



QENDRA SHQIPTARE PER POPULLSINE DHE ZHVILLIMIN
ALBANIAN CENTER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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INTRODUCTION

The Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) is a non-for-profit non-governmental organization established in January 1993.

It is Albania's only CSO accredited member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) since 1996 and is accredited every 5 years.

Vision: All people in Albania are equal and free to make their own choices about reproductive health and to enjoy physical, mental, social, and economic well-being.

Mission: Respond to the changing needs of the sexual and reproductive health population, protect human rights, including SRH, and provide information and services, focusing on vulnerable and underserved groups, youth, and women, particularly during humanitarian crisis.



DONORS



SCALING UP AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HIV FOR FEMALE SEX WORKERS'

PROJECT SUMMARY

Under the project "Scaling up and Ensuring Sustainability of the National Response to HIV for Female Sex Workers" ACPD staff has provided the full package of services including HIV, Syphilis, Hep B & C rapid tests, distribution of informative leaflets and brochures and psychosocial services in January - December 2023, for 370 female sex workers in Tirana. A total of 370 Female Sex Workers were previously contacted by outreach workers and were asked to visit the ACPD clinic to receive the full package of services (rapid testing and psychosocial services), as well as sexual and reproductive health services, offered free of charge for this group in the clinic.

During 2023, the ACPD clinic provided 370 HIV tests, 370 Syphilis tests, 322 Hep B and 322 Hep C tests as well as a total of 7464 condoms and 3434 lubricants have been distributed.

PROJECT TITLE:

Scaling up and Ensuring Sustainability of the National Response to HIV for Female Sex Workers'

DONORS:

Global Fund

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- In 2023, our dedicated outreach workers started with the comprehensive questionnaire aimed at assessing the specific needs of sex workers involved in the project. This questionnaire was designed to gather essential information about the sex workers' marital status, date of birth, and place of residence. Based on the findings of the questionnaire, we have gathered crucial insights into the challenges faced by sex workers, highlighting the urgent need for direct services and support.
- Every month during 2023, there has been organized staff coordination meetings between the project coordinator and the responsible staff within this project to report on the progress of the service package provided to FSWs. The meetings were attended by the project coordinator, the psychologist, the outreach workers, and the nurse where was discussed about the ways to be taken to attract more FSWs.
- The ACPD project coordinator has organized every month monitoring visits respectively at spots where FSW works. These monitoring visits aimed to observe the work of the outreach while meeting with FSWs and reaching out with information and supplies.
- The clients reported they were delighted with the services provided by the gynecologist and the nurse of the center. They reported they will share the information about the services received with their friends/colleagues so that they can also visit the center and benefit from the package of services including SRH services.
- For each of the beneficiaries, a package that contains information about sexually transmitted infections, condoms, and the importance of counseling during the service has been distributed to 583 female clients.
- As reported by the clients, they were delighted with the services provided by the gynecologist and the nurse of the center. They reported they will share the information about the services received with their friends/colleagues so that they can also visit the center and benefit from the package of services including SRH services.
- During 2023, there has been impactful series of events unfolded in various hotspots throughout Tirane, with the latest event taking place at the Community Center in Shkoza. The focal point of these events was community engagement and the promotion of sexual health and well-being. The initiative was spearheaded by the project coordinator, accompanied by a team consisting of a psychologist, an outreach worker, and a nurse.
- Compared to last year, the services have improved and adapted to the needs of sex workers. This improvement is the result of continuous monitoring and evaluation of the services provided.

SCALING UP AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HIV FOR FEMALE SEX WORKERS'

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- One of the challenges reported by the outreach is reaching out and picking up at the clinic the FSWs because as they stated, they be afraid of judgment and discrimination from the health care providers. The outreach worker has managed to convince them by offering free of charges sexual and reproductive health services such as ultrasound and Pap smear.
- According to the psychologist, the main problems noticed during the counseling with FSWs were:
 1. High stigma related to FSWs who make it difficult to access health services
 2. Low awareness regarding HIV & STI
 3. Difficulty to understand the information in the official language
 4. Mental Health issues (anxiety, depressive symptoms, and emotional trauma)
 5. Detachment from their children is another issue raised during counseling.
- Social Stigma: Sex work is highly stigmatized. This makes it difficult to trust these services at times.
- Legal Issues: The unclear legal framework creates uncertainty and exposes sex workers to exploitation by law enforcement or clients who may take advantage of their vulnerable legal status. This issue also affects the relationship with service providers.
- Social Exclusion: Engagement in sex work often results in social exclusion and isolation. Many sex workers face judgment and rejection from their families or communities, leading to feelings of shame, loneliness, and alienation. They also spend time only with other sex workers, which is seen as a barrier to reaching these communities.



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDSC)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The training "Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP)" and "Helping the Baby Breathe (HBB)" organized by ACPD, UNFPA and LDSC, lasted five days focusing on various aspects of neonatal care. The first day included the training of trainers for HBB and NRP, while the following days delved into each topic separately, emphasizing specialized skills in resuscitation of newborns. In total, 137 doctors and nurses participated in the training. The training will be followed by the follow-up year in 2024, to understand how the knowledge gained in the training has been implemented by the health staff in the country, and also to do a knowledge check through post-tests.

PROJECT TITLE:

Helping Babies Breathe/Neonatal Resuscitation Program

DONORS:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDSC)

LINK:

<https://youtu.be/MTMZHM CuUZQ?si=KnGznMnogFTmDmup>

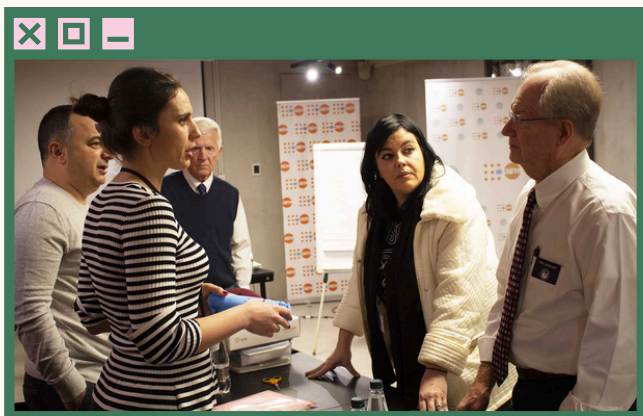
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- The execution of the training program surpassed initial expectations, presenting both a challenge and an opportunity for effective management. Initially anticipating a specific number of participants, the training witnessed an unexpectedly high turnout, exceeding the projected figures. This unexpected surge in participation posed logistical challenges but, crucially, underscored the relevance and demand for the training initiative.
- Conducting accreditation meetings with the Ministry of Health and ASCK posed challenges due to scheduling complexities and logistical hurdles. Despite initial difficulties, a successful outcome was achieved through a proactive approach. This streamlined strategy not only made the meetings possible but also highlighted the team's resilience in navigating challenges and fostering effective collaboration with the Ministry of Health and ASCK.
- The essential skills pertaining to Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) were effectively imparted to obstetric-gynecologists and midwives, involving six Trainers of Trainers (ToT), resulting in a total of 88 trainees being successfully reached.
- Nineteen focal points, spanning locations such as Tirane, Lushnje, Vlora, Kavaje, Fieri, Elbasan, Berat, Pogradec, Kukes, Durres, Kurbin, Shkoder, Sarande, Lezhe, Korce, Mat, Burrel, Mirdite, and Rreshen, underwent comprehensive training. These focal points were not only equipped with the necessary skills but also prepared to perpetuate the training by imparting it to others and applying it in patient care settings. The individuals in these locations have assimilated all the essential information, acquired the requisite skills, mastered techniques, and obtained the necessary materials to conduct ongoing practice sessions at their respective facilities, seamlessly integrating these skills into their daily professional responsibilities.
- Examining both the pre-test and post-test results unveils a significant enhancement from the initial assessment to the final evaluation. This is evident through the rise in the average score and a reduction in the standard deviation. On average, participants showcased an improved grasp and proficiency in the subject matter following their participation in the training program. The clustering of scores around higher values, notably with a mode of 30 in the post-test, implies an overall positive influence on the participants' knowledge and skills.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDSC)

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- The number of participants exceeded expectations, leading to challenges in managing group projects and the accreditation process.
- Hospitals were provided with only one training kit each, and some participants expressed the need for additional kits.
- Certain attendees expressed a desire to participate in both training sessions, but policy constraints prevented them from doing so.
- Participants from distant hospitals faced the task of coordinating with their institutions to adjust shifts, ensuring their presence in Tirana for the entire duration of the training.
- Establishing a continuous feedback mechanism is essential for the implementation of sustainable and effective training and capacity-building initiatives.
- A consistent update of guidelines and techniques, along with the synchronous evolution of training modules over the course of several years, is imperative for the longevity and relevance of the training program.
- Hosting several meetings with the Ministry of Health, and getting their support, was challenging, mainly due to the fact that their schedules are quit tight, and it was difficult to make time for us.
- Accreditation process was tiring and complicated, it required a lot of time and dedication from ACPD staff.

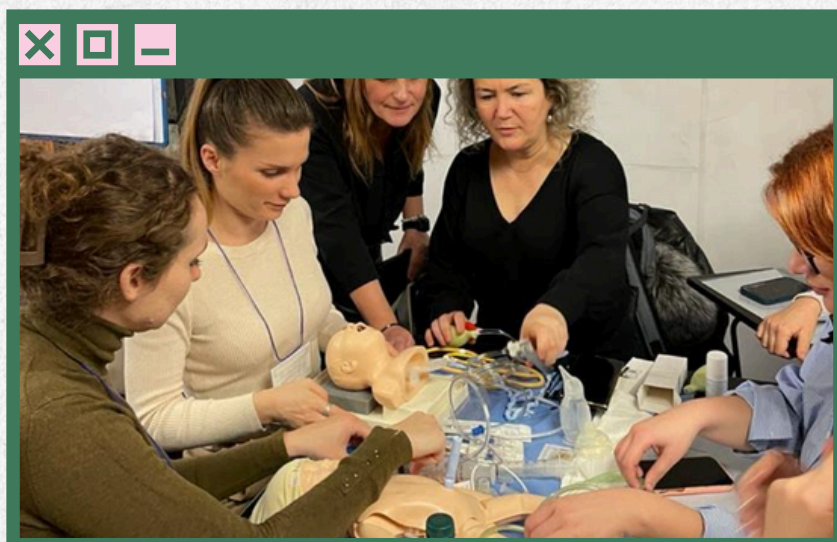


THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDSC)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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POPULATION ISSUES (AGING & VOLUNTARY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The mid-term monitoring of the National Action Plan for the Elderly (2020-2024) was conducted to assess the progress made on the Aging Policy Document and the Action Plan. This strategic document, focusing on the growing needs of the elderly population, was drafted with maximum effort by the Albanian Government and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MSHPS). The Ministry coordinated with other central and local institutions and civil society organizations. The findings and recommendations were presented on December 13 at the MSHP premises, with 26 participants, including 19 women and 7 men. This report covers the period from 2020 to 2022 and identifies the achievements and challenges encountered during the implementation process, particularly considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROJECT TITLE:

Mid-Term Monitoring Report of the National Action Plan for the Elderly (2020-2024)

DONORS:

UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Successful presentation of findings and recommendations with active involvement from a diverse group of 26 participants representing associations, institutions, and various stakeholders.
- Significant efforts by the Albanian Government and MSHP to implement the Aging Policy Document and Action Plan.
- Development of a comprehensive manual for elderly care in primary health care. The manual includes an overview of the elderly care situation, roles and responsibilities of professionals, and quality indicators for geriatric care.
- Impact of COVID-19: The COVID-19 pandemic significantly hindered the implementation of the Policy Document and Action Plan for the years 2020-2022. Activities and indicators need to be reviewed and updated in light of the pandemic's impact on the elderly.
- Cost/Service Unit Assessment: There is a need for an assessment of the cost/service unit for both existing and future socio-health services.
- Integrated Policies: The necessity of integrated social and health insurance policies between the public and private sectors to meet the growing needs of the elderly and reduce their poverty levels.
- Limited Political Inclusion: The inclusion of the elderly in policymaking and decision-making is minimal or lacking. Strategic plans and documents should ensure the representation of elderly personalities in Advisory Councils.
- Gerontology Services: The Hospital Plan does not include gerontology services.
- Capacity Building: Increasing the capacities of doctors, nurses, and caregivers for elderly care is recommended as a priority.
- Awareness Campaigns: There is a need for more active and comprehensive awareness campaigns focused on protecting the dignity of the elderly.
- Coordination and Monitoring: Establishing a joint working group with representatives from responsible institutions to follow and monitor the implementation of the document.



