

World Vision   
ALBANIA

# IMPACT REPORT

Our National Impact Report 2021



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2021 was not an easy year on children, adolescents and their families in Albania or other parts of the world. Health, social and economic situation of families continued to be challenged significantly because of Covid-19 pandemic. As children, families, institutions and organizations strived to build resiliency and adapt, World Vision persistently

stayed by their side, impacting lives of thousands through humanitarian, development and advocacy interventions in 26 municipalities in the country. As a result of the organization's strategy review process in 2021, recognizing its strengths in the sector, World Vision Albania took the decision to focus on adolescent programming. This further narrowing of the organization's programmatic focus is expected to increase relevance, impact and sustainability of interventions in the future.

In all areas where it operates, World Vision Albania strengthened and consolidated the partnerships with local actors, especially municipalities, schools, employment offices and social services offices. World Vision initiated new partnerships as well from both national and local level, public and private sector, and we are grateful and hopeful about joining efforts together for wellbeing of children. World Vision's interventions in social protection and family empowerment through psychosocial and livelihood interventions were a significant part of our work in 2021. The organization implemented the social inclusion interventions for disadvantaged children and children with disabilities. At the national level, World

Vision was instrumental in promoting voices of youth in advocacy, and are proud of their input especially during the process of National Education Strategy.

I proudly acknowledge that all efforts of World Vision during 2021 strived towards respect for the values of our organization and contributed to end poverty, achieve quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and just institutions. There are many success stories of transformed lives to share. I leave you with the pages of this report, to get a deeper understanding of the achievements of the team and our joint efforts with partners. Regardless of the challenges, by the grace of God, World Vision Albania committed to instil the hope for children and communities in 2021 and the journey continues.

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*Eljona Boçe Elmazi*  
*National Director*  
*World Vision Albania*

# Impact Report 2021 - Foreword







## Child Well-being – Our National Impact 2021

World Vision Albania (WVA) has focused on actions that improve the well-being of children through four main sectors: 1) child protection; 2) education and life skills; 3) emergency response; and 4) livelihood and resilience. Strategy review in 2021 emphasised even more the actual and future focus on continuing to deepen the work with children and adolescents for the coming years.

During 2021, WVA worked in 26 municipalities<sup>1</sup> in Albania and one in Montenegro, reaching more than 62,000 children and over 47,000 adults. Highlights of our contribution in all four sectors are in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

### Contribution to Goal 1: End Poverty

WVA work during 2021 continued to contribute to the demotion of poverty among urban and rural communities in Albania; with interventions focused on support; to families with food and non-food items, income generation activities, capacity building and child wellbeing monitoring.

WVA staff and partners continued their engagement

1. Berat, Belsh, Bulqizë, Cërrik, Dibër, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gramsh, Kamëz, Kavajë, Krujë, Korçë, Kukës, Kurbin, Lezhë, Librazhd, Lushnjë, Maliq, Mirditë, Përrenjas, Pukë, Rogozhinë, Shkodër, Tiranë, Ulqin (Montenegro), and Vlorë.

with 21,796 children in nearly 180 communities in Albania with ongoing monitoring to ensure they live within the minimum standards of well-being. Children and their families are regularly and actively engaged in activities, organized in groups, and benefit from WVA program interventions. During 2021, WV team identified 888 children with medical needs and 25 others dropping out of school. These cases were referred to the responsible institutions. WVA provided necessary and urgent medical assistance to 548 children across the country. Over 12,000 children celebrated their birthdays and were engaged in activities that promoted healthy nutrition and education. In addition, 1,669 children aged 5 – 15 years old benefitted from summer activities. WVA offered these summer programs organized in close collaboration with 18 local churches and faith-based organizations.

