

# donordialogue

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A Joint Effort of the Donor Technical Secretariat  
and the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination

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Photo: UNDAC team in Vora, March 2008 (Photo: UNDP Albania)

## Gërdec Tragedy: Support from donor community

### United Nations provides assistance in response to Gërdec tragedy

After the munitions explosion in Gërdec, the UN Country Team offered support to the Government through the services of a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. UNDAC experts arrived in country on 20 March 2008 to contribute to the assessment of the overall situation. They are evaluating the environmental impact of the explosion and providing co-ordination support for the Government.

They will also provide mid and long-term recommendations in their final report. UNDAC is a 'stand-by' team of disaster management professionals who are nominated and funded by member governments, the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and operational humanitarian United Nations Agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).



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Photo: With fundings from different donors, the Albanian Red Cross has delivered basic emergency food and non-food items in the Gerdec, Marqinet 1, and Marqinet 2 villages (Photo: USAID Abania).

## USAID Assists Albanians Displaced in Accidental Explosions

USAID provided \$50,000 to meet the immediate needs of citizens affected by the Gërdec explosions. The donation was given to the Albanian Red Cross in support of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Disaster Relief Emergency Fund. Assistance will be used for emergency basic food and non-food commodities and services for displaced families to be implemented over a three month period. Each family will receive: a) 5 blankets, 2 hygiene kits, 2 plastic sheeting, 8 pieces of soap, 2 kg washing powder, 1 kitchen set per family and b) 20 kg of flour, 3 kg of rice, 3 kg of sugar, 3 litres of vegetable oil, 5 kg of white beans. On 1 April 2008, USAID Mission Director, Edward T. Landau, and General Secretary of the Albanian Red Cross, Zamir Muça delivered packages to victims.

## Denmark supports Albanian Red Cross

The Danish Government approved an allocation of 40,000 Euros for immediate relief to the victims of Gërdec. Denmark decided to support through Albanian Red Cross who are already working on the needs for food and non-food items. Danish involvement is still taking place. Steffen Schmidt was also part of the UNDAC Delegation and Danish Church Aid is also assisting to organize two demining teams to secure an area of two square kilometres.

Photo: Ambassador of Denmark, Niels Severin Munk, and General Secretary of Albanian Red Cross, Zamir Muça, greet upon signing the contract (Photo: Embassy of Denmark)



## Switzerland's support to Gërdec Tragedy

Swiss Government is providing specialised medical support for patients with severe burns from the Gërdec explosions. Three persons with high degree burnings were evacuated for specialized treatment to University Hospitals in Lausanne and Zurich respectively. Two shipments with special medical supply for burn treatment were handed over by the Swiss

Cooperation Office to the Mother Theresa Hospital, and a third one is expected to arrive shortly. Swiss support amounts at CHF 500'000- and is focussed at three levels: Specialised medical support for victims with burns, Swiss expertise for soil analysis through HAZMAT team, and support to housing and rehabilitation of schools.

## Integrated Planning System (IPS)

### NSDI and Sector and Crosscutting Strategies:

The National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2007-2013, was approved by Council of Ministers on 12 March 2008. The NSDI is a national document that reflects Government priorities and requires a political consensus for its actual implementation. The NSDI was consulted with a broad audience of stakeholders, ranging from different levels of government, to members of parliament, civil society, academics, professional organisations, local government and donors. The NSDI is based on 35 sector and cross cutting strategies. The preparation of these strategies represents an important process because it engaged a large number of public officials and non government stakeholders. These strategies were approved by the working groups chaired by the Minister and consulted with the Advisory Groups representing non government stakeholders and donors. As of March 2008, 15 strategies were approved by the Council of Ministers, 9 have been completed and some of them have been discussed in the Strategic Planning Committee and are in the process of collecting opinions from line ministries before final Council of Ministers approval, 6 are in the process of consultation. Below is the latest list of the strategies and their status.

