**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR ALBANIA (2022-2026)**

*Second regular session 2021*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Comments by Germany** | **Response by Albania Country Office** |
| 1. Highly appreciate the Common Country Analysis 2020 which is underlying the CPD 2. CPD reflects the most important areas/challenges for Albania/GoA 3. However, a wide range of topics covered under each output area should be sharpened in terms of clear priorities and methodology of proposed interventions. 4. In two of the intervention areas (namely, a) Human capital development and social inclusion, b) Sustainable, resilient and green economic growth and resource management) German Development Cooperation is very active. Therefore we ask for close coordination in these areas to align our activities in these areas 5. It would enrich the document if activities and results achieved / currently implemented / planned by Albanian institutions be integrated in the results / resources framework to contextualize the planned UNDP interventions. 6. Some indicators of the “cooperation framework outcome” (first column) in the results framework are not clear (e.g. under Outcome 3/ Output 1: indicator for labor force participation: the target for female labor force is the same as the baseline (61.6%); Outcome 3/ Output 2: baseline should include other existing documents and line institutions e.g. IGEWE; Outcome 3/ Output 5: indicators 5.1./ 5.2./ 6.2. are rather broad and could be further specified. Also, for Outcome 3/ Output 1: In program priorities and partnerships it is mentioned that UNDP will focus on local level risk assessment, but in the results and priorities table the local level doesn’t seem to be prominent. | 1. & 2. Thank you, UNDP Albania appreciates the comment from Germany both on the CCA and on the CPD. 2. The comment is noted. Due to existing wording limitations associated with the document, the methodology of proposed interventions under each output cannot be further expanded, however the CO will further sharpen and detail them during CPD implementation. 3. The comment is noted. CO has been cooperating closely with the German Development Cooperation programmes in the two mentioned areas and this cooperation and coordination will be further enhanced during the future CPD implementation. 4. The comment is noted. Due to existing wording limitations associated with the document, the activities and results achieved or currently implemented/planned by Albanian institutions cannot be further included in the results and resources framework. The country office has very much taken these into consideration during the formulation of the CPD. 5. The comment is noted.   It should be noted that the indicators of the “cooperation framework outcome” (first column) are copied verbatim from the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (agreed between the United Nations and the Government of Albania) and hence the office cannot change them.  Outcome 3, Output 2: baseline and target of indicator 2.1 changed to:  *Baseline: New agency of civil protection in place, existing studies, and assessments on some risks*  *Target: Disaster Risk Management Strategy, National Civil Protection Plans and National Coordination Platform in place, as well as standard methodologies for local DRR strategies and civil protection developed and implemented in at least 7 municipalities. Advanced preparations for accession to the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism*  Outcome 3, Output 5, Indicator 5.1: the CPD has been edited to further specify a reference to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).  *Indicator 5.1: No. MSMEs benefiting from improved business advisory support; share of those led by women, youth.*  Outcome 3, Output 5, Indicator 5.2: we note the current broadness of the indicator. As there are currently no policy initiatives in place, these cannot be further specified.  Outcome 3, Output 6, Indicator 6.2: given the lack of existing innovative approaches, the office has amended the indicator to reference some of the approaches it will attempt to implement.  *Indicator 6.2: No. innovative approaches, including behavioural insights and design thinking, tested and scaled up with public and private institutions*  The comment on Outcome 3, Output 1: In program priorities and partnerships it is mentioned that UNDP will focus on local level risk assessment, but in the results and priorities table the local level doesn’t seem to be prominent. |
| **Comments by the United States of America** | **Response by Albania Country Office** |
| * We welcome the Albania Country Program Document for UNDP. * It would be helpful to highlight how UNDP programming has evolved in comparison with previous iterations of the Country Program Document in Albania. | * Thank you, UNDP Albania appreciates the comments from the United States. * Given the limitations associated with the number of words for the CPD, the inclusion of the answer to the comment cannot be fully provided in the CPD itself, but references have been added to paragraph 14. The full response is highlighted below.   The country programme document consolidates past CPD investments but also proposes new transformative areas. References to this can be found in paragraphs 6, 9 and 14, as well as throughout the document.  The Country Programme reflects the country's development priorities and is in full alignment with the Government of Albania NSDI and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, to which our Country Programme greatly contributes. In addition, it is aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan and contributes to different European Union acquis chapters.  The three areas of assistance that UNDP will pursue are reflected in four Outcomes.  The continuation of current programmes and their consolidation is an important factor in the new CPD. UNDP will consolidate work on local government and democracy, service delivery, institutional integrity and transparency, disaster risk reduction, support to the firefighting system, climate change and the Paris Agreement, protection of environment and protected areas, diversification and efficiency of the energy sector, social inclusion, economic recovery and employment, fighting gender-based violence and the education sector.  In addition, new transformative areas of green growth, blue economy, circular economy, digital transformation, and innovation will be spearheaded based on initial work already started in the past two years. A new and strong focus on innovation across all programme areas will be implemented.  Finally, the 2019 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, have heightened the need to amplify the areas of disaster risk management, and the socioeconomic impact of these events, particularly on vulnerable groups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, issues that have been embraced by the new programme.  The above will be undertaken through (a) technical expertise, offering integrated and cross-sectoral solutions, combining policy and regulatory advice with capacity development; (b) a strong and agile operational presence; (c) established multistakeholder partnerships on priorities for European Union accession and the Sustainable Development Goals; and (d) trusted relations with all institutions. |