Given the increasing vulnerabilities because of the COVID-19 pandemic, support was provided to 700 economically disadvantaged families of children with disabilities through the European Union grant "Inclusive COVID-19 response for children with disabilities and their families in Albania".<sup>2</sup> The support included: 374

2. "Inclusive COVID-19 response for children with disabilities and their families in Albania", a 12-month project funded by the European Union (EU) Delegation implemented by World Vision Albania and 11 organizations to support the social inclusion of 701 children with disabilities aged 3 – 18 years old and their families in the context of the COVID-19 emergency. The project was implemented in 14 municipalities: Berat,

families provided with food packages, 100 families were provided cash assistance, 88 families were provided medicines and health related assistance, 85 families were provided with agriculture inputs, equipment, and seedlings, 27 of them provided with house furniture/equipment, and 26 of them were supported with needed therapeutic equipment for their children with disabilities. Through the BMZ-funded “REINVEST II” project<sup>3</sup>, 472 returnees’ families were provided food packages, medications, and shelter assistance. Although being three months, the UK awarded project in Lezha promoted resilience and mental wellbeing activities for children and adolescent. In collaboration with the Social Service office of Lezha Municipality identified and supported 100 poor families with food and hygiene packages. The project reached a total of 1,114 beneficiaries directly involved and increased resilience skills to respond and cope with disasters.

In 2021, through the implementation of Building Secure Livelihood program, funded by the core funding from WV support offices, 1,308 families in six municipalities (Dibër, Kurbin, Maliq, Librazhd and Përrenjas) benefited from the direct support with agricultural and farming equipment, and offered knowledge and skills. As a result, 556 farmers built their capacities in improved and sustainable agriculture techniques, as well as natural resource management. More than 800 farmers’ families were directly supported with agricultural equipment, agricultural inputs and facilities; and seedlings. This support<sup>4</sup> came as a result of our

Bulqizë, Dibër, Durrës, Elbasan, Kamëz, Korçë, Kurbin, Lezhë, Librazhd, Maliq, Përrenjas, Shkodër, and Tiranë.

3. “Returnees reintegrate and reinvest within country”, a grant awarded project supported by the BMZ’s Program “Returning to New Opportunities”. The project was implemented in partnership between World Vision Albania, and Foundation “Spirit of Love”- Diakonia Agapes (FSoLDA), in 10 municipalities: Belsh, Cërrik, Kamëz, Korçë, Kurbin, Maliq, Mirditë, Përrenjas, Tiranë, and Vlorë.

4. Support consisted in: nearly 250 quintals of fertilizers; 8,850 seedlings of nuts, walnuts, apples, plums, etc.; sprinkler

assistance provided to farmers in assessing their needs and helping them preparing development plans, improving approaches, techniques, to develop their product(s) potential in order to better access the market.

In 2021, as a continuation of the WVA earthquake response<sup>5</sup>, through a fruitful collaboration with Global Albanian Foundation (GFA) 50 farmers’ families in Kurbin area, were provided support with agricultural and farming equipment (milking machines, irrigation pumps, etc.) in order to improve the quality of their products. In addition, 65 families of the administrative units of Krujë municipality (Bubq, Fushë Krujë, and Thumanë) after a thorough needs assessment<sup>6</sup>, were supported with food packages under the project<sup>7</sup> supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Albania and implemented by WVA.

### Contribution to Goal 4: Quality Education

Inclusive and quality education for children and adolescents is one of the ways to achieve sustainable development. This includes non-formal education,

pumps; spray pumps; irrigation pumps; artisan wells; watering cans; honey electric centrifuge; beehives; grape juicers; lawn mowers; olive pressers; plastic crates; bean harvesting equipment; packaging bags, etc.

5. November 26, 2019 Earthquake.

6. The process of data collection conducted from November 23rd – December 8th 2021, and included 288 participants, who were contacted and surveyed. Local stakeholders from local authorities of the administrative units of Bubq, Fushë Krujë and Thumanë, provided support in the initial steps of the process by providing names and contacts (addresses and telephone numbers), as per their records in their social and economic offices. The process and its respective report were led by WVA (project manager and dedicated M&E staff).

7. Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE) - Building secure livelihoods, psychosocial support for affected households in Kruja.

training teachers and education practitioners, and interventions in infrastructure – all of which contributes to social accountability as reflected in SDG 4.

