Protect children on the move

Children on the Move in Albania
Response of Child Protection System to Their Needs

Situational Analysis

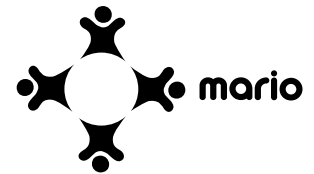Terre des hommes
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Save the Children

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List of Acronyms

NGO	Non Governmental Organization
CPS	Child Protection System
CPU	Child Protection Unit
BKTF	Together for Holistic Child Care
CRU	Child Rights Unit
CPW	Child Protection Worker
CRC	Child Rights Convention
UN	United Nations
MoSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
MoI	Ministry of Interior
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
DCM	Council of Ministers Decision
EU	European Union

Introduction

"Society is better here and people are kind. In the beginning I felt sorry I left my village, as I was born there but, now I am used. After 4 years I feel better" Boy, aged 12 years

Internal and cross country migration of children and families is a phenomenon that is persisting in Albania while presenting new trends in terms of destinations, periodicity, and the variety of family and child involvement in ensuring minimum living opportunities.

While the movement can bring important changes; better life opportunities, and personal development as well as access to quality services, it can also put children at a higher risk of abuse and exploitation since often they are considered as "invisible children". As such, children in a situation of internal and cross-country migration, especially unaccompanied children, have specific protection needs.

Mario Project[1] is a transnational partnership platform of major child protection organizations extended in 16 countries across Europe, that aims at improving the protection of Southern and Eastern European Children on the Move, who are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Mario partners have concentrated their efforts in building high capacity workforce of child protection professionals, conducting national and transnational outreach research and through building monitoring and advocacy mechanisms in holding local and national institutions accountable on fulfillment of child rights as well as advocating at EU level.

For Mario Project purposes, "child on the move" shall be understood as including the following categories of children: migrant children (internal or across borders; legal or illegal; accompanied or not), asylum seeking and refugee children, trafficked children, internally displaced children or children outside a protective environment. Therefore, the child should already have moved, may

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1   Core partners: Neglected Children's Society (ECPAT Bulgaria) Nobody's Children Foundation (ECPAT Poland) Save the Children Albania CO, Salvati Copiii (Save the Children Romania) Terre des Hommes (Albania, Hungary, Kosovo, Romania) *The associate partners:* ARSIS (GR), Associazione 21 luglio (IT), Open gate – La Strada (Macedonia) Defence for Children International (ECPAT The Netherlands). Mario project in Albania is implementing by Save the Children and Terre des hommes Mission in Albania.

also be a returned migrant, is moving or/and is susceptible to impending migration. The child should possess the citizenship or habitual residence in one of the Central and South Eastern European countries. Migration may be either internal or international.

One of those mechanisms are the Child Consultation Boards, formal groups of children with the experience of movement who come together to advocate for the rights and specific needs for protection for the children on the move. Two child consultations Boards have been constituted in Albania, one, whom children have participated in the realization of this Situation Analysis, has been attached to the National Coalition BKTF, coming from different organizations members of the national coalition and the other one in Cerrik.

This Situational Analysis aims to inform the work and efforts of Mario project partners and of key private and public stakeholders on the functionality and effectiveness of the existing child protection system in Albania, to track and respond to the needs of children on the move, in terms of accessibility, inclusiveness and pro-activity.

Mario partners hope that through understanding the vulnerability factors and the child protection related concerns that children on the move face will help to draw recommendations and possible solutions that are in the best interest of the children in Albania.

I. Executive Summary

The main problems children face today in Albania are abuse, violence, exploitation, maltreatment, trafficking, discrimination, neglect, poverty and social exclusion, which have been for years the main focus of the attention of local and international non-profit organizations of the civil society. As at global level, children's movement is also a widespread social phenomenon in the Balkans, which puts concrete threats to the lives of many children obliged to move for various social and economic reasons[2].

The social protection system in the Albania is not enabled to identify and adequately address the protection concerns that movement may create in the lives of children on the move, who are often overlooked. The current child protection system does not provide a mechanism for early identification of the needs of these children and does not have protocols in place to effectively assist these children both inside and outside the country; and to ensure that they have access to quality services without being limited from a geographical aspect.

In this context Mario project partners in Albania, Terre des hommes Mission in Albania and Save the Children, undertook this Situational Analysis, which aims to inform the work and efforts of Mario project partners and of key private and public stakeholders on the functionality and effectiveness of the existing child protection system in Albania, to track and respond to the needs of children on the move, in terms of accessibility, inclusiveness, pro-activity and prevention.

The main goal is to understand the vulnerability factors and the child protection related concerns that children on the move face through a child participatory approach, and propose solutions that are in the best interests of the children, through advocacy, capacity building of service providers and direct assistance to children on the move.

The objectives of this Situational Analysis are to:
- Carry out extensive desk research, reviewing all the available documentation, particularly official documents and reports to understand the phenomenon of children on the move in Albania, its magnitude and how the current child protection system is tailored to identify and respond to their needs and issues.

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2   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.

- Assess children's perception and views on how the movement has affected their lives and the relation between movement and the vulnerability of children.
- Assess children's needs of services; what services are available for them in the territory; how much children are informed on those services and the access they have.
- Assess the effectiveness of the protection system in terms of outreach, inclusiveness and response.

Structure of the report

The report begins with the Methodology chapter, in order to clarify the background on which this analysis is situated and its methodology.

The second chapter of Context will summarize the existing secondary data on: a) definition of children on the move; b) international and national legal context concerning children on the move; and c) features of the child protection system in Albania.

Third chapter 'Children on the move in Albania' will introduce the characteristics of children on the move in Albania, the causes and modalities of their movement, and its consequences. Data presented in this section is collected based on the reports of previous studies, as well as on the interviews, focus-groups and observations conducted for the purpose of this analysis. The fourth chapter 'Child protection system's current response to children on the move' identifies the positive practices, opportunities and gaps of the child protection system in Albania, in responding adequately, being inclusive, offering access to services to children on the move and taking preventive measures in order to reduce the risks related to unsafe movements.

Last chapter of the report summarizes the main recommendations identified in this situational analysis on further steps needed for the child protection system to better respond to the needs of children on the move.

Main conclusions of the report

- Children on the move have been overlooked in the development of national laws and policies addressing migration and child welfare. Despite, in recent years, children's movement is becoming a more recognized part of larger movement of the population's groups' flows and there is growing attention, from both state institutions and child rights agencies to the specific circumstances, vulnerabilities and consequences of children's movement.
- Albania has ratified many key International Human Rights Instruments related to

children on the move, but the Albanian legislation so far does not refer to children on the move as an all-inclusive category. Despite Albania has approved a series of laws, strategies and other important documents on child protection, which also benefit children on the move, to some extent, even though there is still a lot to do in order to provide them with effective protection and assistance in a systematic, comprehensive and integrated way.

- Child protection system in Albania continues to be focused on case-based or target group-based approach, which reduces achievements in protecting children on the move in a sustainable, systematic and comprehensive way. The system is based on two very important mechanisms- child protection which focuses on children that are abused or at risk for abuse, and the national referral mechanism, which focuses on children victims/presumed victims of trafficking.

- The main groups of children affected by movement in Albania, as identified by the literature or the key informants and professionals, are: children who have migrated; children in street situation; trafficked children; and Roma or Egyptian children. Even though based on the Mario's definition other children can be affected by the movement in Albania, for example runaway children, these groups were not identified by the key-informants or the available local data and literature. Studies conducted so far in the area of the child protection in Albania mostly refer to the above listed groups in a fragmented way and do not identify the move as a common factor of risk for all, or some of the above groups. Also, the existing data on these groups are separate, increasing the risk of data overlapping, since children from vulnerable groups can belong to more than one category at the same time.

- Despite the different characteristics of each group, key informants in our study reported the existence of common elements, which can be identified as risk factors for being a child on the move. Thus, the children that come from families with social or economic problems, from rural areas, and socially excluded groups (ex. Roma community), were reported by key informants as more likely to be on the move and affected by its consequences.

- Despite the modalities of the move, children are always influenced by the move, with negative and positive consequences. Stable migratory moves, when all the family moves for a long-term period, often are followed by better life conditions and higher access to services, but this cannot be generalized. Based on this generalization, the professionals of the child protection system sometimes underestimate the weight of migration in losing the familiar environment, family ties, friends, difficulties in adaption for these children, etc. Also, the children benefit from the move by learning new skills, as reported by previous studies.

- Some of the negative consequences of the move for children, towards which the system of child protection needs to be attentive, are related to:

a) Registration – Some of the children may not be registered at birth or they may be affected by the problems in registration in the new area the family has moved to. The lack of registration results in limited access to health and educational services, social protection programs, etc., but also difficulties in access to public institutions.

b) Education – The groups of children on the move, especially the Roma children, are affected by two main problems in relation to education: the low rate of enrolment; and the high rates of drop out of school before the end of the academic year, contributing to an overall illiteracy rate.

c) Health – Based on the lack of registration or their illegal status in other countries, children on the move have limited access to immunisation, free health care delivery or quality health services.

d) Exploitation - Children on the move are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Especially when moving alone, these children are vulnerable to exploitation, coercion, deception, and violence. They are particularly exposed to the worst forms of child labour and to sexual exploitation and abuse. As a result of these risks, the discrimination they experience and their status as new-comers, children who move face barriers in enjoying fundamental rights and in accessing basic services.

- Although during the last years Albania has been moving from an issue-based approach of child protection programming towards a systemic approach in child protection, because the first ones lacked sustainability and did not address the situation of all children at risk of abuse in its widest form, from several studies it appears that currently there is not any system in place, but only portions of it.

- There are many gaps in the existing services to respond to the needs of children, which is best exemplified in children on the move cases. The available services are not adapted to the needs of individual children on the move. The main mechanisms for addressing these needs are the mechanism for protection of children's rights and the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking.

- The capacities of the Child Protection System (CPS) to respond to the needs of children on the move are limited due to insufficient geographical distribution of Child Protection Units (CPUs) in Albania. There is lack of coordination between actors, especially between the local and the central levels, due to insufficient monitoring mechanisms on case management.

- There is an uneven distribution between the services provided by the State and NGOs for children on the move, with NGOs carrying a bigger portion of the services provided. The representatives of the NGOs identify the limited facilitation by the State on the provision of these services.

- The role of key actors, such as school psychologists, social administrators, border police etc, is not fully detailed or monitored in order to help the identification and referral of children on the move. Social administrators are also overburdened in their

existing roles, which is mainly limited to the distribution of the financial aid. Schools as institutions do not ensure follow up of movements especially within the country, which could reduce the number of children that disappear from the system. Border police, especially in the case of unaccompanied minors, especially Roma children, are reported to tolerate these moves, sometimes even without necessary identification documents.

- In terms of prevention, some limited preventive actions in terms of raising awareness about potential risks that children on the move may face, have been taken by the government and NGOs, such as campaigns, workshops, etc. Despite this, so far, there is no assessment of the level of coverage of the measures taken. The children participating in our research couldn't identify any of the measures taken, or other similar ones. On the other hand, some preventive measures regarding the safeguard of children during their moves have been taken by CPS institutions, aiming at: the registration in the civil register, regular school attendance and reduction of school dropout, immunization and health care, and reintegration of returnees.

- The recommendations of this situational analysis focus on the need to develop the legal framework that addresses children on the move, reducing the gaps in the child protection system in order to better respond to the needs of children on the move, building better primary and secondary preventive measures, improving the data collection system and developing further specific research studies on children on the move.

II. Methodology

◯ *Methods*

The Situational Analysis was conducted during the period October 2013 – March 2014. According to the "Mario Methodological Guidelines", four research methods were applied in Albania: (1) desk research, (2) semi-structured interviews with stakeholders, children and parents, (3) open group discussions with stakeholders and children, and (4) observation.

◯ *Desk research*

The secondary data for the situational analysis were gathered through desk research, in order to assess the existing regulatory documents and research reports about children on the move. The documentation review was the first step of the research and its findings helped to develop more detailed instruments for the interviews and group discussions, as well as to better identify key stakeholders, related services and projects in this field.

◯ *Semi-structured interviews and group discussions*

Based on the methodological framework provided in the Mario project and the findings from the desk review, three different instruments/tools for semi-structured interviews and group discussions were developed; one for each group: stakeholders, children and parents. The instruments used for guiding the semi-structured interviews and group discussions are available in Annex I of this report.

Stakeholders - The semi-structured interviews with the stakeholders were conducted in person or via e-mail. In total 19 interviews and one group discussion with 16 participants were conducted with: representatives of decision-making institutions (Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Health; State Social Service; Ministry of Interior; etc.); representatives of NGOs working in this field through projects or service delivery; and professionals working in child protection services.

Children – In total, 12 semi-structured interviews and two group-discussions with 16 children were conducted. One group discussion was conducted with nine children, members of the child consultation board, while the other was conducted with a group of seven children, with the co-facilitation of two representatives of the board. The children interviewed were from

six up to 17 years old.

Parents/care givers – During the field, work seven in depth interviews were conducted with parents or care givers of children on the move.

◯ *Observations*

The observations for this situational analysis were conducted on a specific case of a Roma community that was displaced from their previous living area during the field work. The observations were made in two steps: one during the time of displacement, and one month after they settled in another area (established as an Emergency Transitory Centre by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and managed by the State Social Service).

◯ *Procedures and sampling*

In line with the Mario Methodological guidelines, after conducting desk research, two meetings with the Child Consultation Board were conducted, where the scope of the research was introduced and a relationship with the children was built. The members of the Board were invited to participate in this research, according to their interest and readiness to be involved, and they were trained to conduct research, with the support of Terre des hommes and BKTF project staff.

Based on the findings of the desk research, and the discussion with the Child Consultation Board and project partners' team (Save the Children and Terre des hommes, Albania) a list of relevant stakeholders to be interviewed was identified as well as the groups of children and parents. Based on the Mario definition of children on the move, the selected interviewees were migrant children (internal/resident or across borders; legal or illegal; accompanied or not), trafficked children, internally displaced children and children outside a protective environment.

Then, interviews and group discussion guidelines were prepared, and tools for children were tested with the Board. Furthermore, the interviews, group discussions and observations with the selected participants were conducted, with the participation of Board members as observers and facilitators of group discussions with children. All the interviews conducted with children were conducted with their informed consent. The children were explained in a child-friendly language the aim of the research and the value of their participation in it, and they had the opportunity to accept or refuse to participate. They were also ensured that all the information given would remain confidential.In the final step, the draft report was shared and discussed with Board members and the final report of the situational analysis was prepared.

III. Context

Children in Albania (defined in article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the Albanian legislation as "[e]very human being below the age of 18 years […]") constitute 33% of the Albanian population[3]. The change of the regime in the early nineties brought, among other social and economic problems, also the breaking of the traditional family and community systems that provided safety and protection to children.

The main problems that Albanian children are facing today are abuse, violence, exploitation, maltreatment, trafficking, discrimination, neglect, poverty and social exclusion[4]. These problems have been for years the main focus of attention of local and international non-profit children organizations, and government. Also, in Albania, as all over the world, the movement of children is a widespread social phenomenon, which poses concrete threats to the lives of many children obliged to move for various social and economic reasons[5]. The social protection system in the country is not enabled to identify and adequately address the protection issues that movement may create in the lives of these children, who remain often overlooked. The current protection system must provide a mechanism for early identification of the needs of these children and have resources and capacities to effectively assist them both inside and outside the country, ensuring that they have full access to quality services, regardless of where they are found[6].

In spite of the fact that there is a lack of accurate data on children on the move in Albania, several studies carried out on the phenomena of trafficking, migration and unaccompanied children, clearly show that the movement itself may have an adverse impact on the children's lives and in the fulfillment of children's rights[7].

The UN Study on Violence against Children (2006) stresses the importance of protecting children from all forms of violence and exploitation. Taking forward, the Study's recommendations implies moving away from an issue-based approach to child protection, focusing on individual protection issues and specific groups of children, towards a system approach that addresses

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3   INSTAT, Albania in Figures, 2010.
4   Situational analysis on child protection system, BKTF, 2011.
5   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.
6   Ibid.
7   Ibid.

the full spectrum of factors likely to affect children, their families and communities. Along this line, building a system approach of the protection of children on the move, instead of dividing them according to sectors and into groups, should establish a holistic approach to child protection. At the same time, this focus takes into account children's diversity in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, motivations, aspirations, and other factors that affect their vulnerability and resilience.

As a result, the concept of children on the move opens more space for interventions that genuinely respond to their needs and that are respectful of children's rights, including children's right to express their views, and to access services and other support to promote their best interests.

In Albania, there is a considerable amount of research studies, many of them very recent, on the situation of all the above categories of children included in the umbrella definition, and on the response of the protection system towards them. Though many of the studies focus on one of those categories, there is a lot of category overlap, considering the complexity of their life situations. All these studies focus on the move, as a phenomenon and an influencing factor on the children's lives, be it positively or negatively. There is also very little information on how children on the move access basic services, such as health, education, protection, etc, in their new living environments.

There is only one research found up to now in Albania that has focused on the experiences of children on move as a single group[8]. The study investigated the experiences of movement through the children's own perceptions and feelings, exploring the routes of movements, the children's role in the decision-making regarding it, and the potential opportunities that may be offered to children during their move. Although the findings cannot be generalized to all children who move, the study offers valuable information on the current trends of child migration in Albania. The findings revealed the presence of two main patterns of movement based on families' economic situation and the type of movement. Families in high poverty, mainly coming from Roma community, move to improve their economic situation through children and parents' work. Their movement is frequent, in and outside the country. In the case of children with families in better economic situation, the movement was motivated by the need for better access to education and health services, and better employment opportunities for parents. Their movement is generally more structured and for longer terms. Children, in general, reported a slight change in the quality of life after they moved. They gained new competencies and skills like new languages or dialects, technical competencies and ability to cope with new situations. However, the movement was also associated with negative consequences such as; adaptation problems, unsafe jobs, and in some occasions, lack of access

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8   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.

to health services.