POPULATION ISSUES (AGING & VOLUNTARY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) continues to support the publication of the "Demographic Review" for 2023, with a wide range of scholarly articles authored by professors and researchers in fields such as demography, social sciences, economics, education, and health. This publication also includes data from the UNFPA report on the state of the world population for 2023. The topics covered provide valuable insights into various aspects of demographic research and highlight ongoing efforts to address demographic challenges in Albania. In addition to the publication, ACPD has played a key role in advancing the formalization of the Voluntary Parliamentary Group for Population and Development in Albania, as well as supporting daily care for the elderly in Vlora.

PROJECT TITLE:

Support for the Publication of the "Demographic Review" 2023

DONORS:

UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Publication of the Demographic Review 2023:** This review covers a wide range of topics including population and housing registration, social insurance reforms, living standards, the gender wage gap, oral health care, and historical population registration data. It includes significant data from the UNFPA report on the state of the world population for 2023, providing a global perspective on demographic issues.
- **Formation of a Voluntary Parliamentary Group:** The Albanian Center for Population and Development initiated the creation of the Voluntary Parliamentary Group for Population and Development with the support of UNFPA. The formation of the Voluntary Parliamentary Group was officially recognized by the Speaker of the Assembly with Order No. 43, dated 18.07.2023. The group consists of 5 members from Parliament and the Health Commission, focusing on reproductive health, fertility, population, and demography. Several activities were planned for the period September–December 2023.
- **Support for Elderly Care in Vlora:** The day care center for the elderly received continuous support from the municipality's chairman. This center provided basic medical services for 200 elderly from urban areas and 50 from the administrative units Orikum and Novosele. Health services were provided for 20 elderly with limited mobility in their homes. Informative sessions on fall prevention and the use of digital services were held. Social, cultural, and artistic activities were organized to promote active aging and intergenerational connections. Excursions and birthday celebrations for the elderly were organized.
- **Development of a comprehensive manual for elderly care in primary health care.** The manual includes an overview of the elderly care situation, roles and responsibilities of professionals, and quality indicators for geriatric care.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- **Impact of COVID-19:** The pandemic significantly disrupted planned activities and the implementation of strategic initiatives.
- **Limited Political Inclusion of the Elderly:** There is minimal inclusion of the elderly population in policymaking and decision-making processes. Efforts are needed to ensure their representation in relevant councils and strategic planning.
- **Integration of Services and Policies:** There are challenges in integrating social and health insurance policies between the public and private sectors to meet the growing needs of the elderly population and reduce poverty levels.
- **Capacity Building for Healthcare Professionals:** There is a need to increase the capacities of doctors, nurses, and caregivers to provide quality care for the elderly, addressing the growing demand for specialized geriatric services.
- **Awareness and Inclusion Efforts:** More active and comprehensive awareness campaigns are required to protect the dignity of the elderly and raise public awareness of their needs and contributions.
- **Coordination and Monitoring:** Establishing a joint working group with representatives from responsible institutions is essential for effective coordination and monitoring of the implementation of demographic and aging-related policies.



POPULATION ISSUES (AGING & VOLUNTARY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD), with technical and financial support from UNFPA and ILO, has been actively working to strengthen the capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) to provide integrated services for the elderly. This initiative is part of the United Nations Population Fund's Joint Program "Leave no One Behind" in Albania, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The main activities include organizing technical meetings to share successful models, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for caregivers, and advocating with stakeholders for better services and support for the elderly population.

PROJECT TITLE:

Strengthening the Capacities of LGUs for the Elderly: Integrated Services, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Advocacy

DONORS:

UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Meeting on Sukth's Experience:** A meeting was organized to discuss the successful experience of the Sukth Municipal Unit in Durrës and to identify opportunities and challenges for other municipalities. The meeting had 31 participants, including policy makers and specialists from central and local institutions, as well as providers of health and social services.
- **Registry of the Elderly in Pilot Municipalities:** Following recommendations from the national roundtable, a project was initiated to create a registry of the elderly in 6 pilot municipalities: Durrës, Tirana, Vlora, Gjirokastrë, Rogozhinë, Librazhd, and Klos. The project aims to improve cooperation among local structures and enhance data management capacities.
- **Development of SOPs for Caregivers:** ACPD, along with several experts, drafted a manual for informal caregivers, providing guidance on elderly care, behavior management, communication, and activities. A methodology was also developed for a needs assessment matrix for the elderly, consisting of ten assessment points to be used in care settings.
- **Review of Existing Procedures and Protocols:** ACPD staff and experts developed a needs assessment matrix for the elderly, which will be distributed and implemented after finalization and development of a distribution plan. Recommendations from the December 11 meeting included actions for municipalities to present data, prepare action plans for funding, and begin discussions for the adoption of the Aging Registry.
- **Advocacy:** Continuous advocacy efforts have been made to ensure institutional cooperation at the local level and to engage with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for the approval and maintenance of the Aging Registry.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- **Impact of COVID-19 on Activities:** The pandemic disrupted planned activities, requiring adjustments and rescheduling to ensure participant safety and the continuation of essential services.
- **Integration of Services and Policies:** There are challenges in integrating social and health insurance policies between the public and private sectors, requiring coordinated efforts to meet the growing needs of the elderly.
- **Capacity Building for Healthcare Professionals:** There is a need to increase the capacities of healthcare professionals to provide quality care for the elderly, addressing the growing demand for specialized geriatric services.
- **Awareness and Inclusion Efforts:** More active and comprehensive awareness campaigns are needed to protect the dignity of the elderly and raise public awareness of their needs and contributions.
- **Coordination and Monitoring:** Establishing a joint working group with representatives from responsible institutions is essential for effective coordination and monitoring of the implementation of demographic and aging-related policies.



PROJECT TITLE: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND GENDER EQUALITY, ADDRESSED THROUGH MULTISECTORAL RESPONSE – UNFPA

PROJECT SUMMARY

ACPD, in collaboration with UNFPA, has worked to strengthen partnerships with faith-based organizations (FBOs) in Vlora and to extend these efforts to Pogradec, Elbasan, and Shkodër. This initiative aims to leverage the influence of religious communities to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV) and to enhance the effectiveness of coordinated referral mechanisms (CRMs).

PROJECT TITLE:

Strengthening Partnerships
with Faith-Based
Organizations to Address
Gender-Based Violence

DONORS:

UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Initial Discussions and Roundtables: ACPD initiated discussions to establish partnerships with faith-based organizations in Pogradec and continued similar activities in Vlora. A roundtable was organized with the support of UNFPA Albania, involving 15 participants from various religious communities in Vlora.
- Strengthening Partnerships: Efforts were made to enhance partnerships between faith-based organizations and members of the referral mechanism, encouraging more referrals and collaborative efforts to address gender-based violence.
- Renewal of Memorandums of Understanding: Successful roundtables were organized to renew the Memorandums of Understanding for the Coordinated Referral Mechanism in Pogradec and Vlora in December.
- Public Appeal by Faith-Based Organizations: Faith-based organizations in Vlora made a public appeal through the 6+1 TV media to condemn gender-based violence and encourage community action against it.
- Improved Collaborations: Collaborations were improved for the prevention of Gender-Based Violence, increasing service efficiency and engaging specific target groups to address and prevent GBV.
- Workshops: Three workshops were organized with 43 participants (33 women, 10 men) from multidisciplinary technical teams in Pogradec, Shkodër, and Vlora to analyze the situation, best practices, challenges, and needs for the effective functioning of coordinated referral mechanisms (CRMs).
- Identification of Key Issues: Key issues requiring support and further follow-up were identified, such as the need for specific guidelines for handling returned individuals convicted of violent extremism and radicalism, and addressing requests for EPO/PO and judicial releases involving property conflicts.
- Capacity Building Efforts: Emphasis was placed on the need for ACPD and UNFPA to collaborate and address the training needs of various professionals in Vlora to enhance their ability to identify, refer, and manage cases of violence, particularly against children and in the context of gender-based violence.
- Focus on Interdisciplinary Training: The importance of interdisciplinary training for professionals was highlighted, including kindergarten staff, school psycho-social service workers, CRM members, lawyers, social administrators, and healthcare workers, to improve the identification, referral, and management of violence cases.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- Creating partnerships with faith-based organizations (FBOs): Initial conversations have begun in Pogradec, but ongoing efforts are needed to establish strong partnerships with faith-based organizations, as seen in Vlora.
- Coordination and cooperation among different religious communities: Overcoming the diversity of religious doctrines to strengthen partnerships between faith-based organizations and other actors in Vlora.
- Ensuring the active participation of all religious communities in referring cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and continuing collaboration with FBOs for the prevention and addressing of GBV.
- Appealing and raising public awareness: Effectively using media channels, such as TV 6+1, to make public calls against GBV and engage the community in preventive actions.
- Developing specific guidelines for probation service employees: Creating guidelines and enhancing the capacities of Probation Service employees to effectively handle returned individuals convicted of violent extremism and radicalism.
- Addressing the demands of EPO/PO (Exclusive Provider Organization Plan) and judicial notices: Bringing to the attention of central institutions and the judiciary the need to increase demands for Emergency Protection Orders (EPO) and Protection Orders (PO), and addressing the issuance of such orders by the courts in cases involving property conflicts, requiring thorough and relevant procedural analyses and guidelines.
- Strengthening the capacities of professionals in Vlora: Meeting financial needs and providing training to strengthen the capacities of various professionals in Vlora, such as kindergarten staff, school psycho-social service workers, CRM members, lawyers, social administrators, and psycho-social service workers in hospitals and health centers.