Sector strategies	Status
Agriculture and food	Completed
Economy	Approved
Energy	Completed
Basic education	Completed
Higher education	Completed
Finance	Approved
Social insurance	In process
Health	In process
Defence	Approved
Public order	Approved
Justice	Late
Foreign affairs	Completed
Employment	Approved
Social protection	Approved
Spatial planning	In process
Water	In process
Transport	Completed
Tourism	Completed
Culture	In process
Sport	Late
Statistics	Approved

Crosscutting strategies	Status
Decentralisation	Completed
Regional development	Approved
Rural development	Approved
ICT	Late
Property rights	Late
Organised crime	Completed
Integrated Border management	Approved
Social inclusion	Approved
Anti-corruption	Completed
Environment	Approved
Consumer protection	Approved
Gender equality	Approved
Youth	Approved
Public administration	Late

## External Assistance Orientation Document

After extensive consultations, the DSDC has continued to reflect donor comments in finalizing the first External Assistance Orientation Document (EAOD). The EAOD will shortly be sent to the SPC for approval before finally being published. It will provide the Government's views on the role of external assistance and the priorities for future external assistance, based on the NSDI. It identifies the ways in which Government will take on greater leadership on external assistance management and aims to assist donors in programming their assistance and in defining and managing projects. The document aims to assist in the budget process, to ensure that domestic investment and external assistance are co-ordinated. The DSDC will produce an EAOD report in December/January each year that will contribute to the early stages of the budget process and provide a focus for donor co-ordination.

## Monitoring the Paris Declaration

### 2008 DAC Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration

After consultations with donors and government representatives, the DAC National Co-ordinators (Director of the DSDC and General Treasury Director in the Ministry of Finance and Donor Focal Points (the DTS) completed the results of the 2008 Survey and finalised the first draft of the country report. The complete results of the survey were communicated to the High Level Forum (HLF) Secretariat that will be preparing the country chapter for Albania. To see the preliminary findings from the survey, please [click here](#).



**2008 Survey**  
On Monitoring the Paris Declaration  
Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

## Health

### Meeting of the Health Sector Working Group

The Health Sector Working Group met on 12 March 2008 as the Forum for Health Sector Collaboration with the International Partners. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Health, Nard Ndoka, who said that following an increased level of interest to better work together in line with the Paris Declaration, his Ministry, operational agencies and donors had agreed to create a forum to collect, analyse and disseminate health sector information in order to improve the response to the current challenges within the health sector. Participants were senior Ministry officials, directors of several health institutions, the Parliamentary Committee on Health, civil society organizations and the donor community. Topics discussed included information on the draft laws on health care and health care insurance as well as a presentation of an anti-corruption spot.

## Sector Related Activities



Photo 1. Inauguration of the rehabilitation works in Tirana Policlinics no. 2 and 3 (photo: Office for Italian Development Cooperation).

### Inauguration of rehabilitation works for the Policlinics no. 2 and 3 in Tirana

On 13 March 2008, an inauguration ceremony was held in Tirana to celebrate the starting of works aimed to rehabilitate the Tirana Policlinics No. 2 and 3. The event was attended by the Minister of Health, Nard Ndoka and by the Italian Ambassador, Saba D'Elia. It took place in the framework of an Italy funded programme, envisaging the restructuring

and equipment provision of 5 policlinics in Albania: the above mentioned in Tirana and three others in Korca, Gjirokastra and Peshkopi. The fund is composed of a 5 million Euros loan to the Government and an additional 110,000 Euros granted as technical assistance. Work in Tirana will conclude in January 2009. In Korca, the contractor responsible for the rehabilitation is going to be selected by the Ministry of Health according to the regular tender procedure. The planning for the rehabilitation of Gjirokastra and Peshkopi policlinics is currently underway.



Photo: Forum for Health Sector Collaboration with the International Partners held on 12 March 2008

**IHRFFA**  
International Human Rights  
Film Festival

# 3-rd Edition

## from 19 to 23 March 2008

### @ AFMM



#### HUMAN RIGHTS

##### **Third International Human Rights Film Festival takes place over Easter.**

On 19-23 March 2008, the Academy of Film and Multimedia "MARUBI" (AFMM) held the third International Human Rights Film Festival in Albania (IHRFFA). Encouraging debate on diversities and cultural tolerance and creating a network with domestic and international organisations and different human rights film festivals were among the aims of the event. A total of 28 documentary and fictional films from Canada, USA, Mexico, Japan, Sweden, Palestine, Belarus, France, Spain, UK, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Bulgaria, Rumania and Albania were screened during the Festival. The event was organised by the Executive Director of IHRFFA, well-known film director Kujtim Çashku, in co-operation with Theodore S. Orlin, Professor of Human Rights Scholarship and Advocacy at Utica College, New York. They were supported by a Selection Committee made up of national and international organisations: UNICEF, Albanian Media Institute, Albanian Helsinki Committee, the OSCE Presence, Utica College New York, MJAFT movement and several embassies.