The following sections of this chapter summarize the existing secondary data on: a) definition of children on the move; b) international and national legal context concerning children on the move; and c) features of the child protection system in Albania. The discussion and analysis on the functioning of the legal and institutional mechanisms, related to children on the move in the country, are presented in the following chapters of this report.

◯   *Definition of 'Children on the Move'*

For Mario Project purposes, "child on the move" shall be understood as including the following categories of children: migrant children (internal or across borders; legal or illegal; accompanied or not), asylum seeking and refugee children, trafficked children, internally displaced children or children outside a protective environment. Therefore, the child should already have moved, may also be a returned migrant, is moving or/and is susceptible to impending migration. The child should possess the citizenship or habitual residence in one of the Central and South Eastern European countries. Migration may be either internal or international.

◯   *Legal context and working principles related to children on the move*

Children on the move are often overlooked in the development of national laws and policies addressing migration and child welfare. However, in recent years there is growing attention, from both state institutions and child rights agencies to the specific circumstances, vulnerabilities and consequences of children's movement[9]. All children falling under the term "children on the move" are entitled to protection under international human rights law, international refugee law, international humanitarian law, various regional instruments and local legal framework, and it is essential that they are provided with effective protection and assistance in a systematic, comprehensive and integrated way.

◯   *International legal framework*

Several international treaties cover the rights of children who are on the move. At the heart of the international framework for children's rights there is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) that, (hereinafter: CRC) - along with the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts - is the most widely ratified human rights treaty, constituting a basis for the international protection of the rights of the child.

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9   Daniela Reale, "Protecting and supporting children on the move: Translating principles into practices", in IOM, *Children on the move*, 2013.

The CRC sets out minimum standards that States must adhere in regard to the treatment of any child in their respective territories, without any discrimination based on nationality, immigration status or statelessness (Art. 2 CRC). Therefore, States shall treat children on the move as children first and foremost, regarding and treating them as any other child, granting them equal access to their fundamental rights as additional children.

In the case of Albania, which has ratified the convention, a specific national law ensuring that these rights are protected is the Law on the Protection of Children's Rights, 2010[10]. The law on the Protection of Children's Rights includes many of the major aspects of the CRC. Specific articles related to the rights of children on the move are:

- Article 7 refers to the right to birth registration, nationality, maintain identity and receive parental care whenever possible;
- Article 9 recognizes the right of the child to move in another country for the purpose of family reunification;
- Article 10 recognizes the right of the child to be returned in the origin country, in the case when the child is not accompanied.

Other articles cover other rights such as protection from different forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation, which are risks for children on the move, the right to social protection, etc. Alongside the principle of non-discrimination (above), other key-principles enshrined in the CRC should always be applied to all children on the move. According to this Convention, States have the duty to ensure protection to every child from any form of neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation. In particular, children on the move have the right to be protected from being hurt physically and mentally, from abuse and neglect (Article 19), all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 34), protection from an abduction, sale of and trafficking in children (Article 35), as well as any other form of exploitation that could, in any way, damage the child's welfare (Article 36), and inhuman and degrading actions and punishment (Article 37). Article 39 of the CRC especially recognizes that there are needs necessary for the recovery and reintegration of the children victims of neglect, abuse, punishment and degrading, which is usually related to unaccompanied children and separated children.

The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, including the search for short and long-term solutions (Article 3, CRC). The principle must be respected during all stages of the movement cycle. The principle of the best interests of the child pertains to all activities concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private institutions, legal, administrative organs or legislative body. The importance of this principle is manifested in many situations in which children on the move find themselves, and also when many factors have to be taken into account in making a decision on securing the

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10   Official Gazette, No. 53, 2010. Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Albania. No.10 347, date 4.11.2010.

protection and wellbeing of the child. In particular, for children on the move, decisions and protection measures should be embedded in a broader, more comprehensive process, aimed to determine their best interests[11].

In the study carried out in Albania, several children stated that, although at certain points of their travel they thought that their parents' decision was not the best solution, now, when they look into their overall experience, they believe that a decision on migration was actually the only one their parents could have made to secure better conditions for their lives. All children, even those who were not consulted in the process of making a decision on migration, note that their parents rendered such decision acting in the best interests of their children[12]. According to Article 22 of the CRC, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure special protection and assistance to a child on the move who is seeking international protection according **t**o the applicable international human rights and humanitarian legal instruments.

Of particular relevance, for ensuring the fulfillment of the rights of children on the move, is the General Comment No 6 (2005) "On the Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside Their Country of Origin", published by the Committee for the Right of the Child, the independent body in charge of monitoring the implementation of the CRC by its State parties[13]. The General Comment No 6 is especially important as it provides authoritative guidance on how to ensure and promote the rights of unaccompanied and separated children by interpreting some of the key provisions of the CRC in the contexts of these two groups of children.

The CRC also unites and consolidated provisions of some other international human rights conventions that are a basis for the protection of human rights and basic freedoms, and all these apply to children on the move.

Among these, there are the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and the accompanying Protocol on the Refugees Status (1967), The UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)[14].

⬭ *Albanian legal framework*

Albania has ratified many key International Human Rights Instruments related to children

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11   SCEP, *Statement of Good Practices. 4th Revised Edition*, 2009, D9.
12   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.
13   Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside Their Country of Origin, available at www.unhchr.ch
14   In this document reference is not made to the regional legal instruments applicable to children on the move in Europe.

on the move, but the Albanian legislation so far does not refer to children on the move as an umbrella category. Even so, during the last decade, Albania has approved a series of laws, strategies and other important documents, which built the regulatory framework on child protection, and from which benefit also the children on the move, to some extent. Below are summarized the main laws and strategies in this regard, while a list of the key International Human Rights Instruments, as well as a more detailed description of the relevant regulatory framework can be found in Annex III of this report.

The most recent and a very important one is the Albanian Law No. 10347 "On the Protection of the Rights of Children" (approved in November 2010) which outlines the legal framework for establishing appropriate mechanisms at central and local levels to ensure respect for children's rights and protection against all forms of abuse in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Currently, bylaws have been drawn, which will define the role of all the line ministries and of the various actors in the implementation of this law, such as:

- 'On types and the ways of exchange and elaboration of the information and statistical data required by the Agency and by the responsible state structures at central and local level',
- 'On the procedures related to monitoring and the establishing of sanctions by the State Agency for Child Rights Protection',
- 'On Coordination mechanism of the work between public authorities responsible for the referral of cases of children at risk and the way to proceed it'
- 'On the cooperation between institutional mechanisms on child rights protection and non-profit organizations'.

The Law provides, for the first time, a definition of violence against children and of child protection as 'the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect of the child, including abduction, sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices such as child genital mutilation and child marriage.' The law determines the respective mechanisms at central level such as the establishment of a National Council of Children Rights and the State Agency for the Protection of Children Rights and the mechanisms at the local level, to ensure the effective implementation of the protection of these rights, in compliance with Article 32 of the UN-CRC. The law sanctions the creation of Children's Rights Units (CRUs) in every district (hereinafter referred to as Qark/District) and of Child Protection Units (CPU) in every municipality and commune. Article 39, point 2 speaks of the creation of multidisciplinary groups for the protection, referral and analysis of identified cases, as part of the tasks of this unit. Also, Article 38, point 2, speaks of the creation of multidisciplinary groups in Qark/District level, for the protection, referral and analysis of

identified cases, as part of the tasks of the CRU.

The "Working Protocol of CPW (2009)"[15] is the document that regulates the work of the child protection worker and its relationships with all relevant partners, ensuring continuous and effective help for individuals in need (children, adults and families). It clarifies that among the duties of the child protection worker are the identification of the children in need in its community, the identification of the children's overall situation in the area, of the fulfillment of their rights, and the situation of the service providers for responding to children's needs in the area where they work.

The CPUs are responsible for: a) identification of abused, neglected, exploited, trafficked and at-risk children; b) protection and management of cases of children identified and referred by offering them direct services and protection in coordination with the relevant state and non-state structures, in accordance with the best interests of the child; c) dissemination and analysis of protected cases with the local communities by using recorded data; d) promotion of children's rights and building community awareness about the protection of these rights. The CPUs' intervention shall continue until the child is considered "not at risk".

Decision No. 265, dated 12.4.2012, in support of the Law No. 10347 and foresees the creation and functioning of the mechanism of cooperation of work between responsible state authorities for the referral of the cases of children at risk. Point 5b emphasizes that the committee may operate *ad hoc* and supports the management of cases of children at risk, referred by the CPU, when the needs of the case cannot be fully addressed by the existing services or in municipalities/communes that haven't created yet a CPU.

The common Order between Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY) and Ministry of Interior (MoI), No. 125, dated 23.08.2012 "for the protection of the rights of the children exposed towards various forms of abuse' follows a multi-sectorial approach of work in identifying and managing the cases of children in the street.

"The National Strategy for Children", approved by the Decision of Council of Ministers, No. 368, dated 31.05.2005, and its Action Plan (2005-2010), represent the Albanian government's official policy toward child rights. The documents include different kinds of measures to be undertaken by different ministries in regard to children's rights and their protection. This strategy is a document that defines the main directions of the development of policies of child rights protection for 2005-2010. The implementation of the Strategy is a legal obligation of the responsible authorities of central government, but the process of decentralization of competencies has given a very important role to the local government in the process of

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15   Working Protocol for Child Protection Workers. Ministry of Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities UNICEF and Terre des hommes. 2010.

institutionalization and respecting children's rights in Albania. This role has been expressed in the point 1.2 of the Action Plan of the Strategy, where 'the creation of specialized structures for the protection of children in the local level', is emphasized as a necessary measure for child protection. In this context, the MoSWY as the responsible central coordinating and monitoring authority in the implementation of the Strategy has supported the UNICEF initiative in creating and empowering the CPUs, as a local government structure, aiming the creating of a sustainable national child protection system.

On 13 March 2012, by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 182, the new "Action Plan for Children 2012- 2015" was approved. The Action Plan for Children is a supplementing document to the new National Strategy for Children (2012-2015), which still represents the Albanian government's official policy towards child rights. The strategic aims and objectives of the new Action Plan for Children follow the policies defined in the previous Strategy and focus on two main issues: 1) Strengthening of the institutional structures created to monitor and to report the implementation of children's rights at national and regional level; and 2) Promoting the drafting of comprehensive, coordinated and harmonized policies for the protection and social involvement of children. The Action Plan for Children requires the creation of CPUs in every municipality/commune and the implementation of DCM No. 265, dated 12.04.2012, the creation and approval of the methodology of action of CPUs, the creation and functioning of the technical interdisciplinary teams in districts, municipalities and communes for the management of children at risk.

"The National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings (2008-2010)" aims to eliminate child trafficking and build systems for children's integration and defense, including networks and security for children and their families at the regional and local level to respond to a greater range of abuses against children, including trafficking. In 2011, a report assessing the implementation of the 2008-2010 Strategy was prepared by the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings. The new National Action Plan on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons for 2011-2013 was drawn up and approved by Council of Ministers Decision No. 142 of 23 February 2011, as well as the additional document "Plan of Action for the Fight against Child Trafficking and Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking 2011-2013". These new documents focus on four pillars: 1) Investigation and Prosecution; 2) Protection and Assistance of Victims; 3) Prevention; and 4) Coordination among actors. The new strategy aims to complete and put to work all possible mechanisms in place to halt trafficking by prosecuting and convicting every form of exploitation of human beings, while also protecting and assisting victims and potential victims of trafficking who cooperate with law enforcement agencies. Prevention activities that address the root causes of trafficking including poverty, social issues, lack of information, education etc., are also foreseen, as well as coordination activities which will create order and a functioning mechanism for the

implementation of the action plan, mobilizing numerous agencies and partners, which will provide children and their families with better and more coordinated responses to the great range of abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking in Albania.

In order to enhance identification of and provide assistance to the different categories of victims of trafficking, the "National Referral Mechanism" was signed between the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Ministry of Public Order (now Ministry of Interior), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Reception Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking, NGOs "Vatra"; "Tjetër Vizion" and the International Organization for Migration – Tirana in 2005.

IV. Child Protection System in Albania

Experience in child protection during transition years has identified the need to build a comprehensive child protection system which includes the identification, prevention and management of all cases, regardless of their complexity. From several studies[16] it appears that currently there is not any system in place, but only portions of it. The case-based or target group-based approach, despite the achievements, has proved that, if the problem is not addressed in its entirety and if a prevention strategy is not developed in parallel with the direct help and protection one and the problem is not approached from all angles, no policy or strategy will be enough to fight the risks encountered by children[17]. This kind of approach reduces achievements in protecting children in a sustainable, systematic and comprehensive way. For this reason, efforts have been made to build a protection system which takes over this duty.

So far, these efforts have produced two very important mechanisms, that of the child protection which focuses on the children that are abused or at risk for abuse, and the national referral mechanism, which focuses on children victims/presumed victims of trafficking, and have involved several important actors. Both mechanisms and relevant actors are presented below. Based on the fact that these two mechanisms have developed different procedures and involve different agencies, they are separately described below. Even so, it is worth emphasizing that both mechanisms focus on: multidisciplinary and multiagency collaboration, case management approach and local level intervention.

Mechanisms for the protection of children's rights

The article 32 of the Law "On the Protection of Children's Rights" defines the institutional mechanisms for the protection of children's rights at central and local level.

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16   Evaluation study of child protection units, WorldVision, 2013; Situational analysis on child protection system, BKTF, 2011; Child rights situation Albania, Save the Children, 2012.
17   Evaluation study of child protection units, WorldVision, 2013.

Mechanisms at central level are:

1. The National Council for the Protection of Children's Rights;
2. The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, who coordinates the work related to child rights protection issues;
3. The State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights.

Mechanisms at local level are:

1. Child Rights Units district level ;
2. Child Protection Units in the municipality/commune.

Mechanisms at central and local level cooperate between them for the implementation of the legislation and state policies on child rights protection. The coordination of their activities on issues related to child rights protection, provided by this law, is defined by decision of the Council of Ministers.

Under the child protection law in Albania, the primary responsibility for the protection of children falls under the Child Protection Units mandated which should be established in each municipality/commune. Since the first CPU opened in 2006, the CPU has become a key structure of the child protection system at local level, which is an important step in the development of a more comprehensive approach to child protection.

However, the legal framework also states that all actors and stakeholders have a statutory duty to protect children, and in particular to support the work of the CPUs. This means that all agencies must react to situations of abuse, whether they are actual or suspected cases. In practice this means that all agencies must:

1. Refer cases to the CPU where there are concerns about a child
2. Support the CPU in protecting the child through the provision of services
3. Support the work of the CPU by attending meetings, participating in case reviews, development and implementation of care plans

While not obligatory, it is recommended that each agency identifies a Child Protection Focal Point in each commune/municipality so that communication and coordination in situations of child protection can be made easier.

◯ *Standards and procedures*

Although standards and procedures have been developed for the fulfillment of the roles and responsibilities of all relevant workers, mentioned below, mainly in the "Working Protocol

for Child Protection Workers[18] these are still not mandatory. However, the Protocol is an important document that leads the work of key actors of the child protection system in working with children, including children on the move. It includes the assessment of risk, children's needs and the response to them through public policies and through the central, local and regional institutions of the Albanian state regarding Child Protection. The determination and better recognition of rights and duties that arise with regard to protecting children from phenomena that affect their welfare, take primary importance.

The Protocol has been devised to assist all professionals working with children subject of abuse, particularly staff of local government administration departments, school psychologists, teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers, police border and anti-trafficking police, NGO employees and volunteers working with children and families, kindergarten and crèche staff, but primarily the Child Protection Workers employed in the Child Protection Units at the Municipality and Commune level.

The Working Protocol for Child Protection Workers aims to help the Child Protection Unit Workers to:
• Understand what child protection is;
• Guide the work of the Child Protection Worker using a standardized approach;
• Introduce the principles of the best interests of the child;
• Establish the practice of multi-disciplinary work to protect children;
• Implement case management as a means to identify, work and review protection interventions with children;
• Provide a system of reliable data collection.

The Child Protection Workers' Protocol includes a step-by-step guide to the actions and work that a Child Protection Worker should follow when either identifying a child or receiving a referral of a child at risk of abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation. The Protocol consists of principles and tasks that guide Child Protection Worker, case management practice involving information gathering and storing as well as establishing relations with other actors. Recently, the Protocol is under revision to reflect the recent changes in the legislation such as in the Penal Code, Law on the Rights of the Child etc, and as well to serve to all institutions and agencies dealing with child protection issues. In the case of children on the move, the Protocol can help as a guidance to identify risks from abuse, trafficking and exploitation for the child, draw the individual plan through a multidisciplinary approach.

The roles and responsibilities of the main agencies in relation to child protection mechanism, as described by the Working Protocol for Child Protection Workers, are summarized in

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18   Working Protocol for Child Protection Workers. Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth in Albania. UNICEF and Terre des hommes. 2010.

Annex IV of this report.

◯ *National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking*

- *The National Coordinator for Combating Human Trafficking / Deputy Minister of Interior*

  This office, founded in November 2005, is the key point for the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts at the inter-ministerial level, both nationally and internationally. It enjoys a wide political mandated and a high level of independence in undertaking the necessary initiatives in the fight against human trafficking. Its autonomy is mandated through a prime ministerial decree.

- *The Anti-trafficking Unit in the Ministry of Interior*

  The Anti-Trafficking Unit is supervised by the National Coordinator for anti-trafficking, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy, coordinating with key institutions, and collecting information and data on the phenomenon.

- *The Responsible Authority for the National Referral Mechanism*

  This authority has been created through a common special order of the Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, with the purpose of strengthening cooperation and creating a functional and consolidated network of cooperation. This authority coordinates the referral process for initial aid and protection and long-term rehabilitation of the trafficking victims, cooperating closely with the above mentioned ministries and other institutions and shelters for trafficking victims. All the actors included in this Authority play a decisive role and equal responsibilities in the auxiliary functions they provide.

- *The Sector for the Combat of Trafficking in the Directorate for Border and Migration Police*

- *National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters[19]*

  Services for victims of trafficking are now provided in some shelters / centers. These centers are part of the National Referral Mechanism and treat all the cases that are referred by this mechanism.