PROJECT: CAPACITY TO PROVIDE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

PROJECT SUMMARY

The ACPD, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and various experts, has undertaken several initiatives to improve the National Cervical Cancer Screening Program. These efforts focus on enhancing diagnostic processes and raising general awareness to ensure the effective prevention and treatment of cervical cancer.

PROJECT TITLE:

Strengthening the National Cervical Cancer Screening Program

DONORS:

UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** ACPD staff and several experts prepared a MoU and sent it to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, highlighting the need for support and improvements in the National Cervical Cancer Screening Program.
- **Case-based Surveillance System:** The MoU emphasized the necessity of a case-based surveillance system for women with HPV-positive results and the creation of a colposcopy registry for systematic follow-up and treatment.
- **Service Standards and Referral Protocols:** The MoU identified the need to adopt service standards and referral protocols concerning colposcopy in both public and private gynecological clinics.
- **Healthcare Academy:** A healthcare academy was held with over 30 participants from the healthcare sectors and representatives from local health care units. Key topics included national screening coverage, women's experiences with primary screening, sample quality, and plans for the next five years regarding testing and classification.
- **Awareness and Sensitization Activities:** ACPD prepared informational and educational materials such as posters and informative videos to raise awareness about cervical cancer and self-sampling. Two animated videos were created to provide information on self-sampling and the HPV test process, including steps to take when test results are positive. An awareness event was held at the Central Polyclinic of Tirana on October 20, focusing on raising awareness of cervical and breast cancer among female patients.
- **Assessment and Methodology Development:** A methodology is planned to evaluate women's experiences with HPV self-sampling. Experts have developed the methodology, and the assessment will be conducted in 2024, with a final report to be distributed to key institutions and partners.
- **Awareness Manual:** A manual was prepared to raise awareness among obstetricians and gynecologists about the cervical cancer program, including screening protocols and treatment guidelines.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- **Follow-up on Positive Cases:** Although the number of screened women has increased, there is a lack of information on the follow-up of positive cases, highlighting the need for specialized and timely follow-up.
- **Service Standards and Referral Protocols:** Defining and approving service standards and referral protocols for colposcopy in gynecological clinics, including personnel, infrastructure, and laboratory requirements, remains a challenge.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** There is a need for extensive training for healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and laboratory staff, to improve diagnostics, sample transport, and electronic reporting of results.
- **Trust in State Structures:** The lack of trust among women in state health structures leads them to seek tests in private clinics. Increasing awareness of the quality of the state program is essential to address this issue.
- **Funding and Resource Distribution:** Financial constraints impact the implementation of necessary improvements, such as the maintenance of digital colposcopes and comprehensive training programs for healthcare staff. Addressing these challenges and building on achievements, ACPD aims to create a strong and effective cervical cancer screening program that ensures early detection, timely treatment, and improved health outcomes for women in Albania.



PROJECT: CAPACITY TO PROVIDE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

PROJECT SUMMARY

Planned initiatives for 2023 aim to strengthen national coordination and the capacities of key stakeholders in implementing MISP. Major initiatives planned for 2023 include:

- Developing a database for MISP in each region (4 databases for 4 regions).
- Conducting MISP simulation-based training exercises to increase awareness of readiness and preparedness.

ACPD, with the support of contracted experts, has developed a comprehensive report on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). The report outlines key recommendations and strategies to improve SRH services, especially in emergency situations, and aims to enhance the overall effectiveness and accessibility of these services.

PROJECT TITLE:
Strengthening MISP
(Minimum Initial Service
Package) Implementation

DONORS:
UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Development of the MISP Report: ACPD and several experts created a detailed MISP program, including essential recommendations for improving SRH services, based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Formation of SRH Teams: The report highlights the need to establish SRH teams at various levels of healthcare and to designate coordinating teams to ensure a better response to SRH services in emergencies.
- Ongoing MISP Training: Ongoing MISP training sessions are recommended for healthcare providers involved in SRH services, ensuring they are well-equipped to handle emergency situations.
- Increased Awareness of Referral Protocols: Training sessions are proposed to raise awareness of referral system protocols for survivors of gender-based violence, with a particular focus on maintaining confidentiality.
- Provision of PEP, Vaccines, and Medicines: The report emphasizes the importance of providing Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), hepatitis B vaccines, and medications for treating sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Awareness of PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission) Standards: Efforts are recommended to increase awareness of PMTCT standards among healthcare providers.
- Implementation of Primary Health and Maternity Standards: The report suggests implementing MISP standards at all levels of healthcare, particularly in primary health and maternity care.
- Refresher Training on STI Syndrome Management: Refresher training for healthcare providers on STI syndrome management is advised to meet STI needs in emergency situations.
- Planning and Distribution of Delivery Kits: The report recommends planning and ensuring the distribution of delivery kits in healthcare centers, especially at lower levels of the health system.
- Establishing and Monitoring SRH Indicators: Setting SRH indicators, collecting relevant data, and monitoring these indicators are essential components highlighted in the report.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- Coordination and Formation of Teams: Establishing SRH teams at different levels and ensuring effective coordination for emergency response remains a challenge.
- Ongoing Training and Awareness: Maintaining ongoing MISP training sessions and raising awareness about referral protocols for survivors of gender-based violence requires sustained effort and resources.
- Resource Provision: Providing PEP, vaccines, medications for STIs, and delivery kits involves logistical and financial challenges.
- Data Collection and Monitoring: Setting SRH indicators, collecting data, and monitoring these indicators require robust systems and continuous oversight.



PROJECT: CAPACITY TO PROVIDE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

PROJECT SUMMARY

Finalization and Approval of the Law. The Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) has played a key role in advocating for the revision of the existing Reproductive Health (RH) law in Albania. As part of the expert group, ACPD has actively contributed to drafting and finalizing the new RH Law, working closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. The draft of the new RH law has been finalized, reviewed, and shared with ACPD by experts, who have made several key recommendations for its improvement.

PROJECT TITLE:
Reproductive Health Law

DONORS:
UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Formation of the Working Group:** The Ministry of Health and Social Protection formed a working group for drafting the new RH Law, with ACPD as a key member of the expert group.
- **Finalization and Review of the RH Draft Law:** The draft of the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Law has been finalized and reviewed, incorporating comments and recommendations from various actors, including ACPD.
- **ACPD Participation in Health Commission Meetings:** ACPD participated in meetings with the Health Commission, providing concrete contributions to improve the SRHR situation in the country and contributing to the SRHR Action Plan 2022-2030.
- **Finalization of the RH Law:** Meetings have been held to finalize the RH Law, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- **Ensuring Comprehensive Human Rights Coverage:** Emphasizing and defining human rights comprehensively in the law to ensure alignment with international standards.
- **Non-Discriminatory Provisions:** Ensuring the law does not contain discriminatory language and provisions, particularly regarding age differences in sterilization between genders.
- **Public Understanding and Accessibility:** Ensuring the law is written in a manner that is easily understandable to the public to promote broad understanding and compliance.



PROJECT: CAPACITY TO PROVIDE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

PROJECT SUMMARY

Planned initiatives for the last quarter of 2023 aim to develop a roadmap for the institutionalization of ViC at the University of Elbasan, which will host this platform.

PROJECT TITLE:

Institutionalization of ViC
(Virtual Contraceptive
Counseling)

DONORS:

UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Formation of the Working Group:** Successful formation of a working group with representatives from the Faculty of Nursing in Elbasan, the Telemedicine Director, the Legal Department Director of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and other key actors.
- **Approval and Hosting:** Approval to host the ViC platform at the Faculty of Nursing in Elbasan, utilizing their existing telemedicine experience and the integrated Life Long Management (LLM) Center.
- **Support and Coordination:** Support from various institutions, including the Ministry of Health and ASCKSH. Appointment of Ms. Artenca Collaku as technical and operational coordinator.
- **Comprehensive Planning:** Development of a clear division of tasks among working group members. Preparation of a roadmap for institutionalization by December 15, 2023, by the Faculty of Nursing in Elbasan.
- **Legal and Technical Progress:** Progress in preparing legal reports/analyses and technology assessments. Presentation of the legal framework supporting the sustainability of the ViC platform.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- **Coordination and Clarity of Roles:** Ensuring clear definition and understanding of roles among different stakeholders, particularly in technical and operational coordination.
- **Legal and Regulatory Barriers:** Addressing uncertainties and questions related to the legal framework and institutional requirements for the platform.
- **Technical Issues:** Managing IT-related challenges such as data transfer, user access, and server problems identified during platform testing.
- **Infrastructure and Resources:** Addressing infrastructure needs, including the number of users, initial and recurring costs, and ensuring adequate resources for the platform's operation.
- **Visibility and Communication:** Increasing visibility and ensuring effective communication of the platform's benefits and processes to all stakeholders.
- **Financial Stability and Autonomy:** Ensuring the financial stability and autonomy of the platform within the Faculty of Nursing and broader educational institutions.
- **Ongoing Commitment and Support:** Maintaining the ongoing commitment and support of all key actors, especially during transition and implementation phases.



PROJECT: YOUTH AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project aimed to provide comprehensive sexual education (CSE) outside the school environment, making significant progress through informal agreements with the Ministry of Culture and Sports and engaging 40 rural youths via online discussions. Despite high female participation and valuable youth feedback, challenges include communication gaps with teachers, stigma, and cultural barriers hindering open discussions. Efforts are needed to involve parents more and reach marginalized communities where access to CSE is limited. Formalizing agreements with the Ministry is crucial for sustaining these initiatives.

PROJECT TITLE:

Comprehensive Sexual Education Outside the School Environment

DONORS:

UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Progress with Official Agreements:** Productive meetings with the Minister of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, leading to an informal agreement to provide comprehensive sexual education for youth outside the school environment. This agreement is expected to be formalized in the coming months.
- **Engagement with Rural Youth:** Two online discussions were held with 40 youths from rural areas, utilizing influencers and community leaders to facilitate discussions on Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE).
- **Wide Participation:** Successful organization of online discussions on September 19, 2023, involving 40 youths from Tirana, Shkodra, Vlora, Kruja, and Fieri. Participation included 35 girls and 5 boys, indicating significant interest and engagement from female participants.
- **Identification of Key Recommendations:** Youth provided valuable feedback and recommendations, highlighting the need for more information on CSE, effective communication methods, and the involvement of parents and teachers.
- **Effective Communication Methods:** Online and offline discussions were recognized as effective ways to reach youths, suggesting the importance of continuing these practices in smaller groups for better engagement and sharing.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- **Communication Gaps:** Despite efforts from ACPD, UNFPA, and other partners, there remains a communication gap between youths and teachers. Persistent stigma hinders open discussions about CSE topics even in academic settings such as biology, physical education, and extracurricular classes.
- **Involvement of Parents:** Parents play a crucial role in discussing CSE with their children. However, these topics are often considered taboo and left to schools to address. There is a need for more work with parents and coordinated efforts with both parents and teachers to support the well-being and development of youths.
- **Reaching Marginalized Communities:** There is a need to extend CSE initiatives to youths in rural areas and marginalized communities where access to information is more limited. This highlights a gap in reaching the most vulnerable populations who could benefit most from CSE.
- **Stigma and Barriers:** Persistent stigma and cultural barriers obstruct open discussion of CSE topics, requiring ongoing efforts to remove these barriers through educational and awareness programs targeting teachers and parents.
- **Formalizing Agreements:** While an informal agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, formalizing this agreement is essential for the sustainable and official provision of CSE outside of school environments. The process needs to be monitored and expedited.