In 2021, WVA worked with 98 IMPACT clubs, engaging 1,440 children and adolescents (896 females and 544 males), and 140 adult volunteers who were IMPACT Club leaders. Using an experiential learning approach, volunteers led children and adolescents through a life skills curriculum aimed at increasing active citizenship and promoting self-efficacy among young people as active participants in their communities.

A total of 148 community service-learning initiatives were implemented by children and adolescents, outreaching 17,600 other peers and members in communities across Albania. Through sports activities, art, reading and contact with nature, youth addressed key data from the “Act Now – How a Global Pandemic is Changing the Lives of Children in Albania and Kosovo” report, and promoted the importance of the mental wellbeing among peers.

The Youth Festival 2021 (#ACT4IMPACT), organized by WVA and the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) was actively led by 40 children and adolescents. They brought key messages in regard to their actual and future perspective being affected by a pandemic emergency in social and economic aspects. They posed their demands to high local level representatives from municipalities and to representatives such as: The Minister of State for Youth and Children, the Minister of State for Innovation and Protection of Entrepreneurship, representative from the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoESY), the MoES, the representative from European Union (EU) Delegation in Albania, the representative from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Albania, representative from Balfin Group, etc.

As the National Education Strategy (2021 – 2026)



was finalized during 2021, WVA supported the active engagement of 30 adolescents in the consultative session. Out of an overall of 20, three<sup>8</sup> recommendations they provided, were included and will be budgeted during the Project Budget Process 2022- 2024 led by the MoES in 2022; targeting four strategic pillars: 1) Inclusive education; 2) Teacher's capacities; 3) Lifelong learning; and 4) Digitalization. Furthermore, seven specific recommendations out of 11 submitted by WVA in the process of consultation of the new National Education Strategy 2021- 2026 were included by the Ministry of Education and Sports in the final strategy document.

This year 152 teachers, support teachers, psycho-social staff in schools were provided with mentoring and coaching on inclusive education practices to be implemented within the Development Spaces. Prior to provide this support they were engaged to identify key challenges from real life situations in their schools and building upon those the mentoring and training curriculum. Another crucial moment was the continuance of the Community of Practice (CoP) events, a place for education practitioners to learn and share experiences. This year, 15 dedicated CoPs were organized with the participation of 202 education professionals, identifying challenges faced and how to mitigate them through possible solutions among local stakeholders in local and regional level.

During 2021, 128 children with disabilities and 27 parents were directly involved in 9,457 specific services within the Development Spaces<sup>9</sup>. The service focused on: 1) working on Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) (4,411 sessions); 2) providing specific therapy to support the

8. Ibid: Three key data regarding mental health challenges, challenges of online learning and increased violence during the lockdown.

9. 13 Development Spaces: 2 in Dibër, 2 in Kamëz, 1 in Korçë 2 in Kurbin, 2 in Lezhë, 1 in Maliq, 1 in Përrenjas, 1 in Shkodër, and 1 in Tirana.

development aspect of IEPs (2,935 sessions); 3) giving individual support to children and their parents (1,206 sessions); 4) using the Development Space as a calming space for children (741 sessions); and 5) providing space for psycho-educational activities (164 sessions).

At the beginning of the year, the annual mini-grant process to improve poor school infrastructure took place. 23 mini-grants were awarded to ensure inclusive and accessible standards for all children in schools. In 30 schools of nine municipalities<sup>10</sup>, 13,888 children benefited from the improved standards. This year, more schools were included and supported under the framework of the project "Building resilience and preparedness skills through Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and school community engagement" financed by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and implemented by WVA in the municipalities of Durrës, Kamëz, Kurbin, and Lezhë, focusing on increasing school Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience. As a result of this support, 14 schools undertook awareness raising on school related policies standards, having a special focus DRR increase and resilience; and nine schools undertook infrastructure and rehabilitation standards related initiatives.