- *Subsection for Children's Rights in People's Ombudsman*

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19   The Coalition consist of four centres: National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking - Tirana, "Tjetër Vizion" - Elbasan, D & D (Different equal) Tirana and "Vatra" - Vlora

- *Regional Anti-trafficking Committees*

   The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees were established on the 19.06.2006 by the Order of the Prime Minister, No. 139. The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees and Technical Working Tables are constituted in all 12 regions. These bodies are headed by the prefects and include the mayors, directors of the Social Services Units, Employment Office, Police, National Information Service, Education and Public Service at Qark/District Level. Besides identification, referral and protection for trafficking victims, the Regional Committees monitor trafficking situation in their region and identify the measures to be taken to fight against this kind of crime.

Standards and procedures

Procedures that lead the work for children on the move, in order to refer cases of children trafficked or at risk of trafficking is the document entitled: "Standard Operating Procedures for Identification and Referral of Potential / Victims of Trafficking" (hereinafter referred to as SOP)[20]. The SOP is developed by the Ministry of Interior, Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator in collaboration with other relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions. The SOP contains the legal framework supporting the work in the area of human (including child) trafficking and a step-by-step procedure for identification and referral of victims of trafficking. The SOP follows a multi sectoral approach on how the child is identified, assessed and referred for further care and protection. The SOP identifies three situations: a) when the case is identified outside of Albania; b) when the case is identified at the border and c) when the case is identified within Albania.

The roles and responsibilities of the main agencies in relation to child trafficking, as described by the SOP, are summarized in Annex IV of this report.

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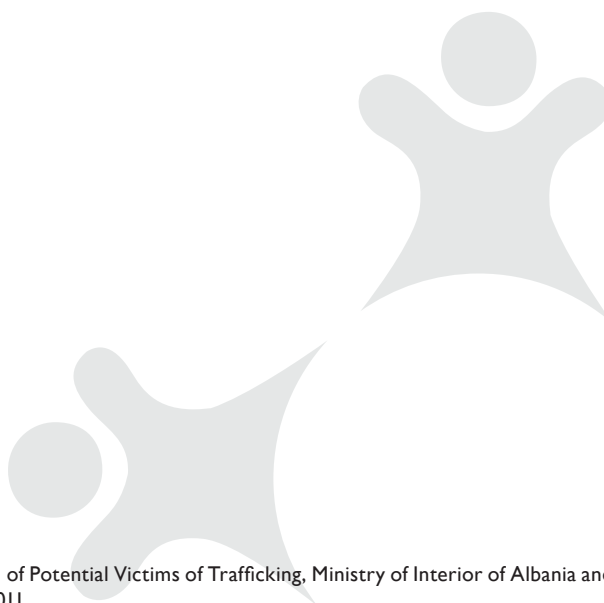
20   Standard Operating Procedures for Identification and Referral of Potential Victims of Trafficking, Ministry of Interior of Albania and Office of the National Coordinator for Anti trafficking, Albania, 2011.

V. Children on the Move in Albania

In this section, there will be introduced the characteristics of the children on the move in Albania, the causes and the modalities of the move, and its consequences.

○   *Who are children on the move in Albania?*

As explained in the previous sections, no legal or procedural documents in Albania mention or refer to the group of children on the move as an umbrella definition. Despite the fact that the key informants are not familiar with this definition, since they had not encountered it in the regulatory framework or during their professional practice, all of them identified the main groups of children affected by movement. The groups identified are:

- Children who have migrated
- Children in street situation
- Trafficked children
- Roma or Egyptian children

Even though based on the Mario's definition other children can be affected by movement in Albania, for example runaway children; these groups were not identified by the key-informants or the available local data and literature. Similarly, the studies conducted so far in the area of the child protection in the country, mostly refer to the above listed groups, even though in a fragmented way and do not identify the move as a common factor of risk for all, or some of the above groups. Also, the existing data on these groups are separate, increasing the risk of data overlapping, since the children from vulnerable groups can belong to more than one category at the same time.

The main data for each category of children, (primary and secondary data), are presented below.

a) Migrant and returnees children

The internal and international movement of children exists in Albania since the early '90s, but there are only a few studies so far on the phenomenon of children on the move and also there is a lack of accurate data about the movements in and out of the country. Previous studies on the phenomenon of trafficking and unaccompanied migration show that the phenomenon

exists and has real consequences in the life of Albanian children[21],[22].

Emigration - The population of Albania started to decline from 1990, as a consequence of a massive emigration. During the period 2001-2011 (between the two censuses) is estimated that around 500 thousand people emigrated. This fact is also supported by available migration data obtained from some of the main destination countries of Albanian emigrants, in terms of both stock and flow data[23].

Even though there are no available data on the numbers of children who have migrated, the data from the 2011 Census show that 21.356 children (actual residents under 19 years in 2011) have returned to Albania during the last decade from different countries. The numbers of returnees' children during the last years is continuously increasing. This may be as a result of the economic crises in Greece and Italy[24].

Even though the children returnees are estimated to be an increasing group of children, they were not identified by the key informants as a specific group affected by the movement in our study, thus showing lack of awareness for this category. The data gathered from key informants' interviews[25] shows that the number of returnee children only during the period January – September 2013 from Greece and Italy has been respectively 451 and 758 children. Internal migration - For the first time, based on the data of 2011 Census, the population living in urban areas has exceeded the population living in rural areas. The resident population in urban areas was 53.5 per cent while 46.5 per cent of the population lived in rural areas. This shows that internal population movements have continued at high levels not only during the period 1990-2000, but also during the period between the two censuses (2001-2011), mainly from rural areas to urban areas. In comparison to the previous census, about 10.6 per cent of the resident population has changed the place of usual residence within the country, while 4.0 per cent declared that at the dated of the previous census they were abroad[26].

b) *Children in street situation*

The results of the '2010 National Child Labor Survey in Albania' (ILO, 2012) indicate the prevalence of work among children aged 5-17 to be 7.7%. Employment tends to increase with age, with boys constituting a larger proportion of child labors (63.4%) in comparison to girls. A considerable number of these children work as street or shop vendors, beggars, or drug

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21   Assessment in child trafficking vis a vis smuggling in the Northwest of Albania. "Partnerë për Fëmijët/Partners for children". Orgocka, A. & Jasini, A. (2007).
22   The international migration of children from rural North East Albania. In J. Kanics, D. S. Hernandez and K. Touzenis (Eds), Migrating Alone: "Unaccompanied and Separated Children's Migration to Europe" (pp.129-142). Unesco Publishing. Orgocka, A (2010).
23   Albania: Population and housing census 2011. INSTAT, (2012). http://www.instat.gov.al/media/177354/main_results__population_and_housing_census_2011.pdf
24   Ibid.
25   Data collected from IOM's representative interview.
26   Albania: Population and housing census 2011. INSTAT, (2012). http://www.instat.gov.al/media/177354/main_results__population_and_housing_census_2011.pdf

runners; which strongly links them with the movement.

A special focus in this subcategory of children will be on child begging, as the up to dated studies shows that they are most likely to internally and/or externally migrate for economic reasons, as they mainly come from extremely poor and socially marginalized families. Due to these characteristics, based on previous observations (ARSIS, 2011) it is estimated that the majority of children affected by the phenomenon belong to the Roma and Egyptian community, and a smallest number of children belong to the Albanian majority, mainly from poor families coming from rural areas of Northern Albania. Even though there is no accurate data on the number, age, gender, risks and pushing factors of child begging in Albania, based on the Study on Typology and Policy Responses to Child Begging in the EU[27], some main features of this phenomenon can be presented.

- Even though there is no available statistics, only during the period July-August 2011 through streets observations in Tirana and Durrës, there were identified at least 420 cases of child begging. (90 cases reported by the Police for the period January 2010 – April 2011; 587 cases reported by ARSIS only in Tirana for the period 2006-2010).

- Most of the children become involved from the age of 4 or 5 years old until 14 or 15, still there are many cases reported by NGO's of begging cases that involve infants as young as a couple of days old and toddlers up to 3 years old.

- It is perceived that until the age of 12 the phenomenon of child begging affects equally both genders, for children over 12 years old the ratio changes to 70% boys and 30% girls, mainly explained by the high dangers to which teenage girls may be exposed on the streets.

Based on the same study[28], Albanian children are reported to be one of the largest groups of children involved in child begging in other countries, mainly Greece, Italy and Kosovo. So, in Kosovo, statistics provided by Terre des hommes Kosovo show that from the beginning of 2007 until the end of October 2010, 599 children begging were identified in the whole territory of Kosovo, from which 196 from Albania and 403 from Kosovo. Even though most of the children are members of the Roma community, there are also reported non-Roma Albanian children.

c) Trafficked children

Based on the latest 'Trafficking in Persons Report' released by State Department in 2013[29], Albania continues to be considered as a source country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Albanian victims are subjected to sex trafficking

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27   Report for the study on typology and policy responses to child begging in EU, European Commission, 2012.
28   Idem.
29   Trafficking in Persons Report. State Department, 2013.

within Albania and in Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Kosovo, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Many women are subjected to trafficking after accepting offers of employment in waitressing, bartending, dancing, or singing in neighboring countries, specifically in Kosovo, Greece and Macedonia.

Albanian child victims of trafficking are mainly subjected to begging and other forms of forced labor. In 2013, from a total of 138 victims that were cared for in state-run and NGO shelters, 26 were children. Reports state that most of the victims are girls from rural families with social problems, such as families with divorced parents or with experiences of domestic violence[30]. In a recent study of 2013[31], it resulted that in Greece, NGOs have registered local-level statistics on child begging, and report that most of the children are undocumented, coming from Roma/Egyptian communities of Albania, mainly from South-western and South-eastern Albania (Fier, Vlora, Korça). Furthermore, as reported in this study, research in Greece has shown the existence of trafficking networks bringing Albanian children to Athens and exploiting them through begging. Although the number of children begging in Greece doubled during the decade 1999- 2009, research conducted by the NGO ARSIS showed a lower incidence of child trafficking for the purposes of exploitation through begging by third parties among Albanian children after 2004, with a higher proportion after that year of children accompanied and/or exploited by their own parents, who were usually unemployed.

Even though from the beginning of the 90's the main problem in this direction was related to external trafficking, during recent years internal trafficking has become a matter of even more concern. The trend of internal trafficking has steadily been increasing since 2004. The 2004-2006 ratio of girls externally trafficked, compared to exploitation within Albania, has been 80-20%; in 2007-2009 the ratio changed to 50-50% and in 2010 it was 30-70%[32].

d) *Roma children*

The Roma community is recognized as one of the ethnic minorities of Albania. The population figures of this minority vary, based on different reports, and therefore there is no accurate data about the number of children of this community. According to the Strategy for the improvement of the living conditions of the Roma community in Albania, the Roma and Egyptian minorities have internally moved and have concentrated mainly in central and South-eastern Albania, Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Berat, Korça, Pogradec, Gjirokastra, Shkodra, etc. This frequent movement has made difficult the registration of the members of this community[33].

Even though a part of the population itself and also some of the participants in our study

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30   Annual report 2010, "Vatra" Psyco-Social Center, 2010.
31   Report for the study on typology and policy responses to child begging in EU, European Commission, 2012.
32   Ibid.
33   "Child rights situation Albania, Save the Children, 2012.

connect the frequent movements of this community, to its customs and traditions, reports show that their movement is based on their living conditions, that are characterized by poverty, disadvantages, low employment, and social exclusion[34].

Despite lack of accurate data in Albania for each of the above categories, as identified through the characteristics of the groups and also reports by key informants, the number of children on the move in Albania cannot be equal to the sum of the numbers of the children in each category. This happens mainly because of data overlap, as the children from vulnerable groups often can experience situations that can include them in many or all of the above groups.

* * *

Even if within the group of children outside a protective environment, runaway children are also included, in Albania there are no data so far about this group. One of the reasons for this could be that these children are considered within the group of children in the street situation. In this study we encountered two cases of runaway children, one of them directly, and the other one through the report of a key informant.

⃝ *The modalities of movement and underlying reasons*

Despite the different characteristics of each group, key informants in our study reported the existence of common elements, which can be identified as factors leading to unsafe migration of children. Thus, the children that come from families with social problems, poverty, from rural areas, and socially excluded groups (ex. Roma community), were reported by key informants as more likely to be involved in unsafe migration and suffer its negative consequences. Some of these factors were identified also by two previous reports on children on the move[35].

The reasons underpinning movement, reported by children and their parents were mainly related to the characteristics of vulnerability identified above. The decision to move is generally taken by parents and children were almost never involved in the decision-making processes related to movement and its modalities. The main reported cause of movement for most of the families was poverty and difficult living conditions, which pushed the families to move in order to survive.

> *'We had to move from time to time. We have to find a job to do. We have to survive.'* (Father, Roma community)

The move also happened because of very bad housing conditions, or because temporary shelters were built in unstable areas, such as garbage processing places, or river shores.

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34   Ibid.
35   Observation report: exploitation of Albanian children in street situation in Kosovo, Mario, 2010; Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.

> '*Our home was ruined, because of the river. The walls fell apart, so we had to leave.*' (Boy, 12 years old)

In some other cases, the reasons of the move could be related to family problems, such as divorce of parents, or death of one of them.

> '*My grandchild goes back and forth to Kosovo, because his mother lives there. But he stays no longer than 2 or 3 months as she has been remarried there.*' (Grandmother)

A specific group are the runaway children, where the reasons to move for two of them were abuse and exploitation for work by parents and relatives.

> '*My relatives would reject me, if I don't bring any money to them.*' (Boy, 17 years old)

A specific reason of the move for Roma families can be also the internal displacement. Many of these families, since they live in collective buildings or temporary ones, (as a consequence of previous nomadic moves), are often displaced by the authorities, or individual owners.

> '*We lived by the Lana River, and it was close to the center and the market, so it was easier to find work. Now that we are here, it's very difficult to collect cans and to make a living.*' (Boy, 14 years old)

Reasons for the move, which do the children move with and for how long, seem to be closely related to its destination.

◯ *Internal movements*

According to the ADHS[36], the majority of internal migrants (30%) moved to Tirana, 10% to Durrës, 8% to Vlora and 6% to Lushnja and Fier. Also, ADHS estimates that 33% of all the internal migrants were 15-19 years old at the time of migration, and 4.7% of them were less than 15 years old.

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36   Albania: Demographic Health Survey, Institute of Public Health, 2010.

Besides the long-term or stable way of movement, it appears that more vulnerable groups move in less planned way and more often. These situations include the cases when the family moves together, following work opportunities. And since these kinds of jobs are generally not stable, they have to move again after a while.

> *'We have moved now. We used to live in Sharra, but they prohibited us to collect garbage there. So, we had to move, because we didn't have any other way to make money.'* (Boy, 14 years old)

Other situations are those when although the family has a stable living place, children, usually the oldest ones in the family, with or without their parents, can move for 3-4 days, for short-term work, such as collecting cans, etc., and returning home again. Also the opposite can happen, parents move for a few days, living children behind, alone at home.

> *'I often go to Lac with my husband to collect scrap, for 2-4 days. I am worried about the children, but they stay with each-other, and the older ones are trained since they were small, to take care of the younger ones.'* (Roma parent)

The shortest moves are the daily ones. Thus, for example, in remote rural areas, children move in order to sell agricultural products to the main markets; while, during summer, some children move towards touristic areas, for begging purposes.

> *'When we had a project for the identification of the children that work in the streets, mainly begging, in the touristic sites, we were surprised to find some of our kids there. I mean kids that we provide services at our center. Most of them were travelling every day to Durrës during summer with their grandfathers or other relatives.'* (NGO)

Another type of move is the seasonal one, where are included moves from all over Albania, mainly big urban areas, towards Vlora and Saranda, because of bigger opportunities for temporary profits, mostly linked to tourism in the summer, and agricultural work. A specific problem raised in the last years, concerns some families with children, most of them Roma, who move, for 2-3 months, in Lazarat, to collect cannabis. According to reports from NGOs, these families are based in Elbasan and Cërrik.

'Only during the September – October 2013 period, we identified that 36 children, 1-16 years old, from the Roma community of Cërrik have moved toward Lazarat'
(Child protection professional)

External movements

In Albania, since the 90's, a similar external migratory trend started, mainly towards Greece (50%) and Italy (35%), but also towards UK (5%) and Germany (2%)[37]. Three percent of emigrants have moved to other European countries. The main reason for the move was to find a job, and only a few of them aimed to join their families abroad, or to continue their education there. During the first years of this move, since emigration was illegal in most of the cases, individuals, mostly men and boys, travelled alone and later on, reunited with their families abroad through family reunification.

Another important flux was the one at the end of the 90's and the beginning of the year 2000, when after the Kosovo war, a considerable number of Albanians requested political asylum, pretending they were from Kosovo. The consequences of this move were felt for years, since these individuals were registered with fake names, thus denying for many the citizenship to their children, born during that period.

The main goal of these moves was the creation of better living conditions and higher access to services. During the last years, the migratory flux has significantly decreased, but now with Albania at a phase of visa liberalization, another phenomenon has resurfaced, that of requesting political asylum in some of the European countries. As it was mentioned above, in the case of children who ask for political asylum, a consequence of the move is the impossibility to visit the country of origin and meeting relatives and friends, who are left behind.

In relation to external movement, the focus of our report remains on the phenomena of the move of children in neighboring countries and for short periods of time. A considerable number of children, mostly Roma, move with all or part of their families, to Kosovo or Montenegro for begging purposes, or sometimes for other work, which is age-inappropriate.

'We lived in Shkodra, but the boys (14-16 years old) used to go to Podgorica (Montenegro) alone, to work in the city market.' (Father, Roma community)

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37   Albania: Demographic Health Survey, Institute of Public Health, 2010.

Moving to these countries is reported to be easier, because of land border crossing and more negligent border police. As mentioned above, previous research showed that 2/3% of the children that beg in Kosovo are Albanians, mostly from Roma community[38].

The most lucrative towns for Albanian children in street situation in Kosovo are Prizren, Prishtina, Gjilan and Peja. Children from 0 to 5 years move with a parent, while children over 5 years old move with their peers[39].