PROJECT: YOUTH AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project is advancing youth-friendly services (YFS) with plans to implement them in two Tirana health centers, supported by a developed methodology and ACPD's readiness. Evaluation findings stress the need for these services to improve youth healthcare access. Key challenges include ensuring effective coordination, community support, and staff training. Sustaining YFS beyond the pilot phase requires ongoing monitoring and adjustments.

PROJECT TITLE:
YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES

DONORS:
UNFPA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- **Advancement of Youth-Friendly Services Implementation:** Several meetings have been held to advance the implementation of youth-friendly services in two health centers, with plans for continued implementation in the coming months.
- **Development of a Methodology:** A comprehensive methodology has been developed for piloting Youth-Friendly Services (YFS) in two major clinical centers in Tirana. This methodology includes all necessary modalities, elements, and steps for pilot implementation.
- **Evaluation Findings:** The evaluation emphasized the need for implementing youth-friendly health services in Albania to increase access to and use of health services by youths.
- **Capacity and Expertise:** ACPD's youth centers have the necessary capacity and expertise to pilot the implementation of youth-friendly health services, demonstrating their readiness for this initiative.
- **Coordination and Community Support:** Emphasis on the need for careful coordination and community support for the successful implementation of YFS, ensuring that findings from the evaluation are analyzed and addressed.
- **Infrastructure and Capacity Building:** Recognizing the need to improve current infrastructure and strengthen staff skills and capacities in existing ACPD youth centers to provide tailored services that meet youths' needs.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

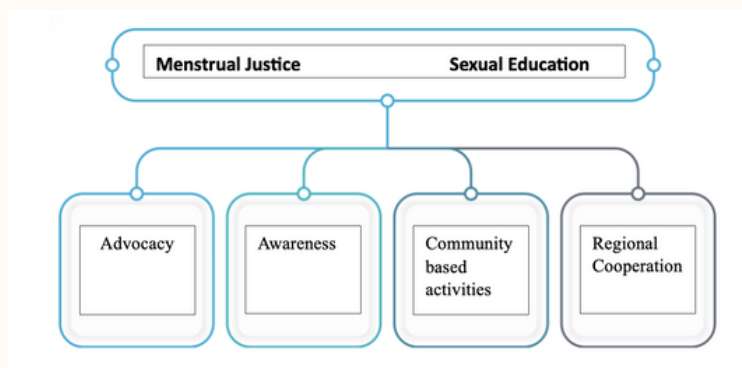
- **Coordination and Planning:** The need for careful coordination and planning to analyze and address evaluation findings, ensuring the successful implementation of YFS.
- **Community Support:** Ensuring community support is crucial for the successful implementation of youth-friendly health services, requiring ongoing efforts to engage and involve the community.
- **Staff Training and Capacity Building:** Strengthening staff skills and capacities to provide tailored services that meet specific youth needs is essential, requiring targeted training programs and ongoing support.
- **Sustainable Implementation:** Ensuring sustainable implementation of YFS beyond the pilot phase, which includes continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment of services to meet evolving needs.



OUR BODY IS NOT A TABOO

PROJECT SUMMARY

ACPD has extended its focus of work and activities under this project in two main components and four main pillars:



PROJECT TITLE:

Our Body is not a Taboo

DONORS:

France Embassy

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

The "Our Body is not a Taboo" project has significantly contributed to promoting menstrual hygiene and justice through several impactful approaches:

- Increasing Awareness about Menstrual Hygiene and Justice

The project has been instrumental in raising awareness about menstrual hygiene and justice, areas that have often been neglected by governments. This initiative, supported by the French Embassy, has brought these issues to the forefront. By providing education and resources, the project has empowered individuals to understand the importance of menstrual health and the need for equitable access to menstrual hygiene products and facilities.

- Regional Collaboration and Learning

Collaboration with partner countries has been a cornerstone of the project's success. By engaging in regional partnerships, the project has facilitated the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from different countries. This collaborative approach has enabled the adaptation of successful strategies and the implementation of effective menstrual hygiene programs tailored to the specific needs and contexts of each region. The cross-country learning has enriched the project's methodology and enhanced its overall impact.

- Development of a Joint Declaration

A significant achievement of the project is the development of a joint declaration. This declaration serves as a formal commitment among the participating countries to continue advocating for menstrual hygiene and justice even beyond the project's duration. It symbolizes a collective agreement to prioritize menstrual health on national and regional agendas. The joint declaration not only strengthens the resolve of the involved stakeholders but also provides a framework for sustained advocacy efforts.

- Engagement of High-Level Decision-Makers

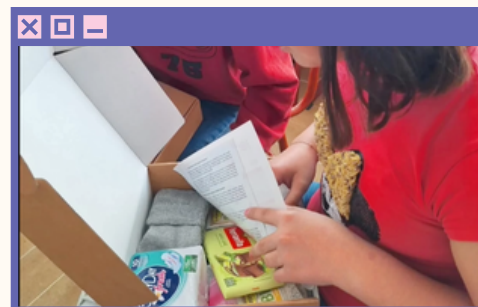
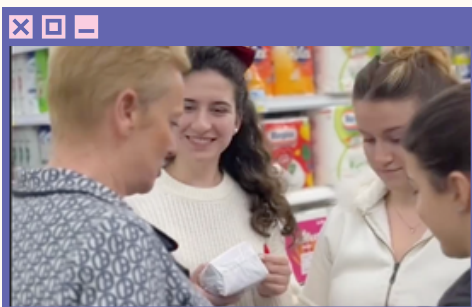
The project successfully engaged high-level decision-makers, gathering their support and positive attitudes towards menstrual hygiene and justice. By involving the influential figures in the discussions and activities, the project ensured that the issue received the necessary attention and support at policy-making levels. The engagement of these decision-makers is pivotal for driving systemic change, as their backing can lead to the implementation of policies and allocation of resources that promote menstrual health and justice.



OUR BODY IS NOT A TABOO

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- The implementation of the "Our Body is not a Taboo" project faced several challenges that impacted its progress and effectiveness. Here are the main challenges elaborated:
- Coordination with Regional Partners
- One of the challenges was coordinating in time with some of the regional partners to organize the regional events, particularly considering their busy schedules. This required substantial effort in scheduling and communication to ensure that all partners could participate meaningfully. Each partner's varying availability and commitments necessitated flexibility and adaptability in planning. Effective coordination was crucial to maximize the impact of regional events and ensure that all stakeholders could contribute their perspectives and expertise.
- Diverse Contexts and Legal Frameworks
- The situation regarding menstruation and menstrual hygiene products varied significantly across the participating countries. In some countries, substantial progress had been made in improving laws and policies related to menstrual products, while in others, efforts were just beginning. This disparity created challenges in developing a unified regional priority for future initiatives. Countries had different needs, priorities, and levels of advancement.
- For instance:
- Countries where menstrual hygiene products are already subsidized or provided for free, the focus might be on improving accessibility, infrastructure and ensuring comprehensive education on menstrual health.
- Countries where menstrual hygiene is still a nascent issue, the priorities included lobbying for legislative changes, increasing public awareness, and establishing basic infrastructure for menstrual hygiene management.



GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Municipality of Shkodër lacks a comprehensive gender analysis that would provide accurate and reliable data for the integration of a gender perspective into their budgeting process. In the context of increasing crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic and climate crises, municipalities face serious challenges regarding gender indicator measurement due to the absence of quantitative and comparative analyses with persuasive reports explaining the reasons for these issues.

ACPD conducted a gender analysis of the budget in the Municipality of Shkodër for the years 2023-2024, focusing on four selected programs: kindergartens and nurseries, landscapes and sidewalks, sports fields, games and football, as well as social services. During the analysis, it was investigated how budget expenditures are influenced by gender situations and to what extent the rights and needs of women and men are addressed.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Albanian Center for Population and Development monitored 11 public consultation meetings on the 2023 draft budget and the 2024-2026 medium-term budget program of the Municipality of Shkodër, 4 meetings of the Budget Committee, as well as monitored the Municipal Council meeting during the discussion and approval of the 2023-2024 budget.
- Development of brochures to promote participatory budgeting.
- A comprehensive and detailed report produced for Shkodra Municipality, containing a detailed analysis of budget use from a gender perspective, recommendations for improving budget policies and practices in favor of gender equality.
- Creation of a guide on how to manage crises and emergencies for use by the municipality and administrative units on how to respond to new crises and emergencies. The guide contains best practices and strategies for addressing crises and emergencies from a gender-sensitive perspective, and offers practical guidance for appropriate responses.
- Informative posts shared online through social media.

PROJECT TITLE:

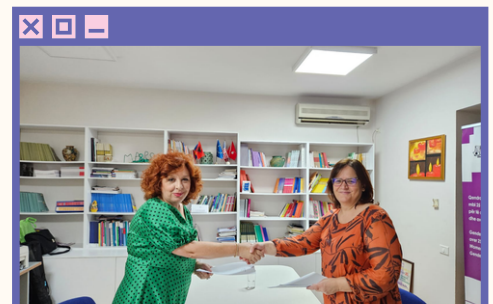
Sustainable Financing in Shkodra Municipality – Using Gender Responsive Budgeting to Address Crisis and Emergency Situations.

DONORS:

This project is supported by the Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC) within the framework of the project "Strengthening Transparency and Accountability for Gender Equality in Western Balkans and Moldova (Gender Budget Watchdog Network, Phase II)" supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- Considering the traditional norms and beliefs in the city of Shkodra, it was challenging during the implementation of the project, particularly in our efforts to have higher representation of girls and women in the budgeting process, especially in rural administrative units. Through numerous interviews and meetings, we have endeavored to have their voices heard and address their needs. In these meetings, several citizens, along with representatives from various institutions and members of the municipal council, expressed their needs.
- Considering that the report produced for Shkodra Municipality includes recommendations regarding gender-responsive budgeting, highlighting deficiencies from the Municipality in the programs that the project focused on, namely: Kindergartens and nurseries, landscaping and sidewalks, sports fields, playgrounds and football and social services. The municipal staff needs continuous support and supervision from our organization to evaluate their activities and identify challenges to have a positive impact even after the project ends.
- Projects like this should be implemented in other municipalities across the country, not just in Shkodër, so that each municipality can strengthen its capacity to implement gender-responsive budgeting in their budget planning.



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES DURING 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Sustainable Financing in Shkodra Municipality – Using Gender Responsive Budgeting to Address Crisis and Emergency Situations.



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NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN ALBANIA

PROJECT SUMMARY

During the year 2023, the 5th year of the implementation of the action, the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania contributed to achieving the following results: The project provided extensive support to 88 CSOs and informed 574 citizens through help desk services, info sessions, and training, enhancing their capabilities in various areas such as project writing, legal compliance, and digital communication. Despite these achievements, the initiative faced challenges like limited political will and funding instability, impacting the long-term effectiveness of civil society organizations in Albania.