##### **Theatre piece organised and performed by deaf children**

On 28 and 29 February 2008, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Italian Institute of Culture and the Italian NGO MAGIS, a theatre piece was performed in the Academy of Arts. Those who staged the event were some 30 children affected by disabilities, residing in the Albanian Institute for Deaf Children. This performance was part of the framework of an Italy-funded initiative, implemented by MAGIS, aimed at providing support and rehabilitation to deaf children. The Italian Development Co-operation has recently renewed its support to MAGIS, through funding a second project to the sum of 750,000 Euros to promote precocious diagnosis and facilitating deaf children's social integration.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

##### **European Union support's the Training Institute of Public Administration within the Ministry of Interior**

On 26 February 2008, the project entitled "Technical Assistance on Training Quality Systems in Albania" held its closing event. The main

objective of the EU funded assistance was to assist the Training Institute of Public Administration (TIPA) to develop methodologies for better training and management tools as well as for improving its standard training procedures. During the course of the 6 month project assistance, new methodologies were drafted and tested, guidance documents to develop and test systems to ensure the management of resources with maximum economy were prepared, and training systems were designed and tested. Although the direct beneficiary of the 200,000 Euro project was TIPA, the real beneficiaries of the improved training systems will be TIPA's clients - the central and local government administrations.

The project is one of several EU funded technical assistance projects in support of public administration reform. The ongoing support to this area exceeds 6 million Euros.

#### JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS

##### **USAID, First Instance Serious Crimes Court and Shkodra District Court Partner on Court Reforms**

In March 2008, USAID signed Memoranda of Understanding with the



» First Instance Serious Crimes Court in Tirana and the Shkodra District Court to support efforts to improve court performance, accountability and transparency. USAID will assist both courts until July 2010 to modernise the court's computerized systems for registration and maintenance of accurate trial records; to establish and improve case processing and delay reduction systems; and to increase transparency on court budget management. In the next two months, USAID will sign agreements with: the Appellate Courts of Tirana and Gjirokastra and the District Courts in Elbasan, Mat, Pogradec, Saranda, and Vlora.

**Italy provides new equipment to strengthen borders control**

On 10 March 2008, a ceremony took place in Tirana, delivering to national authorities the rummage Vehicle and Anti Drug Contraband Equipment, aimed to improve the effectiveness of the inspections at the Morin Border in Kukës. This initiative took place as part of the project Strengthening of Enhanced Border Control Capacities and Criminal Justice response Towards Illicit Trafficking and Organized Crime in Albania supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs–Development Co-operation through a 1 million USD fund, and implemented by UNODC.



Photo: The rummage vehicle donated to national authorities to foster border control capacities.

This three-year project (2006-2008) envisages the provision and delivery of modern equipment and technologies to improve inspection capacities at strategic Albanian borders, the organization of training courses for Customs and Border Police, as well as the elaboration of new specific procedures in the sector. The main areas covered by the initiative include the Albanian Eastern and Green border, with Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece. The event in Tirana was attended by the General Director of the Albanian Customs, Perparim Dervishi, the Director of Border Police, Pellumb Nako, the Italian Ambassador in Albania, Saba D'Elia and the UN Country Representative in Albania, Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett.

**URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Rehabilitation works in Tirana suburbs of Lapraka**

On 21 February 2008, a ceremony was held in Tirana, to celebrate the inauguration of the works aimed to rehabilitate and foster essential services in Lapraka (Tirana). This event took place in the framework of the programme Tirana Suburbs funded by the Italian Development Cooperation, through a 3 million Euros loan to the Government. The main aim is to improve living conditions through the rehabilitation or construction of local water supplies and sanitation, paving of roads and improvement of the electricity and telephone networks. Works are envisaged to be completed in one year.



Photo: Inauguration of the works to strengthen and rehabilitate essential services in Lapraka, Tirana (Photo: Office of the Italian Development Cooperation).