Thus, most of parents, but also some children in the study reported that crossing the border is really easy, because of negligent controls, especially for the Roma community, but also because of lower transport costs and less police controls during their stay.

> *'I went with my mother and grandfather several times (in Kosovo)... they never caused us any problems in crossing the border, because they could see we had the same surname.' (Girl, 12 years old)*
>
> *'It's not difficult to cross over, even when you are alone, because they collect IDs all at once and stamp them altogether.' (Boy, 17)*

Most of the interviewed children, who have been to Kosovo, reported that they usually stayed there for several months and came back. Often they moved from one city to another, within the Kosovo territory.

> *'I have been to Prishtina, Prizren, Gjilan, but I like Prizren most of all.' (Girl, 11)*
>
> *'Most of the children that move to Kosovo usually leave around May-June and come back in October. This is a good period, because the emigrants come back to Kosovo and the weather is good.' (NGO)*

○ *Consequences of movement*

Despite the modalities of the move, children are always influenced by move, with negative and positive consequences. Stable migratory movements, when all the family moves for a long-term period, often are followed by better life conditions and higher access to services. But, this cannot be generalized. Based on this generalization, child protection professionals

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38   Report for the study on typology and policy responses to child begging in EU, European Commission, 2012.
39   Observation report: Exploitation of Albanian children in street situation in Kosovo, Mario project, 2010.

sometimes underestimate the weight of migration in losing the familiar environment, family ties, friends, difficulties in adaption for these children. Also, the children benefit from the move, by learning new skills, as already reported by previous studies.[40]

◯ *Registration*

Often, a consequence of movement is related to problems of civil registration in the new area the family has moved to. The transfer of civil registry from the local administration of the place of origin to the location of destination is a long, non coherent administrative procedure that in per se exclude the possibility to some groups of individuals or families to be eligible since the criteria of registration is to submit a document on the property of the house (and/or contract of rent); document of employment and a certificate of incomes. The lack of civil registration results in limited access to health and educational services, social protection programs, cash assistance scheme etc., but also difficulties in accessing other public institutions.

> *'They tell me to apply to the employment office, but you need to have an original certificate. This means that I have to go to Korça just to take a certificate, and to spend money.'* (Father, Roma community)
>
> *'Despite the fact that the Roma families moved to an improvised camp in our district many years ago, we had registered only half of them, and the other half continued to get cash assistance in Elbasan.'* (Representative of local government)

A particular problem of the communities in frequent movement has been the lack of birth registration of children. According to a UNICEF study of 2012, the child registration rate in Albania during 2005-2010 has been between 98-99%[41]. In particular, a mapping of Roma children in Albania, conducted in 2011, estimates that about 5.7% of children, whose families participated in the survey, are not registered at birth and thus remains invisible and excluded from services[42].

This fact was often interpreted by professionals as parental neglect, while for the parents, non-registration was attributed to their problems (children outside of wedlock, abandonment of the child by the parents and being taken care of by the relatives, etc.) or to the move per se, since it had not been possible for them to go to the area of their previous location within the time needed, or because of the costs of this trip[43]. Non-registration of children, as mentioned

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40   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.
41   The state of the world's children 2012: Children in an Urban World, UNICEF, 2012.
42   Mapping of Roma Children in Albania, UNICEF Albania, 2011.
43   Evaluation Report on Problems Arising from the Non-registration of Birth of Roma Children, TLAS. 2006.

in the above subsection, was reported to happen also in the cases when the families moved abroad, asked for asylum claiming they were from Kosovo, and changed their name too.

Many of these problems were solved through different changes and improvements in the regulatory framework, such as in the Law 'On Civil Status' of 2009 and Instruction of the Ministry of Interior of 2010 'On the Referral and Registration of the Birth Act of Persons who Result as Unregistered In the National Registry Office', as well as an agreement between different actors released in June, 2012, which allows parents to register their children, despite their age, or lack of birth certificate, or through the necessary verifications. But key informants also reported that for a small number of children, these problems still exist.

> *'In the Roma community I work with, there are still some non-registered children, since they live with their grandparents and their mother has abandoned them. The grandparents cannot register them, even as their nephews.'* (Worker, NGO for children in street situation)

Another problem identified during the last period is related to some difficulties that Albanian children who were born in Greece encounter with their IDs or passports issued by Albanian authorities. These difficulties are related to the fact that the names of the cities that are written in Albanian are not easily recognized by the Greek authorities, and for this reason they face barriers in passing through the border or to fully access services in Greece.

Education

The overall net enrolment ratio in preschool education in Albania remains low at 59%, while the net enrolment ratio in basic education is reported at 89-91% during the period 2005-2010[44]. Especially with Roma children, there have been two main problems identified through the previous reports: a) the low rate of enrolment and b) high rates of drop out of school before the end of the academic year, contributing to an overall literacy rate for Roma children of only 34%[45]. Internal and external migration of the Roma families have been identified as one of the main factors negatively influencing the education of children, who in most cases drop-out of school during the academic year or fully interrupt their education[46].

Similarly, the main obstacles reported in this study by stakeholders, children and parents in relation to school enrolment are: lack of birth registration, and the parents' inability to afford the expenses for school attendance.

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44   The state of the world's children 2012: Children in an Urban World, UNICEF, 2012.
45   Situational analysis on child protection system, BKTF, 2011.
46   Annual Report (2011-2012) ASHMDF, 2012.

As stated also by other studies, in spite of the inclusion of a significant number of children, there are still children who have not been registered due to complications in their cases, such as when parents are not registered either or when parents declare false personal data intentionally. However, the Ministry of Education and Sport allows child's acceptance in the school even without documents, but they are registered in a special class book, which does not guarantee the possibility to continue their schooling even after compulsory education[47].

> *'Even though they say that every child has the right to education and that the basic education is compulsory, in most of the cases that we have managed we faced difficulties in registering in school those children without a birth certificate'* – *(NGO)*

UNICEF commissioned report of 2011, states that 32% of drop-out children accept that the main reason for not attending school is lack of resources to cover expenses[48]. This reason was reported as the main factor even by some of the children who were interviewed for this situational analysis, where the costs to attend school were related to the long distances of schools from the informal areas of their shelters (mainly for Roma children), or the fact that they needed to work in order to make a living.

> *'I am not going to school anymore. I liked going to school, but since the time we moved to our new home, the school is too far away, and I had to take to walk and take two buses to go to school.'* *(Girl, 10 years old)*
>
> *'I don't go to school. It is better to help my father to collect cans.'* *(Boy, 13 years old)*

Also, most of the children reported that when they internally or externally moved for periods up to one year, they never attended school. They usually stay at home or help their parents in their work.

> *'When we moved and lived for one year in Korça at our grandfather, I didn't go to school. I used to spend my time by playing with my cousins or helping my father at the market place.'* *(Boy, 13 years old)*
>
> *'I had to repeat two years the same class, as I left both years in April to go to Kosovo with my family'.* *(Boy, 15 years old)*

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47   Ibid.
48   Child rights situation Albania, Save the Children, 2012.

Most of the children who have been abroad for a longer time, as regular migrants, reported to have attended school there, but in most of the cases they didn't continue when they returned back home, mainly as they had to move to different places, until they settled down.

'I was born in Greece and I was going to school there. But when we came to Albania I didn't attend school for one year, as we went to Korça and Fier before coming to Tirana, to live for some time with my grandparents.' (Girl, 12 years old)

'My youngest boy attended school in Italy for 8 years. But then we came back to Albania, and he lost two years because we were moving in different cities. When we decided to stay in Tirana, he didn't want any more to go at school, even to finish the basic education, as he was very ashamed to go back to seventh grade with younger children. I fully understand him.' (Mother)

Health

Nearly 50% of the population in Albania has limited access to quality health services. Previous reports have identified various problems in such direction, especially for children from vulnerable groups[49].

Especially, children in street situation and from Roma community face different barriers that seem to be related to their movement. It is reported that only 76% of Roma, compared to 93% of non-Roma, have been immunized against polio, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough[50]. This is related to the movement and the lack of birth or civic registration of children and their families which determine the access to primary health services.

'I can't go to a GP close by for the prescription, as I have to buy the medications then. He has explained to me that I can't have them for free, as I am not a resident here.' (Mother, Roma community)

While it is difficult to access free of charge the basic health care services, the emergency services (hospitals) are not denied to all the persons despite their administrative appurtenance and the fact if they are in possession of registration documents. Usually children presented to the hospitals are in severe health conditions as the symptoms as they cannot access primary or secondary health service.

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49   Situational analysis on child protection system, BKTF, 2011. Child rights situation Albania, Save the Children, 2012.
50   Mapping of Roma Children in Albania, UNICEF Albania, 2011.

None of the participants reported that they were refused the care whenever they had approached a health service.

> '**When you really need a doctor you should go to the emergency. They never ask you any documentation**' (Mother of a child in street situation)

In such cases, the main problem reported by the parents was related to their limited financial resources to buy the medication that were prescribed to them by the doctors.

> '**If you are a Roma or you are poor, they never refuse the service. They know that we don't have any money**' (Boy, 17 years old)

In most of the cases, the health problems of the children were reported to be related to the bad living conditions, malnutrition or to the difficult work or street situations, as reported by previous studies[51].

> '**The doctor told me that he has a serious pneumonia and he needs to take some antibiotics and to eat properly. I don't have the money to buy either of them. If I were registered here, at least I could buy the medications**' (Mother, Roma community)

Exploitation

There are a lot of cases of internal and international trafficking for the purpose of exploitation for work[52]. The worst forms of child labour in Albania can affect vulnerable groups of children, such as street children and trafficked children[53]. One of the forms of child exploitation is forced begging. Main risks faced by the children in street situations involved in begging are a high mortality due to malnutrition and lack of shelter/exposure to extreme weather conditions; they suffer social exclusion and discrimination and they remain highly exposed to other severe forms of exploitation, illegal adoption, and abduction and trafficking[54].

> '**People think that since you are Roma, they can harass you, or give you money to have sex with them.**' (Girl, 17 years old)

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51   Observation report: exploitation of Albanian children in street situation in Kosovo, Mario project, 2010. Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.
52   Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. 2010. Evaluation Report of the National Strategy for Children. Tirana.
53   Child rights situation Albania, Save the Children, 2012.
54   Report for the study on typology and policy responses to child begging in EU, European Commission, 2012.

As the previous Mario report stated[55], there are cases of some of these Albanian children in street situations in Kosovo who are physically abused and maltreated by their parents and adult relatives, when the children fail to bring back the amount of money expected of them.

> *'I cannot go to school. I have to work; otherwise there will be problems at home'*
> *(Boy, 11 years old)*
>
> *'It's better to go to Kosovo. You can earn 5,000 lekë in few hours, and so you can go home earlier. Here (in Tirana), I have to stay all day long in the street to bring so much money back at home.'* *(Boy, 13 years old)*

On the other hand, studies also indicate that children who beg are often submitted to violence by the police, which considers them as a problem to be solved by sending them off from the street and from the country (in the cases of children begging in neighboring countries) rather than as cases of exploitation and neglect to be referred to social services[56]. In many cases, children reported a similar attitude from the police officers in Kosovo.

> *'In Kosovo we had to be very careful, as the police could come at any moment and chase us. In this case they would send us back... not only me, but the whole family'* *(Girl, 11 years old)*
>
> *'One time, in Prizren, the police caught me and took me at the police station. They questioned me for two hours, but I knew I shouldn't tell them about my family. So, after two hours they let me go away'* *(Boy, 13 years old)*

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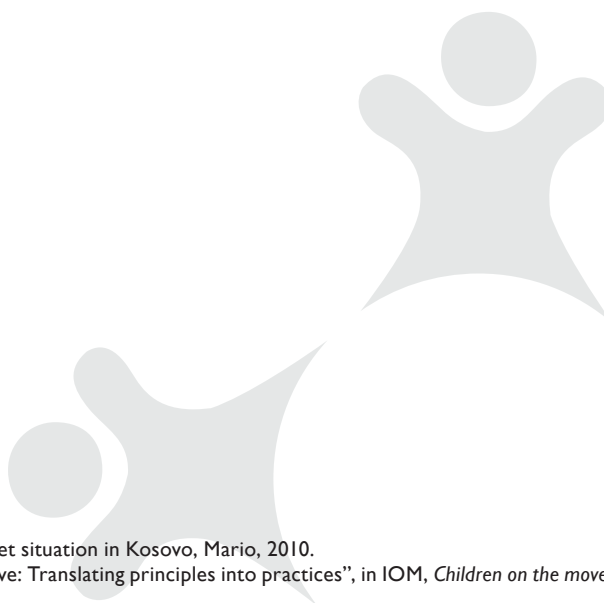
55   Observation report: exploitation of Albanian children in street situation in Kosovo, Mario, 2010.
56   Daniela Reale, "Protecting and supporting children on the move: Translating principles into practices", in IOM, *Children on the move*, 2013.

VI. Current Response of Child Protection System for Children on the Move

After the presentation of the characteristics of children in the move in Albania and the modalities and consequences of the move for them, in this section we'll try to analyze the response of the child protection system to address their needs.

During the last years, similarly to international trends, Albania has been moving from an issue-based approach of child protection programming towards a systematic approach in child protection, because the first ones lacked sustainability and did not address the situation of all children at risk of abuse. In Albania, the two main actors of the child protection system that can respond to the needs of the children in the move are the child protection units and the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking; therefore they will be the main focus of this review, terms of capacities, adequacy, inclusiveness and accessibility.

Capacity and Adequacy of CPS responses

This section analyses the capacity and adequacy of CPS response in terms of identification, referral, assessment, interventions and follow up of cases of children in the move.

The model of child protection units during the last years has started to be used, and now they have become a key element of the child protection system in Albania. The establishment and operation of CPUs do not, by themselves, constitute a national system of child protection, which encompasses the efforts of all sectors, framed within clear legislative and policy guidelines and with well capacitated staff and resources working in synergy to protect children and promote their welfare.

However, CPUs are a unique unit for the identification, referral and treatment of children at risk and also children in need, at local level[57]. They have been conceptualized as specialized

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[57]   Evaluation Study of Child Protection Units, WorldVision, 2013.

structures that offer support and coordinate services for cases of children in need of protection, that are subject or at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, social exclusion, trafficking, exploitation and other phenomena that threaten the welfare of children on the move. These services are offered through a multidisciplinary approach, with the child protection worker being the coordinator of the multidisciplinary team, composed of local partners, representatives of health, police, justice and education sectors, regional social service, municipality social service, and non-profit organizations active in the area.

The recent evaluation of the Albanian Strategy for Social Inclusion 2007-2013[58] concluded that the child protection services system is deficient in identifying and offering the necessary psycho-social and economic support to children at risk and their families. Even more, Roma children have been identified as a group particularly at risk of social exclusion. In addition, the Strategy does not recognize children on the move as an umbrella term but identifies separately vulnerable groups. The move in itself is never mentioned as an indicator of risk and of potential need for services.

In Albania, there have been some evaluation studies of CPUs work so far (the most recent one in 2013[59]), reflecting the changes and the development in their functioning in the last years. A 2009 study has listed several challenges, but overall concluded that the CPU model was a functional one[60]. In its recommendations, the study suggested also the evaluation of the possibility to add to the referral system of CPUs other vulnerable groups, such as migrant or returning migrant families and marginalized minorities. Extending service provision to a wider range of vulnerable users would provide "added value" to the service and could widen and deepen the Child Protection Unit towards a more generic social services facility.

The BKTF report of 2011[61] emphasizes the systemic approach and the multidisciplinary model built in the CPUs, as a model that should address all children faced with protection risks, and that has showed effective results, even though being young and in a strong need of support. Also, an evaluation of CPUs through the eyes of the children[62] concluded that generally all the children directly assisted by CPUs, evaluate positively the quality of received services, and report some improvement of their lives and their family relationships, after the interventions. They can identify CPUs and police as main actors to refer cases of child abuse.

The last evaluation of CPUs overall concluded that CPU's have contributed to increased child protection, especially in terms of creating a professional discourse space about child protection

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58   Raport vlerësimi, Strategjia Ndërsektoriale e Përfshirjes Sociale, 2007-2013, Qendra Shqiptare për Kërkime Ekonomike, 2012.
59   Evaluation study of child protection units, WorldVision, 2013.
60   Evaluation of Child Protection Unit intervention within the framework of social welfare system reform and decentralisation of social service processes in Albania. Prepared by Gary Westwater and Vladan Jovanović- Tiranë -August-September 2009.
61   Situation analysis on child protection system, BKTF, 2011.
62   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.

and child welfare, together with the development of networks/multi-disciplinary teams to comprehensively address cases of child abuse[63]. On the other hand, the same evaluation also listed several challenges on their existence and well-functioning. Their local level management, with no formal coordinating agency (State Agency for Children's Rights only recently assumed this role) means each of them may operate individually, with the Working Protocol not being mandatory (despite guidance by MoSWY, UNICEF and Terre des homme), can be isolated, with no inspection and monitoring so far. Strong challenges remain the lack of specialized services and comprehensive social protection schemes for the most vulnerable children.

The recent Reform of Integrated Social Services in Albania is expected to impact the CPU functioning[64]. In this context, it is especially important in terms of how this structure will be supported to play its coordinating role in the multidisciplinary teams, thus ensuring a better identification, referral and treatment of children in need and at risk.

The difficulties of the system to respond to the needs of the children are more apparent in cases of children on the move. The available services are not tailored to the needs of individual children on the move.

> *'Currently, even though it is very necessary, there are no specific or specialized services for these children, also there is not special legislation for them. I consider it very necessary, because it would help to identify them, wherever they are. So far, they have been treated like every other case at risk.'* (Child protection worker)

Identification, referral and interventions

Referral is very challenging in children on the move cases. Most of the cases in the system, as reported by the professionals, are referred by NGOs and are also managed by them. There is no exchange of information for referral of cases from schools, or social administrators (who distribute cash assistance and have the obligation to visit the families to conduct an initial assessment) which are the actors of the network that have more chances to identify the move and refer it as a case of a child at risk.