PROJECT TITLE:

National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania

DONORS:

European Union

The action is implemented by Partners Albania for Change and Development, in partnership with the Albanian Centre for Population and Development (ACPD) and the European Movement in Albania (EMA). The Centre has three offices; the National Resource Centre main office in Tirana and two other regional offices in Shkodra and Vlora

LINK:

<https://resourcecentre.al/>

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- A total of 318 onsite and online help desk services according to database of Help desk services are offered to CSOs, governments' institutions, networks, individual and informal groups which had received timely and updated information on the questions they had on specific issues related to civil society sector in Albania, enabling environment, active CSOs in specific working areas, process of registration of new civil society organisations, funding opportunities, networking opportunities, capacity building opportunities including training opportunities, internships etc
- A total of 88 CSOs were assisted, through 318 help desk services offered, addressing CSOs need in project proposal writing, networking and partnership, CSOs legal and fiscal procedures and frame, networking and partnership, establishment and organizational functioning of newly registered CSOs, are offered logistical support to attend consultations meetings organized far from their city, technical assistance to attend online training from NRC Office etc.
- A total of 574 citizens are informed through 27 info sessions held with participation of youth from high schools and universities of Vlora and Shkodra, as well as informal groups of citizens interested to know about the NRC activity on topics that lead them towards preparation for the start-ups and other employment opportunities as well as towards volunteering and active citizenship
- A total of 45 CSOs representatives acquired knowledge on the role that actors of civil society should play during the process of negotiations to bring effective results, how they can be involved, as well as EU financing tools and programs for supporting civil society on the Workshop organized by European Movement Albania in Vlora and Shkodra with CSOs titled: "EU opening talks for Albania membership and CSOs involvement in structures and phases of negotiations".
- 25 CSOs from South and 24 CSOs from north region have participated in the annual Need Assessment survey organized by NRC office in March 2023
- A total of 55 representatives of the south and north CSOs have acquired practical
- knowledge during the trainings on requests for the "The Use of Technology and Digital Tools by OSHCs for Collaboration and Effective Communication"; and communication and media organized by Partners Albania
- Increased interest for free of charge legal service from the civil society organizations and informal activist groups in need for detailed information on specific issues such as: Legal information and education for NPOs, Legal advice on the establishment, operation, legal and fiscal compliance, and legal deregistration of NPOs.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN ALBANIA

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- 4 representatives of CSOs from both South and North area have successfully finished the CSOs Academy and acquired knowledge and individual mentoring about: the legal framework, the role of CSOs in the EU integration, organizational development and governance, management of human resources and internal procedures, finance management, fundraising, writing project proposals, project management, EU grants, strategic planning, advocacy and lobbying, network and coalition, strategic communication, CSOs participation in decision making process etc
- 25 representatives of local CSOs, institutions and faith based organizations raised awareness and improved the coordination and communication to better respond and fight for prevention and better services for the victims/survivors of gender based violence and domestic violence during the round table organized in Vlora by NRC office in September
- A policy paper is drafted and submitted in an open meeting organized by Vlora NRC Office with Vlora Mayor, local CSOs and Municipality Council representatives listing the priority needs of elders in Vlora Municipality (both rural and urban areas) to be considered when drafting the 2024 budget
- As a result of the advocacy efforts of Vlora NRC office, for the first time four faith- based organizations in Vlora Municipality become members of the Referral Mechanism Against Gender Based violence and a new memo of understanding is signed on 7 th of December 2023, between all actors 26 actors: local CSOs, state institutions and faith-based organizations.
- With the coordination and support of the Vlora NRC Office a petition against burning waste in Vlora, is drafted and signed by 24 CSOs and informal group of citizens and is officially submitted to Vlora Municipality and Office of Prefecture as well as to Ministry of Tourism and Local Government. After the petition is officially submitted and had an echo in the social and traditional media, the Vlora NRC Office coordinated the 21 CSOs and 3 informal groups to keep advocacy efforts at the meetings called by the mayor Dredha, head of Prefecture Mamaj and parliament member Resulaj
- Continuous work for bringing together civil society organizations in Shkodra municipality by drawing them towards common topics for addressing relevant issues such as public transport in administrative units, establishment of youth centers or use of the municipality premises in the rural local administrative units, better management of local resources for addressing youth engagement in social life and decision-making.
- Coordinated among the civil society organizations operating in Shkodra Municipality territory and the institution of the municipality in a constructive forum discussion on the revising of the existing MOU that determines tools for cooperation and respective positions.
- Essential contribution of the Shkodra NRC coordinator in drafting the MOC among the civil society organizations and Shkodra municipality institution for increasing the quality of mutual dialogue and paving long term strategic plan and finalizing zonal social plan
- A total of 60 young people from Shkodra from rural Administrative Units have increased information on boosting citizen engagement in lobbying for friendly youth services in their community area
- A total of 30 young people and professionals increased their knowledge through information session from the US Embassy Education Department focusing on opportunities for applying to a diversity of education programs in the US coordinated by NRC Shkoder Office coordinator.
- A total of 17 young people from Shkodra contributed in the thematic workshops in the frame of the civil society week, with inputs related to youth employment, youth vocational education, skills for life, integration of people with special skills and needs, integration of disadvantaged people, empowerment of citizens and groups of interest for more policy making engagement and so on

MAIN CHALLENGES

- Despite several advocacy efforts, many CSOs find it challenging to influence policy and decision-making processes. This is due to a lack of political will, conflict of interest from the part of CSOs which receive support from the local/national government and lack of finances for prolonged advocacy efforts;
- Some local officials view the organizations as adversaries rather than partners in development;
- Many CSOs that rely heavily on international donors are experiencing the shrinking of funds, which creates instability as funding streams can be unpredictable and subject to changes in donor priorities. There is a general lack of local philanthropic support, including from private sector businesses and individual donors. This is partly due to a culture that is not yet fully developed in terms of supporting civil society financially.



ACTIVITIES IN VLORA

ACTIVITIES DURING 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Meetings with informal groups and CSOs to strengthen the cooperation between them and make their voice be heard in local decision-making.



Advocacy at the local decision makers with network of CSOs and activist in Vlora following up the petition: "Stop burning waste".



Help desk services for Civil Society Organisation, supporting them to apply for project proposals and helping them with advocacy initiatives.



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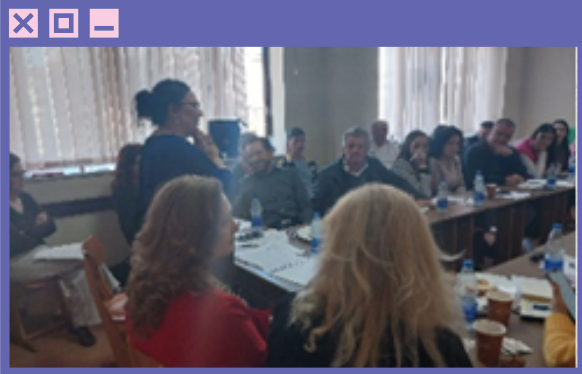
ACTIVITIES IN SHKODRA

ACTIVITIES DURING 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

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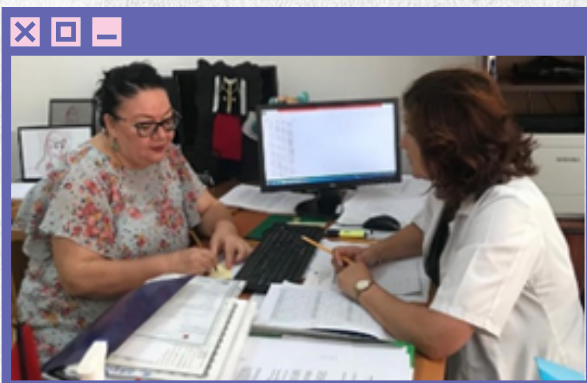
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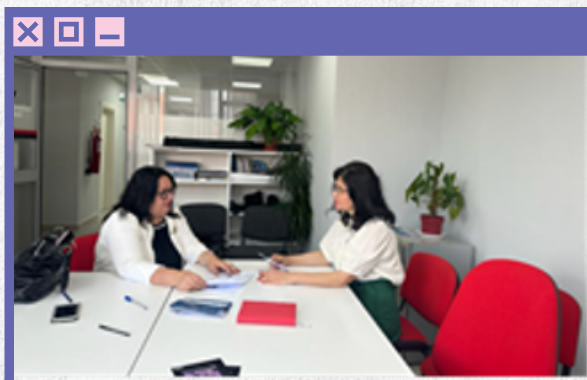
Discussion forum among civil society organizations operating in the Shkodër municipality regarding the review of the cooperation agreement between non-governmental organizations in Shkodër and the municipality institution.



Meeting with the municipal council member and concurrently chairperson of the Finance, Budget, and Public Assets Commission to gather information on budgetary commissions and gender sensitivity reflected in the budget drafts for the year 2024, as well as monitoring the budgetary commission meetings.



Refreshing collaboration activities with Oso Kuka high school raising awareness among youth on volunteerism and active citizenship.



Meeting with representatives of the civil society organizations and informal groups in Shkodër to furnish them with relevant information on how to cooperate among them for fund raising.



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STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF THE ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DURING COVID-19 AND FUTURE DISASTERS.

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project enhanced the well-being of elderly individuals in urban and rural areas by providing comprehensive healthcare services and promoting active aging. A total of 270 elderly individuals benefited from basic medical checks and home healthcare services, while 2500 citizens were engaged through social media about the center's activities. Informative meetings, cultural activities, and policy advocacy addressed the broader needs of the elderly community. Collaborations with local organizations ensured support for neglected elderly individuals, offering them free meals and essential services.

PROJECT TITLE:

Strengthening the resilience of the elderly and persons with disabilities during Covid-19 and future disasters.