Photo: U.S. Ambassador John L. Withers, II meets with winners of USAID's "Greetings from Albania" postcard competition to promote tourism to Albania.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, Sokol Olldashi, the Minister of European Integration, Majlinda Bregu and the Ambassador of Italy in Albania, Saba D'Elia.

**TOURISM**

**USAID and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports promote tourism in Albania**

On 27 March 2008, winners of the 4th Greetings from Albania Postcard

Campaign were announced at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports. U.S. Ambassador, John L. Withers, II and Deputy Minister, Ekrem Spahia, congratulated the young artists on their participation. This is the fourth year that USAID has conducted this campaign that looks to tap children's artistic talents to help promote Albania as an attractive, inviting tourist destination. This year over 900 youth from 18 communities across Albania submitted drawings, paintings, and photographs. The winning postcards are used by the Albanian tourism industry in tourism events and the trade fairs across Europe

to promote the image of the country. This is one of the several initiatives to support Albania's tourism sector and help place Albania on the map of world tourism destinations. USAID aims to increase the competitive advantages of the Albanian tourism sector by offering technical assistance to individual businesses and organizing joint activities benefiting the entire industry.

**AGRICULTURE**

**Switzerland Supports the Programme on Food Safety Systems for Albania**

Switzerland and the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Programme to focus on providing support in food safety systems. The project between the Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO), the EUROFISH and the Ministry will focus on providing meetings with the relevant authorities for Food and Veterinary Inspection and officials from the fish processing industry in Albania; a workshop to cover the pre-requisite programme and the HACCP approach; and an evaluation



Photo: Switzerland and EUROFISH signed an agreement with the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection authorities on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points Programme.



» visit to selected companies to assess the progress made by workshop participants. SIPPO, EUROFISH and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will provide the international experts to implement the programme.

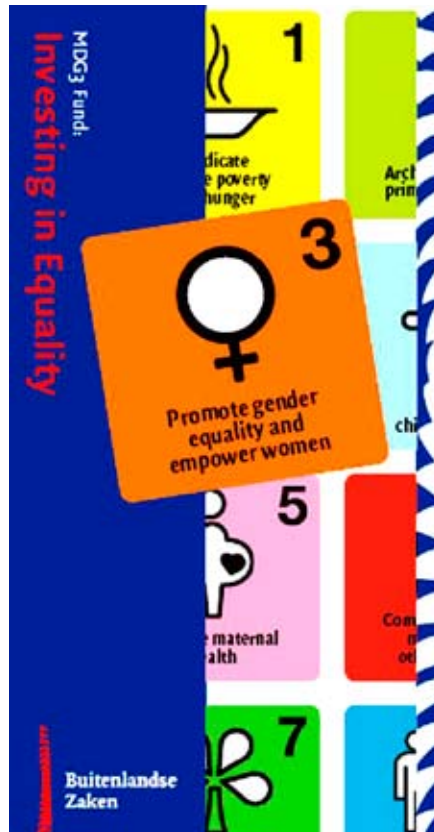
**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**New Funding opportunities from the Dutch government.**

The Dutch Government is providing grants to the Albanian NGO-s that work with women groups. The main aim of the fund is to support activities that lead to concrete results with regard to improved rights and opportunities for women. Applications are to be submitted from 15 March 2008 up to and including 14 May 2008. For more information, please visit the Embassy site: [www.mfa.nl/tir](http://www.mfa.nl/tir)

**World Bank to hold the first Albania -World Bank Conference on Development Economics**

The World Bank (WB) conference will be an annual event focusing on different development themes. This first conference will address aspects of Albania's growth and transition focusing on Labour market restructuring and the development of a competitive labour force in Albania. Some topics may include labour costs, taxation and informality agriculture, rural labour market trends and



competitiveness skills gap, education and training policies, financing basic services for a competitive labour force, poverty, unemployment and labour market analysis, social protection information society migration and small business issues. The event will include presentations and discussions of recent analytical work by the WB and also work by relevant local and regional government agencies, development partners, academic institutions, think tanks and NGOs. To find more about the conference and call for papers, please click [here](#).