Social administrators, which would be the most appropriate professionals to register movement, are focused only on distribution of cash assistance[65] due to their heavy case load. Currently, the role of the social administrator is being revised, in the context of the Integrated

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63   Ibid.
64   Evaluation study of child protection units, WorldVision, 2013.
65   Assessment of the capacities of the providers of the social services, the directors and specialist of social services on the model of case management, Unicef, Tdh, 2013 (unpublished).

Social Services Reform in Albania. This is a crucial moment to include in their mandated the identification of family movements and the referral of children of these families in the child protection units of the area they are moving to.

> *'Identification and referral remain difficult, because of lack of network among actors. The management of cases varies, in my opinion, depending on the level of responsibility of the actors involved in this process.'* (Child protection worker)

Difficulties in identification of cases of children at risk of trafficking are related also to the fact that health and education employees working at the local level, do not have proper training, nor do they have the administrative responsibility to identify and refer children at risk[66].

Also, usually referrals are made if children have already been registered in the system, because of other needs. If not, they are not identified just because of the move and can remain out of the system. Based on the stakeholders' responses, the main problem remains the referral of cases in the system, though there are also difficulties in monitoring and interventions in such cases.

Despite the difficulties in identification and referral of cases of children on the move, stakeholders reported that when the cases were identified by the system, because of other needs, many efforts were made to address adequately their needs, such as in the case below:

> *'The family of B. is composed of five members, the mother and four children, aged 3 to 18. The parents are Roma and Egyptian, and for many years they have moved to several places. After the accidental death of the father, the family remains in the street and asks for support in the CPU. The multidisciplinary group set these goals:*
> - *The younger children, 3,9 and 12 years old were enrolled in school and kindergarten with the support of NPF, A2B*
> - *The 18 years old boy was enrolled in a vocational course*
> - *They were referred to an NGO, which offered them monthly cash assistance (as orphans)*
> - *They were included in the cash assistance program, as a case in need*
> - *Their rent was financed for six months by (WVI)*
> - *Income generation, through selling used clothing (NPF)*
> *The case is monitored regularly and the family has not moved for one year, children continue to attend the school and kindergarten.'*

Still these children can drop out of the system again, because of the move, and the system is not able to trace them in such cases.

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66   Situational Analysis Report on Child Trafficking in Albania, BKTF, 2012.

> *'The cases of children on the move are considered as the most difficult, because it happens that the family has received services, the family situation has improved, and all this is interrupted by their sudden move.'* (Public daily centre)

Like in the case below:

The family is composed of a mother and her 12 years old son. They received child protection services according to their needs. For two years, despite the continuous monitoring of the case, the family has moved twice to Kosovo. They always were given access to services, but unfortunately, the mother and her child moved again and no one knows where they are. Through the interviews with the child, he admitted that his mother sends him to the streets to beg in Kosovo and they make a lot of money. Although they were deported by the Kosovo police, the mother doesn't want to say that she went to Kosovo and invents various stories.

This is a case which emphasizes the problems in offering services to children on the move, when even after receiving services, the family moves again, exposing children to high risks. Because of the move, the child had heavy health problems-for which he received treatment- and also emotional and behavioural problems.

More specifically, in the case of children supported by NGO focusing on children in street situations, stakeholders report that when a family moves, they usually get information on the move through the community where the family used to live, or through their relatives. In the case of internal movements, they report that they themselves visit the children in the new area, or if this area is out of their reach, they refer them to the relevant CPU. In the case of international migration, the situation becomes very difficult, because often the destination cannot be identified and there is no cooperation with foreign social services.

> *'Tracing moves is dependent on geographical distance. When children move outside Albania, the contacts with them are almost impossible.'* (Public daily centre)

Coordination between relevant actors and CPUs is crucial for the effectiveness of all phases of case management. Stakeholders report strong difficulties in coordination, especially at national level.

> *'Coordination is often linked to the seriousness of the people that work in these institutions. We can say that coordination at local level is good, but the coordination at national level results problematic.'* (Child protection worker)
>
> *'There is no coordination and cooperation between the structures, including local government, police structures and social services.'* (State Social Service)

Another persisting problem relates to the fact that some of the services are under the supervision of local governments, while others fall on the central government's shoulders. This situation resulted in protection gaps where professionals may escape their responsibility based on the division of competences between local and central governments.

> *'The role and responsibilities of local government to offer social services for the children are very important, but this happens only in big municipalities; while, others often do not cooperate in offering social services.'* (State Social Service)

According to stakeholders, the child protection system is disproportionately reliant on NGO resources. Also, if the system in general does not consider all the groups of children on the move, NGOs work with even more specific target groups, mainly with children in street situation.

> *'If they are not street children, we don't deal with them.'* (NGO)
>
> *'So far, services for children are offered by NGOs, only cash assistance is provided by the state budget.'* (NGO)

A recent paper on the challenges faced in protecting children on the move focused on the NGO sector, seeking to demonstrate why they currently struggle with the challenge of whether and how to best assist and protect children on the move[67]. It stated that while recognizing the phenomenon of child migration and its increasing scale, on the whole, NGOs feel challenged by the political debate occurring around the topic of migration, and are also affected by their own perceptions of migration and the dilemmas it presents. Despite the existence of NGO actors working in the communities from which children migrate and also of NGOs that assist children once they reach a new destination, a geographical disconnection between NGO activities in the places of origin and destination has been identified as one of the main gaps.

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[67]   Challenges faced in protection children on the move: an NGO perspective. M. Shuteriqi – Children on the move, IOM, 2013.

The paper also identified a few existing NGO initiatives that have sought to respond to this gap in Albania.

> *'The role of NGOs should be in identifying the phenomenon, addressing the problematic through offering expertise in how to work directly with these children, but they cannot be decision-makers in the implementation of the law. This process and finding an adequate environment for the welfare of the child should be a responsibility of the state. NGOs should be only catalysts of the protection of child rights and orienting towards better alternatives.'* (NGO)

A detailed list of the NGOs currently working in Albania and their current projects related to children on the move is included in Annex V of this report.

Adequacy of child protection system for children victims of trafficking

In relation to the response of the agencies on child trafficking, the Alternative Report for the situation of children's rights and on the implementation of the "UN Convention on the Rights of the Child" 2005-2009[68], concludes that the referral system has not worked efficiently. BKTF has published on 2012 the latest situational analysis on child trafficking in Albania[69], which contains the most comprehensive and recent analysis on the topic, which will be referred below.'The CAAHT's Technical Needs Assessment Report' showed that "it is not clear yet to Committee Members, how to accomplish their responsibilities". Some respondents have reported work done on anti-trafficking, which demonstrates that the very establishment of the Committees is an important step forward. And yet, there is disconnection between structures in the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, which means that while political will is crucial to ensure success of anti-trafficking efforts in each district, it must be associated with concrete plans and actions. Overall, there are insufficient human and financial resources available to enable the Committees and Technical Working Tables to undertake their required tasks and responsibilities, which means that there is a need for training and capacity building for local government structures.

Based on the conclusions of this report, regional Committees have not been very effective. For the members of these committees, membership is just another task they have to do. Yet, some of them have been approached or on their personal initiative have invited international and national non-profit organizations to assist and collaborate with them in matters of counter-

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68   Albania alternative report on the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2012.
69   The following subsection is adapted from the Situational Analysis Report on Child Trafficking in Albania, BKTF, 2008.

trafficking. Furthermore, it has been observed that although they are regional committees, they tend to focus their work and efforts in the major towns of the region, and little or nothing is done in the other towns and communes.

The list shows that almost all agencies involved in the process are working at policy level, and there are units at the operational level more needed. Fighting child trafficking implies to go into field work, identify cases, evaluate them, offer assistance tailored to victim's needs and follow up cases until there is evidential proof of permanent and sustainable positive change. The example of how the model of Child Protection Units started through pilot ones, created in several municipalities demonstrates that results are possible, especially when State and non-State organizations collaborate and coordinate their efforts.

Also, working definitions in the National Referral Mechanism need to be revised, in order to guarantee assistance to those declared as victims of trafficking, and also presumed victims, those at risk and vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the experience since 2005 suggests that there is a need for improving the screening process that leads to the identification of those in need of assistance. At the same time, other service providers among the civil society, who are actively providing high quality services to the various categories of victims of trafficking should be included in the agreement and made signatory parties. Finally, the NRM needs to adjust and match a Transnational Referral Mechanism, which up to now is not operational.

Also, besides SOPs, the BKTF report identifies a need for capacity building within the police forces for identification, verification and referral of alleged victims as well as the provision of necessary services. As we can also see from the objectives and activities aimed to be implemented by the Action Plan for the Fight Against Child Trafficking and the Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking, there is still a need for psychologists, social workers and legal advisors in police departments, systematic training of the forces of public order on SOP's and cooperation with local child protection units. On the other hand, social services for the rehabilitation and integration of the victims of trafficking have also been scarce, mainly being provided by the civil society. Children in street situation suspected of being exploited for prostitution and begging within and out of the country have been temporarily held in a shelter, but later have been sent home, where they have escaped again as the domestic situation that had driven them to go away in the first place had not changed. The street situation exposes them to re-trafficking; whose existence sheds light on the lack of re-integration measures and the failure of the protection system for this category of children.'

Also, besides the positive step of establishing a Shelter for Trafficked Persons in Linza, referral of children to this centre remains a problem since minors are placed in the same space with

adults[70].

Overall, it can be summarized that despite progress, the CPS in Albania is not adequately providing protection to children due to a) lack of coordination and coherence between local and central level mandates, b) overall reliance on NGO resources and insufficient resourcing of services at both local and central level, c) inappropriate services to different categories of children, especially child victims of trafficking and exploitation, d) absence of international links fostering transnational case management, e) low referral capacity or willingness to refer, etc.

◯ *Inclusiveness and Accessibility of CPS responses*

As explained above, the CPS is currently issue-based (despite a systematic approach vision), with a focus on particular groups of children. Being so, a child would have to be trafficked, or at risk for trafficking or exploitation, in order to be part of the system. Although children 'in need', which are at low levels of risk, according to the protocol, enter the system too, the element of identification for them is mostly poverty or sickness. The move in itself is not identified as a factor which can, in some cases, cause vulnerability, therefore failing to establish safeguards to make movement safe.

According to stakeholders, the child protection workers consider the move as a factor of risk, but this happens only in the cases when a child has been already referred to the services for other reasons. Also the WP does not explicitly mention 'the move' as a factor in child identification and risk assessment.

> *'The move is taken into consideration as an element of risk, but this is done only for the marginalized groups'* (Child protection worker)

Thus, not only child protection workers, but also representatives of health, police, etc., (the key actors mentions in the previous chapter), which work according to the protocol, do not identify and refer cases of children on the move, to CPUs, because they are not identified as cases in need of protection simply because of the move.

> *'The system is not inclusive; often families and children in need are returned to their places of origin by the police, without being supported with the necessary services.'* (NGO)

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70   Albania alternative report on the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2012.

Access to child protection units is not possible throughout Albania. The situation is rather unique, with CPUs being under the direction and control of the individual mayors/heads of communes where they are located and not being the responsibility of one ministry/department. While the Law on Protecting Children (2010) states that CPUs are to be established in each municipality and commune, there appears to be no absolute duty to do so. Therefore, in some of them, these units have not been created yet. Additionally there is no financial provision for the establishment and running of CPUs, with each municipality/commune expected to identify the appropriate budget for the service. The main consequence of these features is that that there is no universal service across Albania and the CPUs can be vulnerable to changes in local priorities. So far, NGO's and UNICEF have supported this process, but now there is a need to develop sustainable child protection units. Legally, it is the duty of the State Agency for children to lead the creation of CPUs, but so far, the Agency remains a young institution, not able to be involved fully in this process[71].

> *'Access is not easy, especially in suburbs or rural areas. It is impossible, because there are no services. Generally, services are located in main urban areas.' (State Social Service)*

Also, there is still lack of information on the existence of CPUs among the population[72]. Since one child protection worker operates in a whole municipality or commune, and in many cases they work in this position on a part-time basis (the other half of their duties includes being a social administrator, or a worker on domestic violence), they are faced with case overload and it is very difficult for them to become visible at community level. Thus, usually children learn about the existence of services from other children, or community members, and sometimes through NGOs who try to identify children in the areas where they live, or in the streets[73]. This was reported by parents, children and stakeholders, too.

> *'They learn it through each-other, through contacts with field teams, or through citizens who know about the existence of daily centers and talk to these children in the street.' (NGO)*

Access to cash assistance services is difficult for some of the families in need that have moved. Sometimes, the cash assistance, which is the most constant contact with the social services of the municipality/commune for some of these families, turns into a barrier. This happens because, despite the move, they continue to get their cash assistance in the same social service office, since they don't register their move.

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71   Evaluation study of child protection units, World Vision, 2013.
72   Child rights situation Albania, Save the Children, 2012.
73   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.

The following case, reported by an NGO working with children in the street, was chosen to close this section, since it materializes several deficiencies of the current child protection system to respond to the need of the children on the move, including difficulties in referral, lack of child protection units throughout Albania, the struggle of NGOs to offer services and narrow focus in one group of children, and disappearance from the CPS in the case of a move.

X. comes from L... to Tirana (capital city). He has been identified begging in the street, by the field workers of the Centre. After being informed about the services of the Centre, X. is resistant and sceptic to visit it. After monitoring his moves in Tirana for several days, he was found again and some communication started.

He reported that he was abandoned by his family, which currently lived in Kosovo. His relatives in L... were indifferent towards him if he didn't provide any money for them. During this period, his parents didn't have any information on the child's whereabouts and no reports to the police were made for his absence. After contacting other centers, in order to find information about the child, the phone contacts of the parents were found. During phone conversations with them, they admitted that their son was deported from Kosovo to Albania by the police. During this process, the parents didn't intervene at any moment. Alone in Tirana, after being let free by border police, he had to survive and was faced with exploitation and abuse by the people he had to spend the night with.

During his stay in Tirana, the staff of the Centre struggled to find shelter for him, to mediate with his relatives in L..., to include him in a vocational course, or to accompany him to the hospital because of serious health problems. After one year, X. moved again to Kosovo. According to contacts with his parents, initially he lived with them and then moved, to an unknown direction. So far, none of our partners have any information about his whereabouts.

Prevention

In identifying preventive responses, in relation to children on the move, we need to observe on one hand preventive primary actions in terms of awareness raising about potential risks with which children on the move are faced, and on the other hand, preventive measures taken from CPS, in order to support safe movement.

GRETA, in its 2011 report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, by Albania (2011)[74], has listed several awareness raising measures directed to children. Since this is the latest report which refers to preventive

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74   Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, by Albania, first evaluation round, GRETA, Council of Europe, 2011.

measures, we will refer to it in listing these measures, such as:

- Several campaigns against child labour were organized in recent years, geared in particular towards eliminating the worst forms of child labour. These campaigns have used posters, television advertising spots and educational packs, and have focused partly on trafficking in children for the purpose of labour exploitation.

- Training sessions have been organized by the National Coordinator and the IOM for Albanian journalists to remind them of their role in building awareness of the underlying causes of trafficking of human beings and their obligation to inform the public while fully complying with their code of professional ethics and the rights and dignity of victims.

- A set of educational tools prepared in co-operation with the IOM was specifically introduced to prevent trafficking, including handbooks for teachers and pupils focusing on trafficking. Children are made aware of the dangers of transnational trafficking through programs run in schools. An interactive theatre activity ("I travel…alone") organized in 2009 reached 4,000 pupils in the course of a month, explaining how trafficking happens and its dangers.

- In 2008 and 2010, a number of awareness-raising activities were organized by the National Coordinator in co-operation with other governmental agencies, intergovernmental organizations and/or NGOs, with a focus on trafficking of human beings, but not on children specifically.

- A workshop for relevant officials, organized by the National Coordinator, in cooperation with relevant actors took place in 2010 entitled "Let's make Internet safe for children", which contributed to raise awareness on the danger of recruitment for trafficking through the Internet.

- 6,000 leaflets focusing on victims and potential victims of the trafficking of human beings were distributed at border crossing points, in consular offices and other relevant places in 2010.

- In order to prevent trafficking and more specifically to discourage demand, there has been a stronger focus on the question of equality between women and men in several school programs.

- The Albanian authorities have taken measures to ensure that Albanians are informed of the trafficking risks linked to migration to foreign countries by distributing brochures and posters throughout the country and in Albanian consulates and embassies abroad. A national free-phone line has been opened, enabling callers to report cases of trafficking and also to obtain information on the legal requirements governing travel abroad. Consular staff has been provided with manuals instructing them how to inform Albanians who are abroad about their rights and duties, but they are not trained on identifying and referring victims and potential victims of trafficking. After the abolition of the visa requirement for Albanians wishing to enter the Schengen area at the end of 2010, the Albanian authorities have launched information campaigns, including ads on television, explaining to the

population that the freedom to travel without a visa does not entitle them to go to the countries concerned to work or to seek work and that they should beware of false promises of paid work in other countries (there is no focus in children in this campaigns).

Despite this, so far, there is no assessment of the level of coverage of the measures taken. The children participating in our research couldn't identify any of the measures taken, or other similar ones.

On the other hand, some preventive measures have been taken by CPS institutions, in order to safeguard children during their moves, though major challenges are identified in this respect. One of the challenges in preventing risks associated with the move is to address the school drop-out. To be eligible for enrolment in school, a child must be recorded in the civil status register. Otherwise, despite primary school being mandatory and free for all children, according to the law for pre-university education, these children remain out of the educational system, because their parents never registered them. Even in the cases when NGOs get in contact with these children in need, they need to spend a lot of time in order to register them, for the first time in their life. However, measures have been taken to allow children not yet recorded in the civil status register to attend school. The Ministry of Education and Science and Science allows a child's acceptance in the school even without documents. However, in these cases children cannot obtain the basic education diploma, which hampers the continuation of their schooling even after compulsory education[75].

Also, in order to ensure school attendance for Roma children, who cannot afford to buy textbooks, the government has addressed this issue through a decision of the Council of Ministers[76] which set the obligation of the Ministry of Education and Science and Science to cover 100% of the price of textbooks for children belonging to national minorities.