DONORS:

Albanian Red Cross, co-funded by the European Union and the Austrian Development Agency.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

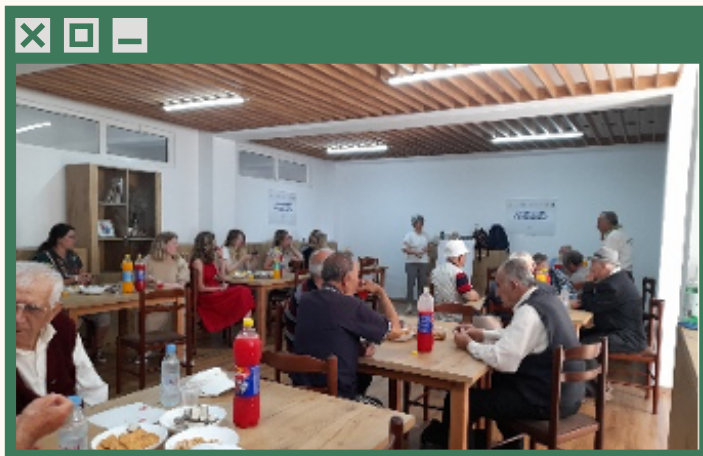
- 200 elderly individuals from urban areas and 50 elderly individuals from NJA Orikum and Novosele benefited from basic medical services (blood pressure measurement, diabetes monitoring) offered at the premises of the Elderly Daily Center.
- 20 elderly individuals with limited mobility abilities received basic healthcare services (blood pressure measurement, diabetes monitoring, stethoscope check, mobile echo, etc.) at home. During these medical checks, these elderly individuals were also informed and advised on healthy aging, and were provided with informative pamphlets and other materials.
- 100 elderly individuals who visited the daily center in Vlorë were informed about fall prevention methods through pamphlets distributed in this center.
- 30 elderly individuals benefited from daily activities conducted in the center which serve for an active life, including light physical exercises.
- 150 elderly individuals during 5 informative meetings received basic information about the use of digital services and free services offered by other institutions.
- 70 elderly individuals in total participated in 3 forums organized in Vlorë, Orikum, and Novosele with the aim of identifying their problems and needs.
- 30 elderly women participated in the exhibition of works and bio-products from the area organized by the staff of the daily center in an open environment, with the participation of local government representatives.
- 2500 citizens and followers on social networks were reached through the distribution of documentary films about daily activities developed in the elderly daily center, on the ACPD social media and Vlora local media.
- 200 elderly individuals from the city of Vlorë and NJA Orikum, Novosele were made aware and informed about active aging through various social-cultural and artistic activities organized especially for them, including meetings with young people to strengthen intergenerational ties, excursions in the city of Shkodër, in the village of Tragjas, celebrations of their birthdays, etc.
- 1 document on policies regarding the problems and real needs of the elderly was drafted according to the needs identified during the organization of Forums, which was handed over to the Vlorë municipality to discuss with them about possible solutions.
- 150 posters were distributed in various locations in the city as well as in NJA Orikum and Novosele promoting the elderly daily center as a social center where they can spend time and receive various services.
- 1000 leaflets were distributed in the daily center and in various activities with the elderly promoting it as a unique center created especially for the elderly and for the services offered therein, as well as advice on the issue of fall prevention for the elderly.



STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF THE ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DURING COVID-19 AND FUTURE DISASTERS.

MAIN CHALLENGES

- The identification of elderly individuals in need in the city of Vlora was a challenge that was resolved in collaboration with the Catholic Church. This church sent its team to conduct door-to-door verification of the situation of elderly people who claimed to be abandoned. As a result, these elderly individuals became beneficiaries of free lunches three times a week and food packages donated by various benefactors on the occasion of religious holidays and their birthdays.
- Another challenge was providing in-home services, but this was also resolved in collaboration with the Municipality of Vlora, which referred us to families with elderly individuals in need or who were abandoned.



Meetings with informal groups and CSOs to strengthen the cooperation between them and make their voice be heard in local decision-making.



Closing project meeting at Elders Center with Vlora Mayor, local CSOs and institutions and religious institutions committing themselves to address the needs of elders at risk in Vlora and strengthen cooperation in their support.



REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

PROJECT SUMMARY

This year, our efforts to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices have seen significant advancements.

We analyzed and updated the legal frameworks on gender-based violence (GBV), training 60 team members and introducing 25 stakeholders to these changes. Our awareness campaigns reached 200 people monthly, and 2,000 GBV prevention services were provided. Despite these efforts, gaps in legal framework implementation and persistent societal issues remain. Continuous staff training and heightened awareness are essential to our ongoing work.

PROJECT TITLE:

Reducing gender-based violence and harmful practices

DONORS:

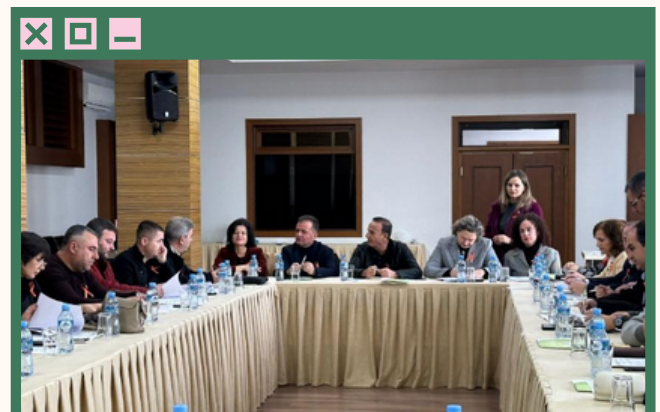
IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Analysis of the civil and criminal legal framework on gender-based violence, domestic violence, and sexism and identify provisions that do not prohibit or favor harmful practices and gender stereotypes, as well as measures to be taken. 25 stakeholders were introduced with the updated civil and criminal legal framework reflecting required changes/improvements.
- 60 members of Interdisciplinary Technical Teams in Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra were trained to effectively implement the applicable legal framework on the protection of survivors of gender-based violence, domestic violence, and harmful practices.
- About 200 people were reached through online awareness activities against harmful practices, gender-based violence, and domestic violence, every month and on marked international dates (International Women's Day, International Girl Child Day, etc.).
- 2,000 GBV prevention services were provided to clients of ACPD clinics.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- There are gaps and challenges when it comes to the recognition and implementation of the civil and criminal legal framework on gender-based violence and gender stereotypes.
- The staff is always changing and continuous training is needed to provide the appropriate skills and knowledge.
- Despite all the efforts and work done, gender-based violence, domestic violence and harmful practices remain persistent in society, leading to more and more awareness.



ADVANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CERVICAL CANCER SCREEN PROGRAM IN ALBANIA

PROJECT SUMMARY

This year, we improved coordination among healthcare institutions, trained professionals to develop a national cervical cancer prevention plan, and educated providers on using integrated diagnosis registries. Mobile clinics provided HPV services to 200 underserved women and girls, while online campaigns reached 2,000 people to promote screening. Despite these efforts, challenges persist in reaching marginalized women and ensuring they remain within the public healthcare system for follow-up care.

PROJECT TITLE:

Advancing the implementation of the Cervical Cancer screen program in Albania

DONORS:

IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- 20 representatives of healthcare institutions (IPH, regional hospitals; healthcare operator; and health centers) joined efforts to better coordinate cervical cancer program at local and central level.
- 30 representatives of health institutions increased their knowledge to establish a long-term national plan on prevention of cervical cancer, including vaccination and palliative care.
- 40 HCP increased their knowledge on the use of integrated diagnosis registry onto the screening registry.
- 200 women and girls in underserved communities with no real opportunities to access CC prevention services received HPV health services through three mobile clinics in Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra.
- About 2000 people reached through online awareness campaigns to increase screening coverage of target population aged 40-50 years at primary healthcare services.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- The level of information and awareness of the population of women, especially of the most marginalized or vulnerable categories, where the risk is estimated to be higher remains an issue. More efforts are needed to make these women an integral part of the process.
- One of the main challenges remains the follow-up of the positive women, who drop the public healthcare system to continue the follow-up in the private sector or abroad.
- More coordination and efforts between institutions is needed to properly cover all women and girls in the national level and maintain them within the public sector, so as to not lose them.



BOOSTING SAFE ABORTION CARE AND FERTILITY SERVICES IN TIRANA, VLORA AND DURRES

PROJECT SUMMARY

This year, we trained 25 healthcare professionals on safe abortion and provided 2,000 pre- and post-abortion counseling sessions. We distributed 1,000 information packages, reached 1,500 people through social media, and educated 20 journalists on reporting accurately about abortion. A strategic partnership was formed with 25 SRH coalition representatives to address opposition strategies. Challenges remain in capacity-building for service providers and enhancing community awareness and access to services in rural areas.

PROJECT TITLE:

Boosting safe abortion care and fertility services in Tirana, Vlora and Durres

DONORS:

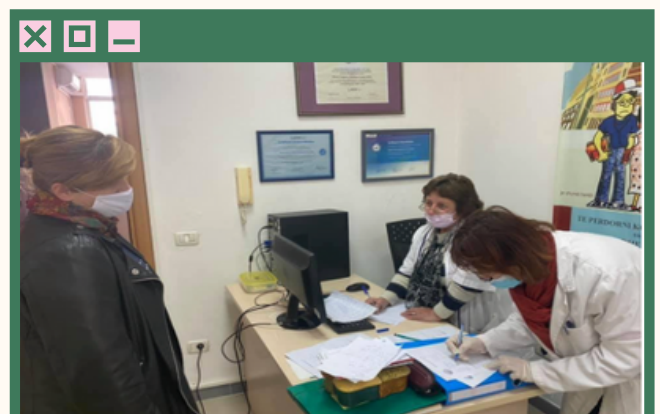
IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- 25 Healthcare professional from policlinics increased their knowledge on safe abortion.
- 2000 pre and post abortion counselling through mobile clinics and home visits.
- 1000 information packages for pre- and post-abortion counseling
- About 1500 people were reached through social media clip from women influencers on importance of safe abortion and SRH;
- 20 journalists increased their knowledge on how to report correctly from opposition attacks on abortion.
- 25 representatives of SRH coalition joined effort to tackle issues on safe abortion issues and opposition strategies.
- Strategic partnership was established with members of coalition on how to tackle opposition attacks.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- Capacity-building activities for service providers and improved knowledge about abortion methods, stigma-free and non-judgmental counseling, and the provisions of the law remain a challenge.
- Also, it is necessary to develop more informative and educational activities with community members in rural areas, because there is still a lack of information and access to services, as well as to advocate even more with the government for the improvement of infrastructure and an effective system of referral.



COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL IN TIRANE AND KORCE

PROJECT SUMMARY

This year, we educated 100 rural students and 80 teachers on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and engaged 50 youth from key populations in discussions with community leaders. We submitted two scientific articles and reached 1,500 people through digital advocacy campaigns. Despite these efforts, increasing awareness on sexuality issues and overcoming stigma and discrimination remain significant challenges.

PROJECT TITLE:

Comprehensive Sexuality Education for young people in and out of school in Tirane and Korce

DONORS:

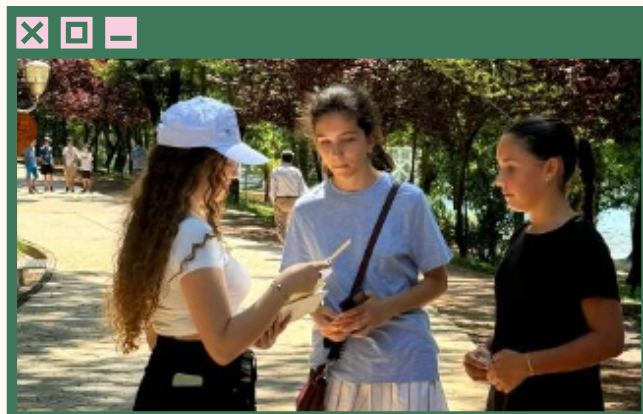
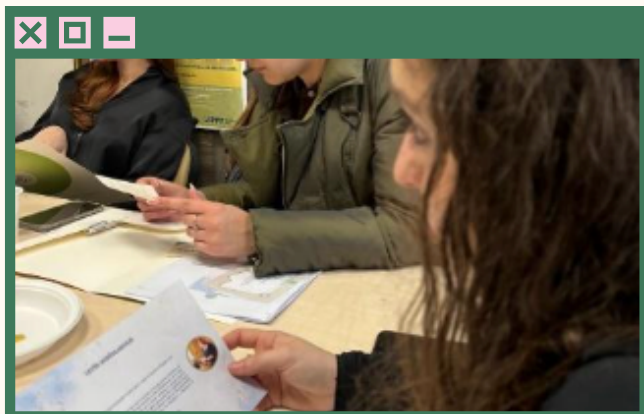
IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- 100 young people in school from rural areas in on CSE and peer education;
- 80 teachers from rural areas improve their knowledge and skills to deliver high-quality sexuality education.
- 50 youth from key populations engaged in conversation with community influencers/leaders on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)
- Two scientific articles submitted to two international journals "International Journal of Public Health Science (IJPHS)" and "Cureus Journal" based on the findings from Youth Voice, Youth Choice.
- About 1500 people were reached through the digital advocacy campaign on CSE for young people from key populations, such as LGBTI, MSM, Roma

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- More efforts are needed to increase the knowledge and awareness about sexuality issues, especially in topics regarding gender identity, and gender orientation.
- Despite the enormous work with teachers and providers regarding the CSE, there is still stigma and discrimination to talk freely with young people regarding these topics.



