *online campaign* are published in the report: shorturl.at/erëHJ.

During 2023, NCSA organized trainings for Child Protection Units (CPUs) in the municipalities of Dibër, Klos, Tirana and Lushnjë, addressing topics such as online bullying, sexual harassment and cyber hygiene. In December 2023, the closing workshop “A Decade of Awareness for Children’s Online Safety” was held, with the involvement of representatives from the public, private and civil society organizations, focusing on the role of industry in ensuring children’s online safety.

During 2024, 39 activities were carried out, including 5 workshops and 34 awareness-raising meetings in 9-year and high schools in different cities. 1,545 children were made aware, while 423 teachers and 174 school security officers were trained on digital hygiene. 1,168 questionnaires were completed by students to assess perceptions of online safety. In addition, over 240 reports of cases of online bullying and digital harassment were collected, with the cities of Tirana, Kuçovë, Kukës and Gjirokastër being the most affected. Children were encouraged to use the official platform www.NCSA.gov.al to report cases of abuse and seek help. These interventions aim to create a safe and inclusive digital environment, where children, parents and institutional actors collaborate for a sustainable culture of online safety.

In 2022, WVA together with local partners (mainly school staff and CPU professionals in the municipality) has encouraged the engagement of around 1,210 children and young people in awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing the risks posed by internet use. The activities were carried out within the framework of Safer Internet Week.

Psycho-social staff in schools and relevant education offices, child protection workers in the municipalities of Kavajë, Selenica, Shijak and Vaun e Dejës, have developed various psycho-social activities related to raising children’s awareness of cyberbullying, as well as for safe use of the internet.

SARPC has undertaken a series of measures to ensure ethical and sensitive media reporting on issues related to children. Daily monitoring of print, audiovisual and online media has enabled the identification and referral of cases of violations of children’s rights in media reporting,

mainly for lack of ethics, unnecessary exposure, or violation of children’s privacy. During 2023, 9 cases of violations were referred to the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA), while in 2024 10 cases were identified, of which 8 were reported to AMA, which issued warnings to 9 television stations, and 2 cases were followed up on social media by SARPC. SARPC has also contributed with comments on the new Broadcasting Code, currently under consultation, to strengthen the protection of children in media reporting.

- ▶ For the year 2025, SARPC reported five cases of violations to the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA).
- ▶ The Audiovisual Media Authority issued warnings in nine cases regarding breaches of the relevant provisions, requesting the cessation of any rebroadcasting of the materials in question and their removal from the respective YouTube accounts and any other online presence. The Authority also reiterated that repeated violations are subject to penalties in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.
- ▶ Regarding partially compliant coverage (three cases), the Authority drew the attention of audiovisual media service providers (AMSP) to the fact that, despite efforts to comply with ethical broadcasting standards, the publication of circumstantial data had occurred, which may also lead to the indirect identification of the victim.

Regarding capacity building, during 2021–2022, SARPC organized the training of 150 journalists and Child Protection Officers (CPOs) in 10 municipalities, focusing on the principles of ethical reporting and the protection of minors from exposure in the media. The results of these interventions were presented at the National Media Forum on the topic “The role of the media in reporting cases of violence against children”, held in collaboration with AMA, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Minister of State for Youth and Children, and CRCA/ECPAT Albania.

The AMA, in April 2022, initiated the process of reviewing the broadcasting code, paying par-

ticular attention to the protection of children by preventing the promotion of bullying, sexual abuse, physical and verbal violence in shows or audiovisual programs, as well as protecting children from advertising for harmful food products and tobacco products. In accordance with the national legal framework and European directives for audiovisual media, the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) and the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child (SARPC) have strengthened inter-institutional cooperation to guarantee respect for children's rights in the media space. In this context, an inter-institutional agreement is in the process of being drafted that aims to consolidate commitments to the implementation of reporting ethics and the protection of children from inappropriate audiovisual exposure.

Law No. 97/2013 "On Audiovisual Media," harmonized with EU directives, as well as the new Broadcasting Code (DCM No. 60, dated 10.07.2023), contain a special chapter on the protection of children, which prohibits their identification, exposure, or involvement in content that violates their dignity, privacy, and moral development. The Code also establishes obligations for warning signs, the prohibition of harmful advertising, and criteria for educational and child-friendly content. In terms of public awareness, AMA has undertaken a series of activities, including the "Media Competence for Preschoolers" campaign in 20 kindergartens in Tirana, as well as continuous informative publications in the "Media Education" section and on social networks. Regarding the training of journalists, SARPC organized trainings in 10 municipalities during 2021–2022 with the participation of 150 journalists and PMFs, with a focus on ethical reporting of violence against children. Also, in cooperation with CRCA/ECPAT, AMA and line institutions, the National Media Forum was held, where standards and recommendations for strengthening the protection of minors in the media were presented. In 2024, AMA handled 55 complaints involving children in media content, while 236 cases were monitored by the Monitoring and Analysis Directorate. 34 of them ended with measures against AMSP for violations related to minors.