Thirdly, in order to ensure school attendance for the children of Albanian returnees, the Order of the Minister of Education and Science 'For the beginning of the new school year' provides for several measures fostering integration in school such as registering returnees for the first time in the educational system, continuing the studies that started outside of the country, and granting equivalency of diplomas.[77]

Fourthly, the psycho-social school service has been created in public schools, with the role of monitoring children in difficulty at school and finding solutions to avoid drop out.

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75   Situational analysis on child protection system, BKTF, 2011.
76   Decision Nr. 107, dated 10.2.2010, of the Council of Ministers 'On the Publication, Printing, Distribution and Selling of Pre-university Education Textbooks'.
77   http://www.migrantinfo.gov.al/images/stories/migranti/kthimi-riintegrimi/strategjia-shtetasvekthyer.pdf

> *'My activities consist of counselling, inclusion of the child in the school activities, risk assessment and referral to CPUs when necessary'* (School psychologist)

In this context, the schools could be a very important institution not only in identifying school drop-outs, but also in -providing the necessary information about children who change the schools. Currently, all relevant data on children, movements included, are referred to the Regional Educational Offices, but they are not used for service purposes.

> *'The schools can be focal points in identification of children on the move. The data on children that abandon school are sent to the regional educational offices, so they must be somewhere, just no one uses them.'* (Child protection professional)

The children who drop out from school are not followed up or referred to social services, which can make him/her invisible to the system, especially in cases where the child and family are not registered in the civil status in their new residence.

> *'When we moved from Tirana to Korça, I didn't go to school anymore, because my mother did not want me to go. We stayed there for one year. My mother sold clothes in the market and I helped her every day.'* (Boy, 12 years old)

The schools could become important actors in prevention, by referring the cases of children that leave school to move to another city/area, to the child protection units of this area. Thus, the child protection workers in the new place could contact the children and ensure their enrolment in school in particular, and identify them as children in need of protection, when relevant. This practice is already existent in schools, as cited below, but the risks associated with the move are not an indicator for applying it.

> *'In cases of divorce, if one of the parents wants to move with the child and the other one is not informed about it, it can be risky. In these situations, the case is referred to the school psychologist of the other school. '* (School psychologist)

Civil Registration of children is another challenge in terms of preventive measures. Some of the difficulties in using registration as a preventive measure are identified in this subsection. Some of the children move with their families and change their residence within Albania without transferring their documents. Others have never been registered. Some families

might have difficulties in registering or transferring the civil registration, because of lack of information, fees for registration and difficulties in moving back and forth, in order to have all the necessary documents. Also, the cases of children who live with their grandparents and have been abandoned by their parents cannot be registered.

> *'Since they are not residents in the city/commune where they are identified, they are excluded from any kind of service, educational, medical, economical and social'* (Child protection worker)
>
> *'The legal procedures are based on registration in the relevant municipality/ commune office. If the place of residence does not match with that of registration, it is difficult to support the child, in terms of school registration, health services, etc. Access to public services is low.'* (State Social Service)

Institutions such as schools and health services, which have the opportunity and the possibility to identify these children, should help them in a proactive and responsive way by identifying them and referring them to civil registry offices. Their registration is the first and crucial step in making them visible in the eye of the law and of public institutions and enabling them to enjoy their rights and the access to services[78].

Lack of registration goes along with the impossibility to access health services. Thus, in the event a child has moved to another area and the family is not registered in the new location, the child will not be provided health services, since they lack registration, and therefore, a health book. Instruction No. 526 dated 12.10.2009 'On the Implementation of the Referral System of Patients to Health Services' issued by the Minister of Health obliges health service workers to provide services only to patients possessing regular documentation, with the exception of extreme emergencies. Thus, according to the law, each person who asks for health care must have a health book and an ID, including children.

Similarly, the problems in the situation of immunization of Roma children are related also to mobility. A survey conducted in 2011[79] in Roma settlements in Tirana shows that immunization rates vary in different settlements. Roma children's immunization rate is sometimes reported to be less than 80%. Even though health authorities report to have supported immunization activities, through door to door screenings for Roma families and children, as well as capacity development of health care providers to reach vulnerable groups with immunization and other child health services, there are no reliable data with regards to the health situation and care

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78   Situational analysis on child protection system, BKTF, 2011.
79   Survey on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Tirana, Save the Children, 2011.

received by Roma new-borns and breastfeeding mothers[80].

Based on the reported statistics, but also the reports of professionals and parents, the health system fails to implement the mechanism which aims to prevent the health consequences related to the moves, especially in the case of obligatory vaccination programs.

> *'Health workers sometimes show up in our area and may ask about immunization, but they don't disturb or criticize us about why we haven't vaccinated our children'* (Roma parent)

Another challenge in the prevention of risks associated with the move is ensuring and facilitating legal migration. Border points potentially would make a good place in this respect. The migration offices set in every border, offer information for all migrants, but only in the case when they approach these offices voluntarily. Also, according to the Strategy for the reintegration of the Albanian returnees, generally, the measures of reintegration of the National Plan of Action for Migration do not fully address the needs of the returnees; there is no clear information mechanism in relation to public services in the country, and continuous referral services are missing. These measures focus mainly on employment and vocational training, while the needs of the returnees are wider[81].

Furthermore, in the case of unaccompanied minors who return back from abroad, stakeholders report that *"they are held 24 hours in the border, and then, especially in cases of Roma children, they are just put on public transport, to the destination they refer to as their home city"*[82]. Therefore, the system fails to prevent risks associated with the move in these cases.

According to reports from Roma parents and children, it seems that they are mostly ignored by border police and often they can pass back and forth just with a birth certificate. Identification documents are not required.

> *'They never disturb us. They are very tough with white people, but with us they are always very tolerant. They always let us pass and don't ask for anything.'* (Roma parent)

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80   Child rights situation analysis Albania, Save the Children, 2012.
81   http://www.migrantinfo.gov.al/images/stories/migranti/kthimi-riintegrimi/strategjia-shtetasve-kthyer.pdf
82   nterview with IOM representative.

VII. Recommendations

◯ **Strengthening the child protection system response**

- Creating a common database: starting from the registration at Civil Registry Office, continuing with health professionals that follow closely the children in the first years of their life, and later on with schools that ensure registration. As a consequence, moves can be traced within the system, and dropping out from the child protection system can be prevented.

- Reviewing the regulatory framework, in order to ensure that it doesn't refer in a fragmented way to separate categories of children on the move, but focuses on their needs and in preventing the risks associated with the move, in a holistic way, including left out groups, such as runaway children.

- Improvement of agreements between countries, especially neighbouring ones, in order to ensure better collaboration between child protection systems and better data exchange in relation to children on the move, especially children out of a protective environment.

- Better planning of social services at local level with focus to support families and children, and empowerment of CP Units throughout Albania.

- Strengthening the mechanisms that ensure early identification of cases of children on the move who are in need of support and protection.

- Improving coordination between all actors of the child protection system in working on cases of children on the move, at local and central levels, through a revision of roles and especially through building better monitoring mechanisms on case management.

- Ensuring better cooperation between the state, NGOs and other relevant actors, by facilitating their work with children on the move.

- Revising the role of social administrators, which are currently overburdened with delivering financial aid or instead developing family services, which can monitor more closely the needs of families during and after the move.

- Building a system of continuous data collection about children on the move, with accurate data being disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity, social-economic status, etc.

◯ Building preventive measures ───────────

- Mitigating the risks that can be associated with the movement of children through awareness raising campaigns and activities and using various media, in order to reach all groups of children and adults. Measures should be taken in order to prevent neglect towards some groups of children vulnerable to unsafe movement, such as Roma children.

- Delivering information programs to children and parents on the various sources of support for children on the move in the system of child protection.

- Raising the capacities of the child protection system to identify and address the factors of vulnerability that can contribute to unsafe movement for children, such as poverty, unemployment, lack of housing, etc.

- Registration of all children and reduction of dropping out of school as more long-term preventive measures, which decreases risks related to the move.

- Training relevant actors of all sectors involved in child protection, especially:

  o Training border police in order to raise awareness about unsafe movements and how to intervene in these cases.

  o Training health and education professionals on identifying and referring children on the move that are at risk of dropping out of these services.

  o Training social administrators in order to identify children at risk of unsafe movement, during their family visits.

- Conduct further research in order to assess the level of awareness of various population groups (adults, children, groups at risk) on the risk factors related to the moves, in order to develop better prevention strategies in this respect.

VIII. Annexes

Annex I

○ *Stakeholder interview guidelines*

1. What do you know about child protection services?
2. Where can they be found?
3. What is their mandated?
4. Do you know what they do?
5. Do you consider the system inclusive?
6. Is it easily accessible?
7. Does it offer outreach?
8. Is that effective?
9. Do you know if there are specialized child protection standards for particular groups of children?
10. Types of children?
11. Are any groups of children excluded? If so, who are they and why?
12. Do you feel those standards work?
13. What do you think they are?

(*Further questions for people working in the sector or related areas*)
14. How many children are covered by existing child protection services?
15. What are legal, administrative and practical obstacles that children on the move may face in accessing services?
16. When does that happen?
17. Do you know if there is documentation on those services?
18. Have you either produced, been involved in producing or using that documentation?
19. Has your organization allocated a budget for child protection?
20. If so, how much is that?
(*For all respondents*)
21. Is there anything else you would like to add to what you have already said? For instance, generally speaking do you believe that services work well for the marginalized children such as

the ones on the move this study is looking at or do you think something else could be done?

22. Any other details.

○ *Children interview guidelines* _____

1. Name

2. Where are you based / found?

3. Children on the move are……

4. They come from…..

5. Are they from here or another place? They come from….

6. Are you one of them? You are from….

7. Some children return here? When they go away they go to….

8. Do you think it would be good or bad to go somewhere else? Could you explain why?

9. Where are you living right now? Are you with your family, in an institution or…

10. How old are you?

11. How many children do you know like you? Say a little about them….

12. Are there boys and girls, how many of each?

13. What do you do every day, for instance, are you alone, say a little about that…

14. Is any kind of organization helping or doing anything else with you?
     Explain what…

15. Is there anything else you would like to say?

Annex II

◯   *The origin of the concept of children on the move*

The term "children on the move" was first coined in the middle of the last decade (2000-2010) to refer generically to children who had left their habitual place of residence to move either within their own country, or to another country.

As the purpose was to refer to a wide range of children whose specific experiences of movement were different, but who had common protection needs, the term was not initially accompanied by any precise list of who was included and who was not. Not surprisingly, however, policy-makers, practitioners and other professionals working with/on children in migration contexts asked for a definition and a more precise listing of whom the term referred to. As a result, different organizations have adopted different definitions of this concept.

According to Save the Children's definition, children on the move are those "children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or among countries, with or without their parents or primary caregivers, and whose movement might place them at risk (or at an increased risk) of inadequate care, economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and other forms of violence"[83].

An accompanying —explanatory note added to the above-definition specifies that:
'Children on the Move' is not meant as a 'new' category of children. It is an umbrella definition that brings together the multitude of categories in which children who move, have been, often unhelpfully, divided. This definition, therefore, includes:
☐ children who have been trafficked;
☐ children who migrate (for example, to pursue better life opportunities, look for work or education, or escape exploitative or abusive situations at home);
☐ children displaced by conflict and natural disasters; and
☐ children who live and work in the streets.

All of these children might find themselves at risk, especially of being exposed to various forms of abuse and involved in the worst forms of exploitation. This concept, which highlights the common risks and challenges faced by all these children alongside their specific situations, needs and decisions aims to refocus interventions and ensure coherent policies, by placing the protection of the child at the centre. It also acknowledges the need to support the positive effect that mobility can have on improving children's life chances"[84].

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83   http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/child-protection/priority-areas/children-without-appropriate-care/children-move
84   Daniela Reale, "Protecting and supporting children on the move: Translating principles into practices", in IOM, *Children on the move*, 2013. Emphasis added.

In 2011, Terre des hommes adopted its own definition, according to which the concept of 'children on the move' "refers to those children who have left their place of habitual residence and are either on the way towards a new destination, or have already reached such a destination"[85] .

According to the above-definition, a child can move across State borders, or within a country. S/he can be on the move alone, with parents or other family members, with other adults and/or children, previously known or unknown to the child. Moreover, a distinction can be made among the various children on the move, based on the reasons behind such movement. The four categories they may belong to are:

☐ Internally displaced people;
☐ Asylum seekers and refugees;
☐ Migrants (i.e. for economic reasons or due to climate change, both internally and across borders);
☐ Trafficked people (children).

The term 'children on the move' refers to "a wide range of children who move, at some point in their childhood, from one place to another, frequently from the place where they lived initially with their parents to somewhere different". It refers to categories of children whom organizations concerned about children, used not to refer together, on the grounds that particular children have distinctive legal statuses or rights[86].

Another concept used to describe movement is the one on the "mobile child". A mobile child is a child who, having left the place where he or she used to live, lives away for a significant period in terms of the change that occurs in his or her living conditions and identity. In this case, the authors chose the term 'mobile' deliberately, as it also invokes the idea of social mobility—as children who migrate are sometimes able to change important aspects of their identity after reaching a new destination, adopting different customs or even a new language and redefining themselves as 'city people' instead of villagers[87].

A United Nations specialist on migrants' rights has described children on the move, in the context of international migration (not including children who move within their own country)[88] as "migrant children taking an active part in the migration process, particularly at

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85   Dottridge M. (2012). What Can you Do to Protect Children on the Move. A handbook to enable organisations to review how they prevent child trafficking and exploitation, and whether they ensure that the best interests of the child guide their activities. Terre des hommes International Federation.
86   Dottridge M., op. cit, page. 19.
87   Which protection for children involved in mobility in West Africa. Project of Joint Regional Study on the Mobility of Children and Youths in West Africa. PLAN WARO ENDA Jeunesse Action AMWCY ILO Terre des hommes Foundation IOM Aide àl'Enfance - Suède UNICEF WCARO. 2011.
88   Dottridge M. (2012). What Can you Do to Protect Children on the Move. A handbook to enable organisations to review how they prevent child trafficking and exploitation, and whether they ensure that the best interests of the child guide their activities. Terre des hommes International Federation.

the passage and arrival stages in countries of transit and destination. They may be found, inter alia, migrating with their family members or independently, to seek opportunities at both educational and employment levels. They may also be found entering host countries to re-join migrant members of the family; being relocated or sent by families to stay with relatives or friends in third countries or, as the Special Reporter has documented it in the past, being sent by family members to find work abroad and send part of their earnings home"[89].

Thus, the concept 'children on the move' is used to refer to a wide range of children who move, either within their own country or across an international border, or even among continents. It covers children who move alone or with others ('unaccompanied' children, 'separated' children). In each case they move away from an environment with which they were familiar, to one with which they are less familiar, at least initially, and where they are consequently at greater risk of being exploited or not appropriately cared for. At the same time, they may also have more opportunities than before they left home.

While there are good reasons for making a distinction between each of these categories of children, doing so has also encouraged the belief that each distinct category of children requires a different response (in terms of protection) from State institutions, NGOs and other actors responsible for protecting children[90].

On the other hand, a major reason for referring to them together, by using the term 'children on the move', is to identify the similarities among the different groups of children who share common protection needs, therefore triggering similar responses and protection schemes. Further, in reality, children do not live in 'categories', but shift easily from one to another, so forms of support and protection, which benefit all or most children on the move, may be more effective than those which target only one category of children[91].

While it is paramount to define child trafficking as a severe human rights violation and a serious crime, it is important to recognize that children's movement is not synonymous with child trafficking. Through its focus on trafficking as a criminal act, the child trafficking debate has downplayed the issues of why and how children initiate their journeys. In other words, the debate ignores the role of children's own decision-making, both as a trigger for movement and as an element for their protection[92].

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89   Jorge Bustamante, Migration and the international protection afforded to children' *in Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants,* UN Human Rights Council, UN document A/HRC/11/7 (5 May 2009).
90   Dottridge M. (2012). What Can you Do to Protect Children on the Move. A handbook to enable organisations to review how they prevent child trafficking and exploitation, and whether they ensure that the best interests of the child guide their activities. Terre des hommes International Federation.
91   Child Movement Phenomenon from a Child Perspective, Mario project, BKTF, 2012.
92   Daniela Reale, "Protecting and supporting children on the move: Translating principles into practices", in IOM, *Children on the move*, 2013.

As a result, anti-trafficking responses have tended to be seen as the main answer to all forms of children's movement, regarded *a priori* as negative and dangerous for the well being of the child. Not enough attention has been paid, for example, to how to protect children on the move from falling into exploitative situations – including sexual exploitation – other than through preventing movement itself.

Similarly, children's movement is not identical to adult migration. So far, the migration debate has predominantly focused on the movement of adults. As a result, migrant children's own perspectives have only rarely been heard, and their migration is often assumed to be just for economic reasons. The full extent and diversity of children's movement is not considered in the literature on general migration[93]. In this regard, there is also a lack of understanding of the specificity of motives and circumstances, vulnerability and resilience of children on the move, within a general migrant population.

Millions of children in the world migrate under different circumstances – alone or with their parents or other primary caregivers, willingly or forcibly, within or between countries - and for different reasons, such as job search, access to education, fleeing from unfavourable circumstances such as conflicts, poverty, abuse and violence, etc. The mere situation of moving can put them at (greater) risk of inadequate care, economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect or violence, especially if they travel alone. Their legal invisibility arising from the absence of any registration of birth represents a special risk. UNICEF estimates that over one third of newly born children in urban areas are not registered[94]. On the other hand, migrations in some cases can help children and their families a lot in improving their living standards and life opportunities[95]. Although assessments state that the majority of children who migrate are moving with their parents and families in search of employment and better opportunities, a considerable number of children are also moving alone.

'*The children left behind*'[96] by parents who migrate cannot be categorized as 'children on the move'. However, they are in a somewhat analogous situation, in that they are deprived of the presence of one or both parents and are often consequently exposed to greater risks than children living with their parents. When both parents have migrated, alternative care arrangements are needed by younger children, who may live safely with grandparents, but may be placed in a less safe environment, for example in child-headed households of the sort which also occur when both parents have died.