In addition, 12 micro-projects funded by core funding from WV support offices,<sup>11</sup> were implemented through the mobilization and engagement of community members (parents, teachers, and other members) in initiatives that focus on child-wellbeing and education related matters. As a result, 6,280 children from remote and rural areas of Dibër, Shkodër, Durrës,

10. Durrës, Dibër, Kamëz, Korçë, Kurbin, Lezhë, Librazhd, Shkodër, and Përrenjas.

11. Micro projects are short term, low cost projects that contribute to child well-being and build the capacity of local groups, but are not part of an existing technical project. They are planned, implemented and monitored by community groups or partners in a way that builds their capacity and confidence.

Kamëz, Korçë, Librazhd and Shkodër, benefitted from awareness raising initiatives that improved parents' role in their children's education, settings for arts and music classes, child - led initiatives within school environment, and one bridge reconstruction (in Dibër) for easing the distance of children to go to school.

## Contribution to Goal 5: Gender Equality

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion is recognized as one of the main drivers in addressing children's vulnerability in all contexts. With the intention to increase the focus on gender-responsive programmes that respond to the strategic needs of women, WVA was part of the "Empowered Women Empowered Children"<sup>12</sup> in May 2021, a mixed method design regional research that examined the relationship between women's empowerment and the well-being of children in Albania. This research aimed to better understand the connection between mother's and children's well-being and holistically address both in actual and the near future potential programming interventions. The research found that mothers with the satisfactory mental well-being have children with positive self-esteem, better attitudes towards learning and high overall resilience. Children's resilience was also affected by women's sexism - mothers with sexist attitudes had children with lower resilience. Women who can take decisions at the household level also have children with positive attitudes towards learning. Most

12. The research explores women empowerment and children well-being factors in Albania and looks at how women's socio-demographic factors and empowerment components are associated with children's well-being. For this purpose, a cross-sectional observation design was developed with the application of a proportional random sampling approach. The research targeted 464 World Vision beneficiary children, aged 11-17 living in structured families and their respective mothers. The survey results are complemented with 20 KIIs with mothers, 10 KIIs with girls and 10 KIIs with boys. The research study is to be launched during 2022.

importantly, mothers with the decision-making power and control over household's assets, who do not accept gender-based violence (GBV) and are free from GBV themselves also were more likely to protect their children from violence. Women's exposure to GBV also affected their children's mental well-being. Finally, women's mental well-being was strongly associated with their children's mental well-being, and their spiritual well-being was connected with their children's spiritual state.

During 2021, 584 parents were provided practical and comprehensive knowledge and skills in regard to positive parenting, through "Celebrating Families" (CF) module. The model enfolded an effective approach in empowering parents/caregivers to create a safe and nurturing environment for children's spiritual nurture within families. The practical sessions equip husbands and wives with knowledge and skills how to openly communicate, learn to act as a couple, in order to appropriately improve their parenting and caregiver behaviours in an equal and shared understanding of their roles in confront to child rearing as per life-stages.

Our programmatic interventions for 2021, through daily and weekly activities included 1,566 women, 1,206 men; 1,064 girls and 735 boys.

### Contribution to Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

WVA work during 2021 promoted sustained, and inclusive economic growth for families, and productive employment and decent work for all, especially amongst youth, and returnees.

In all 10 municipalities of the BMZ-funded REINVEST II project, 243 of returnees' children up to the age of 19 years old had the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills as well as be entertained. To support integration through psychosocial activities, WVA engaged 19

teachers who provided catch-up classes (subjects of mathematics and Albanian language) to 140 children.

Under the economic empowerment component of REINVEST II project, the following were achieved:

- 110 returnees were supported with theoretical knowledge regarding how to run a business.
- 87 returnees (on an average of eight per 10 municipalities) were supported either with opening or improving a start-up business, where: 51 pertained to farming/ agriculture, 19 to small trade, and 17 to services.
- 38 returnees have been referred to the employment offices or professional course. 10 of them referred to the local businesses for employment, the other 28 referred to attend professional courses they were interested, to increase their knowledge and skills.