Additionally, during the period January–November 2025, the Complaints Council of the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) handled 31 complaints concerning the best interests of the child. In 2 cases, warning measures/notices were issued to Audiovisual Media Service Providers (AMSP). Meanwhile, the Directorate of Monitoring and Analysis identified 42 cases related to the best interests of the child. Of the 42 cases addressed, 41 resulted in warnings to AMSPs, and 1 resulted in a sanction in the form of a fine. During 2025, AMA intensified efforts to protect minors in the online space by establishing cooperation agreements with major international platforms, such as Platform X. Within the framework of this cooperation, a dedicated reporting window was created with Platform X and made available to citizens to address harmful content, including content that endangers children's health, development, and moral and psychological integrity.

During the period August–October 2025 alone, 41 harmful contents were reported on Platform X, among which were identified: 3 videos exposing children to pornography, narcotics, alcohol, tobacco, and violence.

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Specific objective IV.1 consists of three measures with a total of 12 activities, of which 7 are budgeted in two other plans. For the period 2021–2026, the action plan envisaged that the planned expenditures would cover 83.7% of the indicative costs. From the reported data: 9 activities were fully implemented, with a planned budget of 18,491,192 lek (75% of the total). Actual expenditures were implemented at 100%, with 35.85% covered by the state budget and 64.15% by partners. 2 activities were partially implemented, with a planned budget of 4,191,337 lek (17% of the total).

These activities also had full financial implementation (100%), with the same allocation of resources (35.85% budget, 64.15% partners). 1 activity was not implemented, with a planned budget of 1,972,394 lek (8% of the total). In total, for the period 2021–2026, 100% of the planned funds for implemented activities were spent (fully and partially). The distribution of resources shows that the majority of funding came from partners (64.15%), while the state budget contributed 35.85%.

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE FUNCTION OF RESPECTING, PROTECTING AND FULFILLING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Good governance is an essential prerequisite for ensuring respect, protection and fulfilment of children's rights at all levels of administration and the public service system. Although Albania has made significant steps in improving the legal and institutional framework for children's rights, the effective implementation of these policies remains a challenge due to a number of interrelated factors.

The lack of sustainable coordination between central and local institutions, the limited capacities of professionals working with children, and the fragmentation of responsibilities between different sectors hinder the development of an integrated and comprehensive approach for children. Insufficient budgeting and lack of child-centered planning, especially for those from the most vulnerable groups, contribute to marked inequalities in access to services and development opportunities.

Monitoring and evaluation systems for child outcomes are still under development, limiting the ability to measure the real impact of policies and hold institutions accountable. Meanwhile, children's participation in decision-making processes is still limited and requires stronger mechanisms that promote their voice at school, community and national levels.

Although the SARPC represents one of the main institutions responsible for monitoring the implementation of children's rights and child protection, it still functions with a reduced structure and although the structure has recently been increased by 2 staff since its establishment. This has created an obstacle in fulfilling the functions, as well as in the implementation of the NARC activities.

Although the Child Participation Guidelines have been adopted, monitoring of their ethical implementation remains incomplete. Furthermore, it remains important to establish appropriate mechanisms at central and local levels for the meaningful involvement of children/adolescents.

ANNEX

Children are directly affected by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. An analytical report on the impact of climate change and environmental factors on children in Albania has not yet been developed, although there have been some efforts by organizations to analyze these issues and to involve children in related initiatives. Children's voices in this process are essential and should be taken into account in the next steps of implementing this activity.

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE

The lack of full implementation of existing laws, social stigma, and the lack of trust of children and families in protective structures often lead to non-reporting or delayed intervention. Weak intersectoral service structures and a lack of specialized services, especially at the local level, limit the opportunities for victim support and rehabilitation.

Prevention efforts are not institutionalized and often rely on short-term projects, while education programs for positive parenting, public awareness, training of professionals, and the use of data for effective decision-making remain fragmented.

Shortcomings have been identified in the establishment of parent education and empowerment programs. Existing initiatives are only in a few LGUs and are not integrated into services and are supported mainly through projects.

Although the legal provisions on child protection require the existence of a child protection unit in each municipality and at least one full-time

dedicated child protection worker at the administrative unit level (per 3,000 children), this has not been implemented in all municipalities. The law also requires all PMFs to have some experience in social work. In some municipalities, the coverage of child protection unit services is still done by workers who are not graduated in social work or who also perform other functions. Child protection workers need ongoing specialized training based on accredited modules and programs, mainly covered by the programs of organizations/donors. The cost of case management of children in need of protection has not yet been agreed.

The child protection system is still not sufficiently prepared to address all the different forms of violence against children. Professionals (from health, police, education, other institutions in contact with children), part of intersectoral technical groups with an important role in prevention, identification, protection, drafting individual protection plans and providing rehabilitation and reintegration services, are little included in comprehensive training packages for providing integrated services, including children victims of sexual abuse or other forms of ongoing violence. With the development of technology and the use of the Internet, the identification and treatment of sexual abuse and exploitation on the Internet continues to be a matter of concern in Albania. The functioning of cross-sectoral cooperation with line actors, such as regulatory agencies, the private sector and the ICT industry, the effective investigation and punishment of perpetrators of cybercrimes against children have been reported as problematic. More remains to be done to build the capacities of professionals, parents, guardians, children and young people, prevent child sexual abuse on the Internet through raising awareness and creating safe spaces for us-