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93   Ibid.
94   *The State of Worlds Children* 2012, Children in an Urban World, pg. 3,   http://www.unicef.org/sowc2012/pdfs/SOWC%20 2012-Executive%20Summary_EN_13Mar2012.pdf.
95   http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/child-protection/priority-areas/children-without-appropriate-care/children-move
96   Dottridge M. (2012). What Can you Do to Protect Children on the Move. A handbook to enable organizations to review how they prevent child trafficking and exploitation, and whether they ensure that the best interests of the child guide their activities. Terre des hommes International Federation.

Like children on the move, children who are left behind do not automatically experience abuse or need to be the subject of active child protection measures. However, numerous cases[97] have been reported where particular children suffered as a result of the absence of one or both parents, also because they were required to fill the gap left by their absent parent in the household economy. Even in those cases there is a need to collect evidence about children's experiences in any area where an intervention is envisaged, so that this can have maximum benefits for the children most in need, and to assess protection needs on a case-by-case basis. Children's movement is much more complex and multi-dimensional, and can have both positive and negative outcomes. Bearing in mind the complexity of the problem and specificity of the position of children on the move in relation to adults, addressing this phenomenon requires a unified, comprehensive approach, as well as an intensive and developed transnational cooperation.

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97   Ibid.

Annex III

○ *Albanian regulatory framework in relation to the* ———————
rights of children on the move

Albania has ratified the above key International Human Rights Instruments related to children on the move:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New York 1966, in force since 1976) ratified by Albania on 04.10.1991
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (New York 1966, in force since 1976) ratified by Albania on 04.10.1991
- Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Rome, 1950 in force since 1953) ratified by Albania on 02.10. 1996
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York 1989, in force since 1990) and its Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (New York 2000, in force 2002) ratified by Albania on 27.02.1992
- Country Ratification Convention Ratification Optional Protocol ratified by Albania on 05.02.2008
- Council of Europe European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights (Strasbourg 1996, in force since 2000) ratified by Albania on 01.02.2012
- Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour[78] (No. 29 of 1930) ratified by Albania on 25.06.1957
- Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182 of 1999) ratified by Albania on 02.08.2001
- Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (Geneva 1956, in force since 1957) ratified by Albania on 06.11.1958
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, ratified by Albania on 21.08.2002
- Council of Europe Convention against Human Trafficking (Warsaw 2005, in force since 1/2/2008) ratified by Albania on 22/12/2005 ,06/02/2007 and 01/02/2008
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York 2000 in force since 2003) ratified by Albania on 21.08.2002
- European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes (Strasbourg 1983 in force since 1988) ratified by Albania on 01.03.2005
- European Social Charter (revised) (Strasbourg 1996 in force since 1999), ratified by Albania on 01.01.2003

Other legal bases in Albania with regard to the protection of child rights in spite of "different categories" that the child may be classified and services for the protection of children, is presented as follows, starting with laws and continuing with strategies and other documents:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Albania - Article 54, point 1 states that: "Children, young people, pregnant mothers and new mothers are entitled to special protection from the state".

- The Constitution of the Republic of Albania- Article 54, point 3 states that: " Any child is entitled to be protected from violence, maltreatment, exploitation and labour, especially child labour under the minimum age, which can lead to health and moral problems or put in danger the life and normal development of the child".

- Family Code of the Republic of Albania.

- The Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Albania (Revised).

- Law No. 9355 dated 10.03.2005 "On the Economic Aid and Social Services" (amended), Article 1, 2, 3, 4, 29, 31 and Article 42.

- Law No 9669 dated 18.12.2006 "On the Measures Against Violence in Family Relations"

- Decision of Council of Ministers, No 80 dated 20.01.2008 "On the Adoption of Sectorial Strategy on Social Protection";

- Decision of Council of Ministers, No. 658 dated 17.10.2005 "On Social Services Standards";

Other important laws to carefully consider when working with children on the move are:

- The Law on Civic and Birth registration in the Republic of Albania, **No. 8950, dated 10.10.2002.** *The Article 7, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is stating: "The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared by his or her parents."* Children on the move are a group of children who may not be registered in their country of origin and as a result they remain out from the system of services.

- The Law on Pre University Education in the Republic of Albania, No. 69/2012, is in alignment with the Charter of Rights of the EC Commission (2000/C 364/01), year 2000. The Law supports the UN CRC convention and elaborates more details about the organization and structure of pre-university education in the Republic of Albania, the pre-university education for ethnic and minority groups, different forms of pre-university education such as education at home, education in public and non-public institutions, special education for children with disabilities, role of school psychologist in the identification of vulnerable children, the collaboration between the school, parents and children in the process of education etc. There are a number of Normative Acts, which facilitates the implementation of the law and the stimulation of pre-university education for vulnerable groups (such as the Decision for free text books for Roma children, or for children with one parent etc). Over the last year, the Ministry of Education and Science and Science has undertaken

the initiative of transforming schools in community centers (which could serve for extra curriculum activities, for supporting children with difficulties in the education process, stimulating interaction between teachers and parents, and stimulating different types of education for all children). This initiative is seen as a way in making schools more open to communities, parents and children and also in including more children from excluded and vulnerable groups.

- The Law for Primary Health Care, No. 10 107/ 2009. The law explains all forms of primary health care, standards of health care, roles and responsibilities of health personnel at different levels of primary health care etc.
- The Law on the State Police, No. 9749, dated 04.06.2007.
- The Law on the Economic Aid and Social Services, No. 9355, dated 10.03.2005.

The Albanian Family Code guarantees the right of children to remain with their parents except when the best interests of the child dictate otherwise, or when separation is due to abandonment, or the arrest of one or both of the parents, or in cases where a parent is accused of committing a crime against the child and the state must therefore step in for the purposes of protecting the child. Furthermore, the court can withdraw parental custody in cases when the parent has harmed the interests of the child. More specifically, the court can withdraw parental custody in cases of child abuse by the parent or when the parent shows serious imprudence in the course of exercising his/her parental responsibilities towards the child. This imprudence would constitute a potential risk of abuse and neglect leading to the exploitation and trafficking of the child. Moreover, there are special measures that can be taken to further ensure the proper protection of the child.

Furthermore, the **Law "On Measures against Domestic Violence"** aims to prevent and reduce domestic violence in all its forms, ensuring the protection of family members, including child victims of domestic violence. Preventative measures guaranteed by this law can also be used for children subject to exploitation, trafficking or begging when such things are committed by their parents. Exploitation, trafficking or begging can be qualified as violence because violence is defined as any act or omission of one person to another person that causes harm to physical, moral, psychological, sexual, social or economic integrity, when the violence is taking place between family members. This definition focuses on the consequences to the victims of any action, not limiting its application to any legally defined list of actions. Therefore, any kind of activity that would cause harm to the child can easily be classified as violence, including child begging, child street-work etc, if this is committed by parents and/or legal guardians.

In these conditions, children can be protected by immediate protection orders and protection orders that are issued by the courts that include different kinds of measures such as ordering

the intervention of social services or organizations. The Albanian P.C. has been subject to several changes aiming to protect children from labor exploitation and inhibiting other unlawful actions against children by means of invoking heavy sanctions against perpetrators whose illegal actions could result in the loss of a child's life. However, legislation for the protection of the child and labor legislation needs to be reviewed to appropriately address the phenomenon of child employment for the contribution of labor to her/his family and self-employment of the child.

"The National Strategy for Social Inclusion" (2007-2013), which focuses on poverty reduction and social exclusion, also refers to children at risk of being affected by violence, abuse and neglect, with a special emphasis on Roma children and children with disabilities, aiming to ensure early intervention to protect children.

"The National Strategy for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Roma Community in Albania", (2003) focuses on the most vulnerable children which are those living in very poor conditions, in particular the Roma and the Balkan Egyptian children. The national strategy includes measures concerning children belonging to the community, focusing on the strengthening of the efforts to reduce school drop-out and to encourage parents to send their children to school.

The Agreement between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Tourism and the OSCE Presence in Albania on the "**Promotion and the Implementation of Code of Behavior on the Prevention of Children's Exploitation in Tourism**", was signed in 2007 by 22 tourist operators (OSCE, Annual Report 2007).

Besides these documents, a list of the **regulatory framework on migration** in the Republic of Albania is summarized below:

1. The Constitution of the republic of Albania;
2. National Strategy on Migration (2005-2010);
3. Action Plan on Migration;
4. Strategy on Reintegration of returned Albanian Citizens, 2010-2015 and Action Plan.
5. Law No. 9749, of 4 May 2007 "On State Police";
6. Law No. 9959, of 17 July2008 "On foreigners";
7. Law No. 9668, of 18 December 2006 "On emigration of Albanian citizens for employment purposes";
8. Law No. 10060, of 26 January 2009 "On some amendments and addenda to law No. 8432 of 14 December 1998 "On asylum in the Republic of Albania";
9. Police cooperation convention of south-eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Serbia) signed on 5 May

2006 in Vienna;

10. Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia), "ON establishment of a system for exchange of statistical information on illegal migration and participation in the regional early warning system" signed in Skopje on 20 November 2008

11. Readmission agreements and implementing protocols signed by Albania with:

   a. Government of the Republic of Italy on readmission of persons, signed on 18 November 1997;

   b. Swiss Federal Council on readmission of persons, February 2000

   c. Government of the Republic of Hungary on readmission of persons, signed on 20 March 2001

   d. Kingdom of Belgium on readmission of illegal persons signed on 17 April 2001.

   e. Government of Romania on readmission of persons signed on 07 June 2002. Implementing protocol signed on 13 October 2004.

   f. Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, on readmission of persons staying illegally, signed on 11 June 2002

   g. Government of German Federal Republic on readmission of persons, signed on 11 November 2002,

   h. Government of the Republic of Croatia on readmission of persons staying illegally signed on 28 January 2003

   i. Government of United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on readmission of persons and its protocol signed on 14 October 2003, entered into force on 16 August 2005.

   j. Government of the Republic of Macedonia on readmission of persons signed on 17 June 2004.

   k. European Community on readmission of persons staying without permit, 14 April 2005

   l. Kingdom of Denmark on readmission of persons, signed on 24 April 2008, entered into force in December 2008.

   m. Island on readmission of persons, signed on 26 August 2008

   n. Kingdom of Norway on readmission of persons, signed on 12 September 2008, entered into force on 1 March 2009.

   o. Council of Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina on readmission of persons and implementing protocol, signed on 23 March 2009,

   p. Government of the Republic of Kosovo on readmission of persons and implementing protocol signed on 6 October 2009.

   q. Government of Montenegro on readmission of persons, whose entry or stay is illegal and implementing protocol signed on 6 November 2009

12. Implementing protocol of readmission agreement between Albania and European Community, as well as other countries:

     a. Benelux countries (Kingdom of Belgium, Gran Duché du Luxembourg, the Netherlands) 09 June 2005

     b. Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria signed on 29 June 2007.

     c. Ministry of Interior of Republic of Italy signed on 31 October 2008.

     d. Ministry of Interior of Republic of Croatia signed on 10 February 2009. e. Government of Republic of Hungary signed on 30 October 2009. f. Government of Republic of Slovakia signed on 22 January 2010.

13. DCM No. 362 of 1 April 2009 "On defining the criteria, procedures and documentation for entry, stay and treatment of foreigners in the Republic of Albania";

14. DCM No. 470, of 6 May 2009 "On approval of the model, technical specifications and form of travel documents of foreigners";

15. DCM No. 493, of 6 May 2009 "On approval of the model and technical specifications of the sticker visa";

16. DCM No. 469, of 6 May 2009 "On defining the security elements and approving the form and model of the residence permit of foreigners";

17. DCM No. 1083 of 28 October 2009 "On the setting up of the closed centre and approval of the regulation of its organization and functioning";

18. DCM no.708, of 16 October 2003 "On the licensing and functioning of the Private Employment Agency";

19. DCM No. 745, of 7 November 2007, "On the action plan on remittances"

20. DCM No. 348, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit", "On A/NK (cross border workers)";

21. DCM No. 349, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit ", "On A/PS (Seasonal workers)";

22. DCM No. 866, of 12 August 2009 "On adoption of the agreement and its implementing protocol between the Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania and Government of Italy in the field of employment";

23. DCM No. 350, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit ", "On A/SH (voluntary services)";

24. DCM No. 351, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit ", "On B/VP (independent economic activity, as self- employed)";

25. DCM No. 352, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit " "On A/AF (family members"),

26. DCM No. 353, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and

procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit " "On A/S (Students)"

27. DCM no.354, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit ", "On special cases "Type C"

28. DCM No. 355, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit "On B/I (independent economic activity, as investor)"

29. DCM No. 356, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit "On A/ TN (transferred within the enterprise)";

30. DCM No. 357, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit "On type D continuous work permit";

31. DCM No. 358, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit "On A/ FP (Professional education)";

32. DCM No. 359, of 6 March 2009 "On defining the criteria of documentation and procedure of provision, refusal, renewal and cancellation of the work permit" on job-takers A/P";

33. DCM No. 360, of 6 March 2009 "On documentation and procedure for exemption for the obligation to be provided with work permit"

34. Joint Instruction of MoI. No. 2864, of 30 September 2009, MoFA No. 11766, of 6 October 2009 and MoLSAEO no 1857, of 16 October 2009 on approval of the action plan "On implementing law No. 9959, of 17 July 2008 "On foreigners";

35. Joint Instruction of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Interior and Director of State Intelligence Service No. 2102, of 3 August 2009, "On cooperation among the structures of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and State Intelligence Services on the visa issuance procedure";

36. Joint Instruction of Minister of Interior and Director of State Intelligence Service No. 2947, of 6 October 2009, "On cooperation among the structures of Ministry of Interior and State Intelligence Services on procedures of treatment of foreigners in the Republic of Albania";

37. Instruction of Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, No. 1297, of 16 July 2004 "On the functioning of the register on emigrants and procedures for the registration of Albanian citizens who emigrate for employment purposes and who have returned from emigration";

38. Instruction of Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, No. 612, of 29 March 2004 "On the manner of functioning of the Commission of review of

applications for licensing of Private Employment Agencies".

39. Order of Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, No. 1722 of 18 September of 2007, "On the form, content of the document and procedure of acquisition of emigrant status".

40. Order of Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities No. 2086, of 13 November 2007, "On the form, content of the Register for emigrants and registration procedure".

41. Order of Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities No.1176, of 3 June 2009, "On creation and functioning of Technical Committee on Migration" Order of Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities No. 1712, of 18 September 2007 "On acquisition of emigrant status".

42. Order of Director General of State Police No. 1111 of 29 September 2009 "On coordination and cooperation within the structures of Border and Migration Police, cooperation of these structures with other structures of State Police and other structures and stakeholders outside the State Police in the framework of detection of illegal immigration in the territory of Republic of Albania"

43. Order of Director General of State Police no 851, of 3 August 2009, "Standard operating procedures of border and migration police";

44. Order of Director General of State Police No. 1016 of 8 September 2009 "On the functioning of the Risk analysis office and cross border crime in the Department of Border and Migration of Directorate General of State Police and establishment of cooperation for this purpose with the other structures"

Annex IV

◯ ***Roles and responsibilities of agencies regarding the***   —————————
child protection system

Roles and responsibilities related to the mechanisms for the protection of children's rights

Based on the Working Protocol for Child Protection Workers, the main agencies in relation to child protection mechanism and their roles and responsibilities, can be summarized as follows:

Child Protection Units / Child Protection Workers

Responsibilities include:

✓ Identifying children in need and receiving referrals from other agencies, organizations and members of the public (including children)

✓ Undertaking the initial assessment of all children referred to the Child Protection Unit

✓ Coordinating / undertaking the in-depth assessment of children referred

✓ Coordinating and facilitating the Child Protection Meeting to discuss individual children assessed as being at risk

✓ Developing and reviewing individual plans of child in need of protection and monitoring implementation

✓ Undertaking direct work with children and families (including advice and support)

✓ Maintaining accurate and factual records of all children referred to the Child Protection

✓ Provides data for other government processes, including providing reports on the situation of children in the locality; maps the situation of children, their rights, the service providers and needs of children within the geographic area in which they work; and actively promotes the rights of children through activities and public awareness campaigns

Police

Responsibilities include:

✓ Identifying children in need of protection, and making referrals to the CPU in a timely manner or to another agency (such as State Social Services / NGO outside normal working hours)

✓ To prevent crime by supporting the CPU in the prevention / early intervention activities, such as in visiting families (where there are safety and security concerns)

✓ To attend Child Protection Meetings and to support the development and implementation of individual plans developed for children

✓ Investigate allegations of crimes against children

Education

Responsibilities include:

- ✓ Identifying children in need of protection, and making referrals to the CPU in a timely manner (typically through the school psychologist)
- ✓ To facilitate and support the attendance at school of children who have been identified as vulnerable to abuse
- ✓ To attend Child Protection Meetings and to support the development and implementation of individual plans developed for children

Health

Responsibilities include:

- ✓ Identifying children in need of protection, and making referrals to the CPU in a timely manner
- ✓ To facilitate and provide appropriate medical assistance, including developmental checks and examinations
- ✓ To attend Child Protection Meetings and to support the development and implementation of individual plans developed for children

State Social Services

Responsibilities include:

- ✓ Identifying children in need of protection, and making referrals to the CPU in a timely manner
- ✓ To provide appropriate alternative accommodation for children who are not / cannot live with their families
- ✓ To attend Child Protection Meetings and to support the development and implementation of individual plans developed for children
- ✓ To provide support by the Social Administrators for the monitoring of families
- ✓ To facilitate and coordinate between the CPU and Residential Institutions to ensure the timely admission of children, without delay, where a child is at immediate risk

NGOs & Residential Institutions (including emergency shelters)

Responsibilities include:

- ✓ Making referrals to the CPU
- ✓ To attend Child Protection Meetings and to support the development and implementation of individual plans developed for children

State Agency for Children's Rights

Responsibilities include:

- ✓ Providing the framework and direction for the protection of children at a national level

✓ To monitor the work of the CPUs through the CRUs

✓ To organise and coordinate measures for the protection of children, via Social Services, the Children's Rights Units and other services, including adjacent CPUs, in areas where there is no CPU established

Child Rights Units

Responsibilities include:

✓ To support the work of the State Agency in monitoring the work of the CPUs through collection of data

✓ To report to the State Agency when reports are made regarding a child in need of protection where a CPU is yet to be established in order to identify the best way to support the child

Municipalities / Communes

Responsibilities include:

✓ To establish a CPU, with a worker that is competent to carry out the duties of a Child Protection Worker

✓ To ensure the support of the work of the CPU by facilitating communication, providing services and easing processes, (ie. birth registration)

✓ To allocate sufficient budget so that the CPU is able to operate effectively, including providing appropriate office space and resources

✓ To enable CPU workers to attend training and networking activities

✓ To ensure that appropriate technical support and supervision is provided to the CPU

◯ *Roles and Responsibilities in relation to the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking*

In the case of child trafficking, despite the roles of the agencies that compose the mechanism, described above, there are other actors which are foreseen to play an active role in this mechanism, such as: the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science and Science, the shelters, IOM, and some local NGOs.