MINIMUM INITIAL SERVICE PACKAGE (MISP) TO ADDRESS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEEDS OF POPULATIONS AT THE ONSET OF AN EMERGENCY TIRANE, LEZHE AND SHKODRA

PROJECT SUMMARY

This year, we trained 60 healthcare providers in SRH guidelines and online counseling for emergencies, reaching 2,000 people with information and 2,500 through digital campaigns. A roundtable with 30 representatives from key institutions improved crisis coordination. Despite progress, the healthcare system remains underprepared for emergencies, requiring enhanced coordination and collaboration.

PROJECT TITLE:

Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) to address sexual and reproductive health needs of populations at the onset of an emergency Tirane, Lezhe and Shkodra

DONORS:

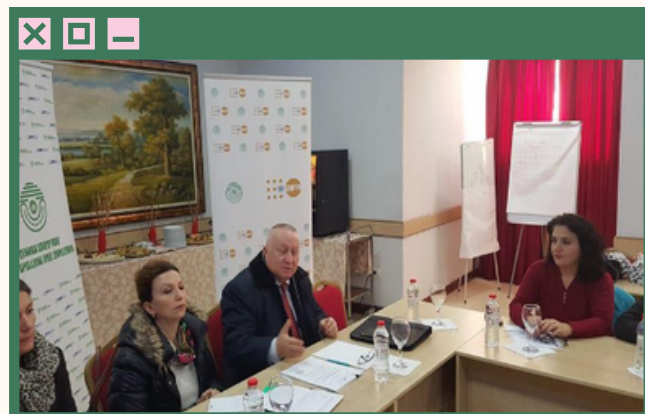
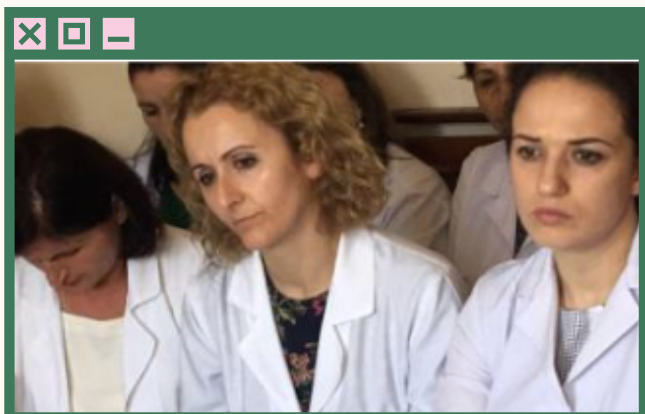
IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- 60 healthcare providers increased their knowledge on the provision of guidelines on SRH services.
- 60 healthcare providers increased their knowledge and boost their skills on the provision of online SRH counselling during emergency/pandemic crisis.
- About 2,000 people reached out with information on how to promote SRH services during an emergency crisis.
- About 2500 people were reached through five digital campaigns on how to promote SRH services during crisis.
- 30 representatives from MoH, local healthcare units, and State Police, agreed in a roundtable to reinforce coordination in crisis times.
- An assessment of the situation after a disaster and humanitarian crisis faced by Albania such as earthquake and the Covid-19 pandemic.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- One of the main challenges is that the healthcare system is still unprepared when it comes to their preparedness in emergencies.
- There is a need for more coordination and collaboration between different institutions and mechanisms to react appropriately to emergencies.



HIV/AIDS TIRANA, VLORA AND SHKODRA

PROJECT SUMMARY

Efforts in Tirana, Vlora, and Shkodra have led to improved HIV strategy recommendations and a revised service-delivery model, involving young key populations. Outreach workers and NGO staff enhanced their skills to better support vulnerable groups, providing 1,500 services including HIV/STI testing and treatment. Digital and media campaigns promoted HIV testing, and a TV broadcast on HIV issues aired on International HIV Day. Challenges remain due to stigma and discrimination, hindering key populations' access to healthcare services.

PROJECT TITLE:

HIV/AIDS Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra

DONORS:

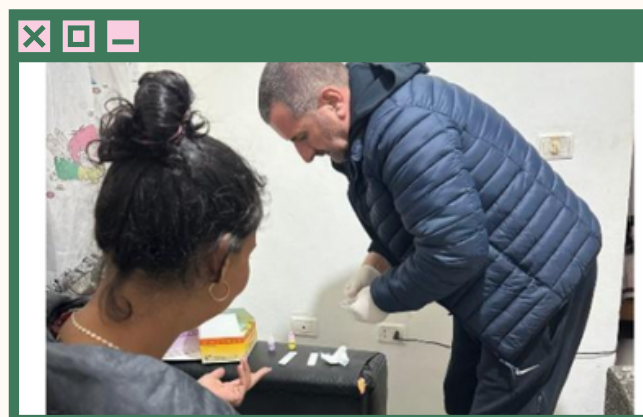
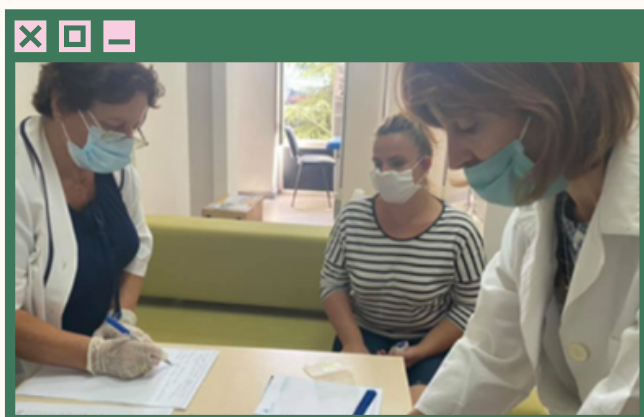
IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- 20 participants increased their knowledge to provide recommendations on HIV strategy developed by the MoSP with feedback from CSOs
- HIV service-delivery model for Key Population at community and health system level revised by a working group, including young key population.
- 30 outreach workers and NGO staff increased their knowledge and boost their skills on how to better reach and work with PLWHIV, people with disabilities, Roma.
- SRH and HIV Prevention packages to sex workers through community outreach, using a drop-in center and outreach work in Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra (HIV/STI testing/treatment, condom, etc.1500 services provided to KP).
- Digital campaigns to promote HIV testing for KP
- One TV broadcast on HIV issues on HIV International Day.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- Supporting the key population with healthcare services remains a challenge because people do not prefer to visit healthcare institutions, due to the discrimination they face from healthcare providers, community members, etc. So, bringing them to the ACPD clinics always requires good preparation and coordination.
- Stigma and discrimination by health workers compromise their provision of quality care, which is essential to helping clients maintain their overall health and well-being; stigma acts as a barrier to accessing services for the general population, especially for key populations.



ACPD GOOD GOVERNANCE

PROJECT SUMMARY

ACPD successfully developed its 2023-2028 strategy aligned with the IPPF Strategy and organized its General Assembly Annual meeting to approve plans and budgets, along with designing an anti-discrimination policy. They engaged volunteers in projects and conducted on-site visits to monitor implementation, while also creating a comprehensive communication strategy. However, the strategy development took longer than anticipated due to the fifth cycle of the accreditation process and internal and external dynamics.

PROJECT TITLE:
ACPD Good governance

DONORS:
IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- ACPD developed the new organization Strategy 2023-2028 based on the IPPF Strategy.
- ACPD organized the General Assembly Annual meeting -approval of annual plans and budgets; agreed on future strategic directions aligned with the new Strategy of IPPF, including quarterly board meetings;
- ACPD designed an anti-discrimination policy.
- ACPD conducted regular meetings with core groups of volunteers to engage them in all projects implemented by ACPD.
- ACPD carried out monitoring on-site visits for senior staff, volunteers and board members in site to monitor the implementation of project activities.
- ACPD developed a communication strategy.

CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- The new strategy took more time than anticipated considering the 5th cycle of the accreditation process and internal and external dynamics.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

ACPD developed a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy with innovative funding approaches, improved staff skills in proposal writing for securing EU funds, and created a detailed donor support map for SRHR issues. They conducted an assessment to explore local revenue options and expanded partnerships to enhance patient care. However, challenges include securing consistent funding, adequately training and retaining staff, and managing complex coordination with multiple stakeholders.

PROJECT TITLE:
Resource Mobilization

DONORS:
IPPF

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- A comprehensive and effective resource mobilization strategy is developed, outlining innovative approaches to secure funding from diverse sources, ensuring long-term financial sustainability.
- Staff are equipped with advanced skills in proposal writing, leading to a higher success rate in securing EU funding for various projects.
- An updated and detailed donor support map for SRHR issues is available, providing clear insights into current and potential funding opportunities.
- A thorough assessment report identifies viable options for increasing local revenues, including recommendations for implementing social enterprises, insurance systems, and private business partnerships to sustain service delivery.
- A detailed assessment report with strategic recommendations for expanding partnerships and enhancing referral systems, leading to improved patient care and service delivery at ACPD clinics through collaboration with maternity hospitals, private clinics, and other service providers.



CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

- Securing consistent and adequate funding amid a competitive landscape.
- Ensuring staff are adequately trained and retained, and managing the complexity of coordinating with multiple stakeholders and partners, especially with new staff members.



ALBANIAN CENTER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SERVICES OFFERED

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The ACPD clinical centers in Tirana and Vlora are dedicated to providing essential Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to vulnerable groups, completely free of charge. The compassionate ACPD medical doctors prioritize the concerns of their clients, offering expert advice and necessary medications when required. Additionally, the centers generously provide contraceptives and other hygienic supplies to those in need.