**In-Country Missions**

The EU funded SIGMA Programme (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) has been asked by the European Commission to undertake assessments in specified areas of the administrative structure of candidate and potential candidate countries, including an assessment of the policy making and co-ordination processes and structures in Albania, administrative reform, aspects of public finance management and public procurement. To launch the assessment process, SIGMA teams visited in March and April 2008 and met with officials at the Council of Ministers, the Ministries of European Integration, Finance, Justice, and Economy, Trade and Energy, DSDC, the Public Procurement Agency, the External Audit Institution, the KESH, and the private sector. The assessment results will be considered by the European Commission (EC) in time for publication of the progress (annual) report.

A WB Supervision Mission for the Land Administration and Management Project took place from 18 to 24 March 2008. The aim was to review progress in the implementation of all components under the project from each implementing agency, with a focus on: the computerization of the Immovable Property Registration Office system.





**A WB Mission for the Proposed Second Development Policy Operation (DPO 2), Decentralization and Local Finance Rules**, visited country from 17 to 21 March 2008. The aim was to continue the dialogue on the preparation of the draft amendments to the legislations related to local finance rules in the context of DPO2. In addition to government officials, the mission met with local government, civil society organizations and donor community officials.

**A WB Mission for the Albania Country Economic Memorandum (CEM)-Trade Logistics** took place from 10 to 19 March 2008. The main aim was to explore trade issues in the context of the proposed Country Economic Memorandum (CEM), a report planned to look at growth priorities for Albania in the context of future EU accession.

**A WB Supervision Mission for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-up Project (APL-1)** took place from 10 to 20 March 2008 to improve the management and conservation of Albanian Coastal Resources. The mission reviewed all components under the ICZMP project, but focusing in particular on: (a) the possibility of working with the Ministry of Labour's NDIHMA EKONOMIKE programme to provide financial assistance; (b) establishing a mechanism to distinguish between primary and secondary residences in the southern coast; (c) progress towards the government approval of the South Coastal Development Programme and coastal regulations.

**A WB Supervision Mission for the Water Resource Management Project visited country from 10 to 20 March 2008.** The aim was to supervise the progress made since Mid-Term Review Mission in September 2007. The mission followed-up on the actions agreed upon in September and reviewed the workplan with the Government officials.

**A WB Pre-Appraisal Mission for the Proposed Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project** took place from 3 to 7 March 2008 to pre-appraise the

proposed project. The proposed project is a part of a Regional Programme that is being developed for South-eastern European countries and will include country-specific operations. The team discussed with the government issues like: the activities under the previously identified components; the implementation arrangements and flow of funds; the detailed costing of proposed project activities and assessed fiduciary aspects of the implementation ( financial management and procurement of the proposed operation.

From **2 to 7 March 2008**, a group of Italian experts visited to discuss the extension of the Italy-funded ART-GOLD programme, implemented by UNDP, aimed at facilitating and fostering the decentralization process. The current programme is funded through a 800,000 Euros grant, but further support is being negotiated, with the scope of widening the activities undertaken.

On **18 February 2008**, an Italian expert from the General Directorate

for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE/DGCS) arrived to provide support to the Project Implementation Unit in the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications responsible for implementing Italy-funded programmes in the water supply and sewage system sector. On 20 February 2008, the tender 'Water and Wastewater Network Repair' was launched that will last until 5 April 2008. The related documentation is posted on the Italian Development Cooperation website.

From **18 to 23 February 2008**, an Italian expert from the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE/DGCS) visited in order to conduct a preliminary assessment on a programme aimed at strengthening the capacities of national institutions responsible for food control and customer safety. This initiative is supported through a 2 million Euros fund and is going to be implemented by the WHO.

## donor*dialogue*

As of 1 April 2008, the EC will take the Chair of the DTS Secretariat from the WB.

Any comments regarding Donor Dialogue (both positive and negative) are strongly encouraged – and we promise to print all such comments received!

### Want to contribute?

If you would like to contribute, send your text to the Donor Technical Secretariat (DTS) Office ([nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al](mailto:nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al)) by the 1st of every month. An ideal word count for submissions is around 100 words.

### Frequency

Each edition will be sent to you on the 15th of every month.

### Who are the donors in Albania?

There are over 40 donors operating in Albania. To find out who they are please click [here](#).

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★  [ekongo@icc-al.org](mailto:ekongo@icc-al.org)