All of the above ministries have the responsibility to implement the SOP, to standardize the terminology of the legislation and the relevant regulatory framework, and also concrete roles in this mechanism, for interviewing, identifying and referring the victims of trafficking, and also offering the necessary help for their rehabilitation. More concretely, in relation to the last role, their responsibilities can be summarized as follows:

- The Ministry of Health has ensured free health services for all the victims of trafficking

- The Ministry of Education and Science and Science ensures that children are enrolled in school, and also offers training and promotion on anti-trafficking issues in compulsory education

- The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth ensures the adherence to standards of care and the physical, psychological and social rehabilitation of the victims, the promotion and facilitation of vocational education, the involvement in the labour market, the facilitation of housing procedures, etc.

- The Ministry of External Affairs also has the duty of facilitating the procedures for registering individuals, in case of lack of registration, and their equipment with the necessary identification documents.

Annex V

◯ **List of some of the Organizations and their work on Child Protection in Albania** ———————

Adapted from the report:
Child rights situational analysis Albania, Save the Children, 2012

UNICEF

UNICEF in Albania focuses on a wide range of child rights, child protection and social policy issues. Following a child poverty conference in 2005, UNICEF has implemented a program that aims to develop a national methodology to measuring child poverty and exclusion from children's rights in cooperation with INSTAT and MOLSAEO. In the area of social statistics, UNICEF has been leading the initiation of DevInfo for better child rights monitoring at national and local level. They have further supported the production of two datasets, the Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2005 and the Demographic Household Survey (DHS), 2008. UNICEF has also supported a feasibility study on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In terms of child protection, UNICEF is working to strengthen national child and family protection systems, in particular supporting municipal level Child Protection Units (CPUs) as an integral part of local social services. Future support to CPUs and the possibility of adding other referral services not directly related to child protection, such as issues of domestic or gender-based violence, issues affecting migrant or returning migrant families, and broader advice services for local communities are being discussed, in terms of an evaluation due to commence in June 2009. UNICEF continues to work on the transformation of residential care in Albania, intervening at a number of levels from policy advocacy through to individual institutions. UNICEF is also active in the field of juvenile justice and young people in conflict with the law, supporting the establishment of the probation service and expanding the range of alternatives to detention, in the context of wider work on youth-friendly services. The program aims to establish a juvenile justice system based on child rights that offers alternative measures to detention at the pre-trial, trial and post-trial stages and promotes prevention of juvenile delinquency and the social reintegration of offenders.

ILO

ILO focuses particularly on youth employment, employment statistics, and the design of active labour market policies. They work in cooperation with MOLSAEO and institutions (the Albanian employment agency) on developing tools to better identify those at risk (and better assess abilities to work) and redefine vulnerable groups that should be targeted by Active Labour Market Programs. Further, ILO builds the capacity of employers associations and trade unions.

They also support the Ministry of Education and Science and Science with strengthening the quality of adult education and preventing early school leavers or child labour. ILO now cooperates with UNDP in the implementation of the MDG-F program on youth migration. Some of the focus of this in terms of spatial disadvantage may be relevant for future social inclusion programming.

UNFPA

UNFPA focuses on reproductive health issues, which include HIV/Aids and youth health. UNFPA has supported the preparation of the social inclusion crosscutting strategy as well as the sector strategies of gender equality and eradication of domestic violence, and youth. Further, UNFPA looks specifically at aging and the social situation of the elderly population (including old age care issues). In all these areas, emphasis is given to improving data collection mechanisms and monitoring (i.e. gender statistics, census preparation) as well as capacity development for health providers on gender-based violence, and for youth on reproductive health and lifestyle.

UN WOMEN

UN WOMEN works in close cooperation with UNDP on improving gender equality and domestic violence legislation. Further, they work on statistical capacity development of gender statistics (systemizing available data and identification of gaps and the DHS 2008), new methodologies (ie. time use surveys) in cooperation with INSTAT and MOLSAEO. Further, UN WOMEN supports MSWY to pilot gender responsive budgeting at national and local level. They also focus on promoting women's participation in politics.

WHO

WHO is involved in a range of programs offering support to strengthen health systems, as well as broadening statistical capacity in the field of health. It has a number of programs which are directly linked to social inclusion, including mother and child health care for vulnerable groups; Roma access to health; mental health and mental disability; HIV/AIDs; and support for drug addicts.

UNV

UNV has a mandated within the United Nations to raise awareness of volunteerism and provide technical cooperation to developing countries in the field of volunteerism to fully explore its potential as a resource for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. UNV is contributing towards two joint programs under Delivering as One, Empowering the Vulnerable Minority Communities of Albania with UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF and Youth migration: Reaping the benefits and mitigating risks with ILO, UNDP, UNICEF and IOM. These programs build upon UNV's strong track record in Albania in the mobilization of local communities and in the facilitation of expert volunteer missions to the country.

UNDP

UNDP works on a range of programs including strengthening the Government's strategic planning capacity, statistical support including social statistics; support for trade promotions and new foreign investments, e-Government, public administration reform, extra-legality; brain gain, Human Development Report, the environment (climate change, biodiversity and nature protections, hot spots remediation), Roma inclusion; civil society participation, ICT in schools; security, and mine action; gender equality and women participation, domestic violence, regional development; and tourism promotion and cultural heritage, cross-border cooperation, media development. Many of these are ongoing and framed within a One UN approach.

Of particular importance in terms of social inclusion are the following existing or planned One UN initiatives: "Supporting vulnerable communities in Albania" is a proposal currently being considered under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, concentrating on support to specific Roma and Egyptian communities in Tirana, Elbasan, Fier and

Durrës, selected on the basis of having the highest number of Roma and Egyptian populations in the country and the highest poverty rate among both the Roma and Egyptian populations. The three broad objectives are to promote vulnerable minority communities in terms of participation in decision-making; access to basic services; and policies and institutional strengthening to promote social inclusion. Below, we suggest that the broad project methodology be extended to other vulnerable groups and regions in Albania.

"Youth Migration" initiative. To support the integration of various youth employment policy objectives through coordinated action, four agencies of the United Nations Country Team of Albania designed a comprehensive Joint Program. The Joint Program, financed by the Spanish Government through the Millennium Development Goal Trust Fund (MDGTF) promotes decent employment for youth as a national priority and proposes to address disadvantaged youth from rural areas with targeted labour market measures aiming to minimize the risks of engaging in irregular migration through improved productivity, upgraded informal enterprises and better conditions of work.

The World Bank and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are part of the UN Country team in Albania but not part of the One UN Program: The World Bank has a great deal of programming accompanied by loan agreements relating to the social sector, including social protection, pension system reform and poverty statistics.

A social service delivery project aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection and pension system through improved administration and long-term sustainability of the pension system and improved quality standards of social services. The next stage of this will focus exclusively on pensions although aspects of the social services planning component are relevant for some planned interventions discussed below. The World Bank also supported capacity building initiatives for improvements in the production of quality poverty statistics (in cooperation with UNDP). Three Living Standard Measurement Surveys (LSMS) have been supported and the 2007 Household Budget Survey.

IOM

IOM is very active in the field of migration and support to returnees. IOM supported the development of the National strategy on Migration (with EC funds). IOM also supported the setting up of a readmission system for returnees. It further plans to conduct a local survey to identify existing opportunities for vocational training for returning migrants.

It is also supporting a project aiming at tracing family of minor migrants and provides advices and referral services for migrants on labour migration policy and practice. Finally IOM also implements measures to prevent human trafficking. In the context of Albania's status as a prospective candidate country for membership of the European Union, the work of the European Commission is of particular importance.

European Commission

The European Commission is actively supporting Albania as a prospective candidate country, not least through the IPA support program. IPA for Albania is worth approximately €498 m. between2007 and 2012, of which approximately €440 m. is for transition assistance and institution building and the rest for cross-border cooperation. The priorities for IPA 2009 have been set and the full list of programs and project niches will soon be publicly available. IPA 2010 is currently being designed with a set of initial priorities under the four main axes of: Political criteria; Socio-Economic criteria; Ability to assume the obligations of membership; and Participation in Community programs. Thus far, Social Inclusion has not been included as a specific priority, although aspects have appeared in a number of projects, including support to prisons, vocational and educational training, and through cross-cutting issues including minorities, equal opportunities and gender equality. A project on drug addiction in Albania may also be considered by the EC. In addition, some time ago, the Government of Albania signalled its wish to join the 'Community Program for Employment and Social Solidarity' (PROGRESS) which would support capacity building, policy development, statistics, lesson learning and networking efforts in the field of employment, social protection and social inclusion.

Swiss Development Cooperation

The Swiss Cooperation brings to Albania Switzerland's comparative advantage and specific know-how in areas such as decentralization, vocational educational training, risk insurance and energy. Switzerland plays a leading role in the dialogue and cooperation between the Government of Albania and the international donor community and is recognized for its efforts to increase aid effectiveness. A visible contribution of this kind is the support to the Integrated Planning System (IPS) which harmonizes all donor and government activities in regards to Albania's development.

ADA

Austrian Development Agency contributes to narrowing the rift between rich and poor, ensuring peace and preserving natural habitats. All progress depends on an adequate supply of water and energy. Education opens up new prospects for the future and building democratic institutions brings stability. All ADC programs and projects take special account of gender equality and the needs of children and persons with disabilities.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Between 2009 and 2012, Sweden will help Albania make its public and local government administration more efficient at collecting taxes; make the police's fight against organized crime; to plan the use of its natural resources; to establish a nationwide property register to guarantee right of possession; to introduce an employment agency and make Albania's national debt office, which administers central government debt and internal lending, more efficient. SIDCA is working with several other partners, including Norway, the United Kingdom and the World Bank, to support the implementation of Albania's plan of action for its engagement with the EU. Swedish government is supporting GoA to meet the EU membership requirements and achieve a greater democracy and increased respect for human rights, particularly for women, children and minorities such as Roma. Support will be provided to increase the influence from the citizens in order to reduce corruption; to develop the culture of membership in clubs and associations – as an important mean towards citizens' participation in society; to strengthen non-governmental organizations

OSCE

The OSCE Presence in Albania provides assistance to Albanian authorities and civil society on promoting democratization, rule of law, human rights and on consolidating democratic institutions in conformity with OSCE principles, standards and commitments.

EU Delegation in Albania

The EU maintains diplomatic relations with nearly all countries in the world. It has strategic partnerships with key international players, is deeply engaged with emerging powers around the globe, and has signed bilateral Association Agreements with a number of states in its vicinity.

European Union is represented by a network of 136 EU Delegations, which have a similar function to those of an embassy.

World Bank

The World Bank is a source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world in order to reduce poverty and support development. WB comprises two institutions managed by 188 member countries: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). The IBRD aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries, while IDA focuses exclusively on the world's poorest countries. These institutions are part of a larger body known as the World Bank Group. Established in 1944, the World Bank is headquartered in Washington, D.C. WB in Albania provides support in areas of Transport, Energy, Private and Financial Sector Development, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Water Supply and Sanitation, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Governance, Administrative Reform and Anticorruption, Human Development

USAID

USAID's programs in Albania strengthen democratic institutions, promote civil society, reduce corruption, promote gender equality and, at the same time, create a more favorable environment for inclusive economic growth— all necessary to move Albania forward more quickly towards greater democracy while meeting criteria that are essential to achieving its European aspirations.

World Vision

WV partner with the people of Albania to improve their lives today and to help enact sustainable solutions for the future of their children, families, and communities. World Vision's child sponsorship program plays an important role in this partnership, with donors from the United States. World Vision also operates other programs that benefit communities in Albania. Highlights include:

- Meeting the psychosocial and economic needs of children living and working on the streets through literacy programs, vocational training for parents, and increasing resources for children and their parents.
- Improving health in communities throughout Albania by repairing land drainage and increasing access to clean water and sanitation.
- Helping families increase their incomes through small loans and business skills training.

Terre des hommes

Tdh in Albania works to develop a child protection system against child abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking. Through its program on 'Building and Empowering a Secure Child Protection Network', it works in prevention, capacity development and advocacy toward empowering the child protection system in Albania in collaboration and partnership with other organizations and institutions.

Operating in Albania since 1993, Terre des hommes has been running projects that aim to tackle issues of child trafficking and child protection. Building on the achievements of the preceding TACT projects which provided a comprehensive response to the trafficking of Albanian children to Greece, the focus of Terre des home activities in Albania has now shifted towards Developing a Child Protection Safety Net (CPSN). The CPSN project envisions a fully functioning statutory child protection system, where Child Protection Units (CPUs) are institutional structures established at local level and multi-disciplinary actors and local communities are in-formed, empowered and committed to taking proactive child protection action.

Save the Children

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

Save the Children programs cover Basic Education and Early Childhood Care and Development, Child Protection, Child Rights Governance, Health and Nutrition and Humanitarian, implemented in 10 districts of Albania, both urban and rural areas.

In recent years, Albania has created many new laws and policies and Save the Children is well placed to provide practical tools and real field experience to support the government in implementing these to achieve results at scale.

Save the Children has a Country Program Strategy covering the period 2013-2015. Their overall strategic goal is that children and youth are protected, educated, healthy and able to uphold their rights. Significant results for children have been achieved in our priority thematic areas and we are working to achieve lasting changes for children of Albania in the longer term.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

Responding to child and women's sexually exploited, addressing vulnerable women literacy

Addressing poverty (food, shelter), empowering children who missed schooling opportunities, through non-formal education.

Providing men and women with opportunities to support themselves and their families through micro-loans and training.

Responding to emergencies such as famines, floods, wars, hurricanes, or earthquakes, by evaluating the greatest needs, and then developing plans to get help to the areas where it is needed most, and by coordinating with local governments to provide medical care, food, water, and shelter to victims of tragedies.

ADRA in Albania works on awareness and Braille literacy training, health education to children; health training for village mothers; training of doctors in neonatal care; providing free medical exams and medicines to neglected and underprivileged children; providing school opportunities for Roma children; school and hospital reconstruction and equipping; responding to emergencies.`

SOS Children's Villages

SOS Children's Villages internationally work to make child care, education, and health care available to children and their families directly; to help families and communities to become strong so they can take care of their children better and organize child care, education and health care; to improve the policies and practices of the state.

SOS Children's Villages started its work in Albania in 1992and includes the provision of day-care, primary and secondary education, vocational training and counseling to support children, young people and families near the capital city of Tirana.

Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania – CRCA

The Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania – CRCA works to promote the respect of children's rights, to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation, to develop children rights in Albania and to increase child participation at national and local levels, through lobby and advocacy, policy and legislation improvement; capacity building, information and research, and establishment of good models of services of child care and protection. For this CRCA promotes the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other national and international child-rights standards.

Albanian Helsinki Committee

The AHC's main mission is the observation of respect for the freedoms and rights of citizens and the reaction to violations for the purpose of their reinstatement; sensitizing citizens about the protection of their freedoms and rights; improving legislation and the practice of law enforcement through discussions and recommendations in the phases of the drafting of laws as well as of their enforcement.

SHKEJ

The National Association for Life's Education is a non-governmental organisation which offers services to the children in need and their families. Through their project they provide social and educational activities in three day-centers. Their main target group are the children in the street situation, or other marginalised groups.

ARSIS

ARSIS provides services and expertise to children victims or at risk of violence, abuse, mistreatment, trafficking, neglect, exploitation etc. ARSIS, Branch in Albania started its activities in November 2005 doing street work and operating a daily center for street children and their families. The initial main goal is (but not limited) to reduce the number of hours these children were spending working on the street.

BKTF

The Association United for Child Care and Protection, (BKTF) whose founding members are national and international organizations aims to advocate and lobby for the protection of Albanian children from all forms of violence, neglect and exploitation. The coalition work is based upon the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Albanian legislation and other national and international instruments and mechanisms. It operates by joining efforts, experiences and using all means at its disposal.

The Association focuses on the following range of activities:

- Advocating and lobbying for the introduction, development and implementation of laws, policies and strategies for child protection;
- Contributing to the strengthening of the child protection system at both local and national levels;
- Promoting models and practices, which will address child protection issues in Albania;
- Contributing to the social inclusion of children and communities in the development and change processes which focus on child protection; and
- Contributing to the development of the capacities of children, civil society and communities to protect of children's rights.

VATRA

Vatra Psycho-Social Centre is a non-governmental, non- profit women organization, registered in the Court of Vlora District with the decision No. 693, dated 02.10.2001 and re-registered in the Court of Tirana No .211 Act, dated January 17.2005, licensed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities for providing the social services for the strata in need. Vatra Psycho-Social Centre is a non-profit organization created in 1999, and has been licensed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities as a Centre providing residential from 2004 and onwards(renovating the license every 3 years). Currently, the License No. 1716 dated 02.09.2008. It is registered in the Tax Office of Vlora district No. K47201205 W.

Vatra Centre aims the support of the strata in need, particularly of the women, girls, youth and children in the region of Southern Albania through awareness raising programs, distribution of the social services in community and public information.

 'Vatra' Centre works in these fields:

- Prevention of trafficking in human being and domestic violence and the problems generated by these phenomena;
- In the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of the victims of human trafficking and domestic violence;
- Capacity building for representatives of state and non-state institutions in relation to issues of human trafficking and violence against women and girls;
- Lobbying and advocacy in protection of the rights of women and girls.

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