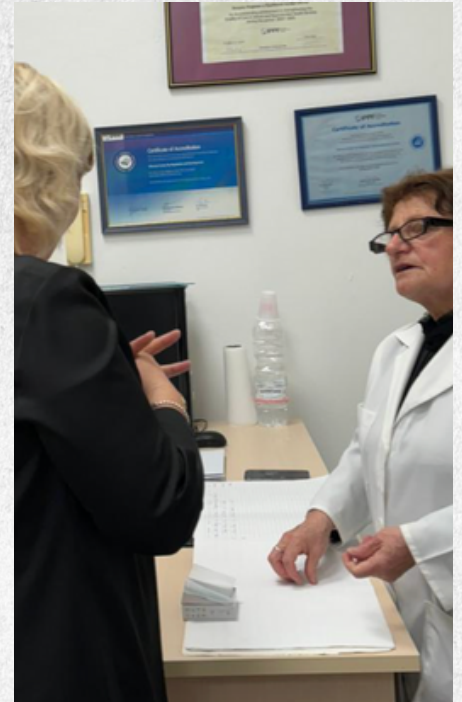
For vulnerable groups, the ACPD clinic center offers SRH services at a reduced fee, ensuring affordability and accessibility. Their highly skilled gynecologists extend a comprehensive Integrated package of SRH services, encompassing Pap smears, colposcopy, pre- and post-abortion counseling, STI testing, contraception, pregnancy tests, and rapid tests for HIV, HBV, HCV, and Syphilis. Moreover, the distribution of condoms and lubricants further promotes safe practices and reproductive health awareness.

At the ACPD clinic, every female visitor is encouraged to receive a Pap smear test, thoughtfully administered by their experienced nurse and gynecologist, ensuring early detection and proactive care. The clinic's commitment to sexual and reproductive health for vulnerable individuals is exemplary, fostering a caring and supportive environment for all. This extensive package includes essential HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B & C rapid tests, the distribution of informative materials such as leaflets and brochures, as well as condoms, and vital psychosocial support. To reach out effectively to the FSW community, dedicated outreach workers make initial contact with the individuals, inviting them to visit the ACPD clinic for the complete package of services, which encompasses rapid testing and essential psychosocial support, alongside sexual and reproductive health services.

ACPD is committed to providing comprehensive self-care services and support programs for the communities they serve. Our wide range of offerings includes:

1. Counseling and Mental Health Support: ACPD offers compassionate counseling and mental health support to individuals, addressing their emotional well-being and helping them navigate challenging situations.
2. Clinical Services: We provide an integrated package of Sexual and Reproductive Health services, encompassing vital screenings such as Pap smears, colposcopy, pre- and post- abortion counseling, STI testing, contraception, pregnancy tests, and rapid tests for HIV, HBV, HCV, and Syphilis. In addition, we distribute condoms and lubricants to promote safe practices.
3. Workshops and Training: ACPD organizes workshops and training sessions to empower individuals with knowledge about self-care practices, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services, healthy lifestyle habits, and personal hygiene, fostering physical well-being.
4. Support Groups: Our establishment of support groups offers a safe space for youth facing health challenges to come together, share experiences, and extend emotional support to one another, creating a strong sense of community.
5. Website Support: Our official website, acpd.org.al, serves as a valuable resource for individuals seeking information about the services provided by ACPD. Additionally, the website <https://kontracsion.al/> offers detailed insights into various contraception methods for both females and males. The platform also enables users to submit questions to our doctors and access a section with frequently asked questions (FAQ) along with comprehensive answers.

By combining these services and support programs, ACPD aims to enhance the well-being and health of the communities we serve, ensuring that individuals have access to the resources and knowledge they need to lead healthier and more empowered lives.



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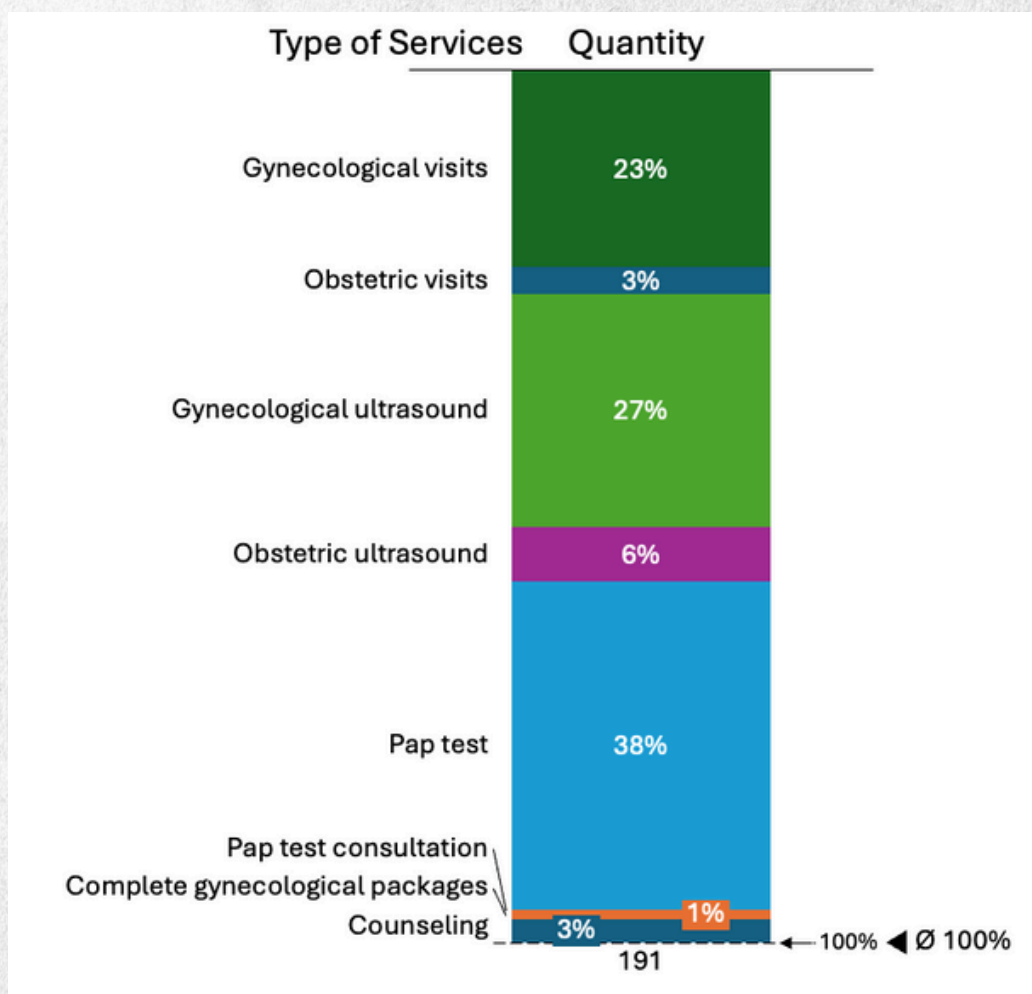
ALBANIAN CENTER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SERVICES OFFERED

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The services provided by the "PO" Center total 191, with the highest percentage being Pap Tests (38%). The service that has not been requested or used at the Center is colposcopy.



ALBANIAN CENTER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORIZATION

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AUTORIZIM

I JEPET

Organizatës "Qendra Shqiptare për
Popullsinë dhe Zhvillimin"

PËR OFRIMIN E SHËRBIMIT TË NDIHMËS JURIDIKE PARËSORE
SIPAS PËRCAKTIMEVE TË LIGJIT NR. 111/2017 "PËR NDIHMËN
JURIDIKE TË GARANTUAR NGA SHTETI" PËR PERIUdhËN SHTATOR
2022 – SHTATOR 2024



In 2023, ACPD received authorization to provide free primary legal aid services.



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ALBANIAN CENTER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

FREE LEGAL AID

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROJECT SUMMARY

This project seeks to improve access to legal support for underserved communities who face significant obstacles to obtaining justice. Acknowledging the widespread challenges faced by these groups—such as limited financial resources, insufficient legal knowledge, and social inequities—the initiative strives to reduce the gap between these individuals and the legal assistance they require. Through collaboration with legal experts and local organizations, the project ensures that those in need receive the guidance and representation necessary to navigate legal complexities.

The primary objective of this effort is to empower marginalized individuals by providing free legal services, ultimately improving their access to justice. The focus is on vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, seniors, survivors of abuse, refugees, and those with disabilities. By offering legal advice and advocacy, the initiative aims to prevent legal exclusion and foster greater social fairness.

PROJECT TITLE:

Free Legal Aid

DONORS:

Ministry of Justice

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

1. Enhance Legal Literacy: Raise awareness among at-risk communities about their legal entitlements and the resources available to them.
2. Deliver Legal Support: Provide a full range of legal services—such as advice, representation, and advocacy—reaching a total of 125 individuals (approximately 25 each month).
3. Forge Strategic Partnerships: Work alongside local legal experts, nonprofit organizations, and community groups to establish a long-lasting network of assistance.
4. Assess Outcomes: Continuously evaluate the program's impact by gathering feedback from participants and conducting surveys to measure service effectiveness.



CHALLENGES AND PROJECT RESPONSE

1. Identifying and Reaching the Right Individuals:
 - Invisibility of target groups (e.g., homeless, immigrants, domestic violence survivors).
 - Limited access to communication channels.
 - Geographical and mobility barriers.
2. Trust and Legal Fears:
 - Distrust in legal systems, especially among immigrants and abuse survivors.
 - Fear of legal repercussions like deportation or retaliation.
3. Resource Constraints and Demand:
 - High demand for free legal services surpassing available resources.
 - Urgent legal needs (e.g., housing evictions, domestic violence protection) with limited immediate support.
4. Navigating Legal Complexities:
 - Specialized legal issues (e.g., immigration, disability, family law) requiring expertise.
 - Challenges in providing adequate support for complex cases.



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ALBANIAN CENTER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABILITY

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ACPD as a accredited member of IPPF since 1993 and implementing partner of UNFPA makes the association one of the most credible and sustainable in national level;

Taking into account its status as a social enterprise, it places emphasis on both social impact and financial sustainability;

Aulona Center generates revenue covering main clinic costs;

It adheres to IPPF's international standards of compliance;

A consistently stable staff contributes to its operational continuity;

Every year ACPD has new donors;

Human resources and structural features facilitate ACPD's leadership ability to offer and run sustainable programs;

ACPD owns the premises in the capital city and has a partnership agreement with Vlora Municipality for using a local facility for Aulona premises;

The establishment of its youth centers provides a dedicated space for empowering and organizing youth;

Generate income from the consultancy provided by ACPD staff, and volunteers in the area of YFS and CSE;

Through enduring partnerships with donors and state institutions, it has fostered lasting relationships;

Its well-organized Board of Directors ensures effective governance;

Since 2007, it has forged a strong collaborative partnership with the Global Fund, a collaboration that endures to this day;



www.acpd.org.al

Acknowledgements

The Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) thanks all donors for their trust and collaboration with the association. Without their support, it would be difficult for us to implement projects and achieve objectives. The accomplishments serve as a motivating factor for the association, boosting self-confidence that the staff is capable of undertaking even more challenging tasks and facing challenges with professionalism and dedication. Additionally, ACPD expresses gratitude to the board of directors, the advisory board, and the staff for their contribution and excellent work in ensuring successful years. Our achievements and overcoming of challenges are fundamentally rooted in the commitment of hundreds of activists, youth, women, intellectuals, as well as fruitful collaboration with state institutions (especially those in health and education), the media, civil society, etc.

***We stand for reproductive, freedom,
justice, and autonomy for women, men
and families!***

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