The EU-funded project "Pathways to Career Development (PCD): Preparing Albanian and Montenegrin Youth for Career Opportunities in the Tourism Sector" aims to increase capacities and economic opportunities of youth in Shkodra and Ulcinj, contributing in higher chances for them to be competitive in the local and regional labour market. The following are the project's highlight for 2021:

- 130 youth were equipped with soft skills set of trainings acquiring new knowledge on interpersonal skills and how it can help them as future employees in the job market.
- 47 youth were supported to promote their respective cities in cross-border events organized, through touristic brochures they prepared themselves, and also had the chance to present their work to 12 local businesses (either in Shkodër or Ulcinj) and to community members.
- 50 youth (33 females and 17 males) were engaged in 26 local businesses from June – August in profiles

like: receptionist, waiter, boutique saleswoman, kitchen helper, etc.

### Contribution to Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Within the framework of the EU-funded project "Inclusive COVID-19 response for children with disabilities and their families in Albania", WVA as the lead implementer signed agreements with six sub-grantees, civil society organizations (CSOs)<sup>13</sup> which work is focused on disability, social inclusion and advocacy. This modality provided enriched and combined support with psycho-social aid, child development methods and legal aid service to all 700 families of children with disabilities. The measures offered included: a) specialized needs assessment for social and psychological support; b) coaching sessions on the importance of Individual Education Plans (IEPs); c) capacity building activities<sup>14</sup> for local staffs (service providers) in regard to disability needs and how to work with families; and d) increase knowledge on disability issues, rights, and mobilize parents in formal and informal groups to advocate and lobby for their children's rights.

The project included as well the mapping of specialized services accessible online in <http://www.platforma-pak.al/><sup>15</sup> for the 14 Municipalities and promoted best

13. Down Syndrome Albania (DSA), the Foundation Together Albania (FTA), the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF), Defending the Rights of People with Disabilities (MEDPAK), the National Association of Deaf People (ANAD), and Help the Life Foundation.

14. These activities included these topics: how to work directly with children with disability (individually and in a group), how to access the child, how to manage the problematic behaviors of children with disability, positive discipline, principles of individual therapy, etc.

15. In January 2020, we launched Albanian's first space dedicated to increase the knowledge and capacity of

practices of service provision nationally. This initiative intended to strengthen people with disabilities access to justice, through receiving primary legal aid services, including information on the legal system in the country, normative acts in force, rights and obligations of legal entities, legal counselling on specific cases, as well as provision of assistance in the drafting of legal documents. Information and orientation to the available services, including the situation created by COVID-19, had an impact of children with disabilities and their families' access to these services, thus contributing to overall improvement of their quality of life. Four explanatory toolkits and guides on disability legislation, were produced and included in the platform, to ensure that persons with disabilities and their family members understand the rights and benefits guaranteed by the law.

### Contribution to Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

As part of the "It Takes a World to End Violence against Children" (ITAW) campaign, WVA continued the work to strengthen child protection systems and approaches within the communities we serve. Three massive awareness raising activities were organized in Durrës, Korçë, and Shkodër reaching almost 3,000 direct beneficiaries and a greater number of other individuals via other platforms such as social media, television, articles etc. These events served a three-folded purpose:

1. Introduce visitors to different forms of violence against children and adolescents and

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staff institutions, civil society organizations, people with disabilities as well as society as a whole on issues of disability and equality. This platform was made available as a result of EU-funded project, 'Increasing Civil Society Organizations' Capacities for Mainstreaming Rights of People with Disabilities in Albania, which was implemented by WVA in partnership with the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) and the Association of Protection of Disability Rights (MEDPAK),

- its consequences on the rise of the child,
2. Raise awareness in an interactive way on the impact of physical and psychological violence against children and adolescents,
3. Call on national and local authorities to increase services, which address and respond to the issue of violence against children.

In the launching events in three municipalities, representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP), from Ministry of Education and Sport (MoES), partner non-government Agencies, as well as the Mayors of respective Municipalities, other national and local partners and Agencies participated. Children and young people, representative of IMPACT Clubs were also part of the launching events and called on government authorities, parents, community members, teachers and all members of the society to contribute towards ending violence against children.

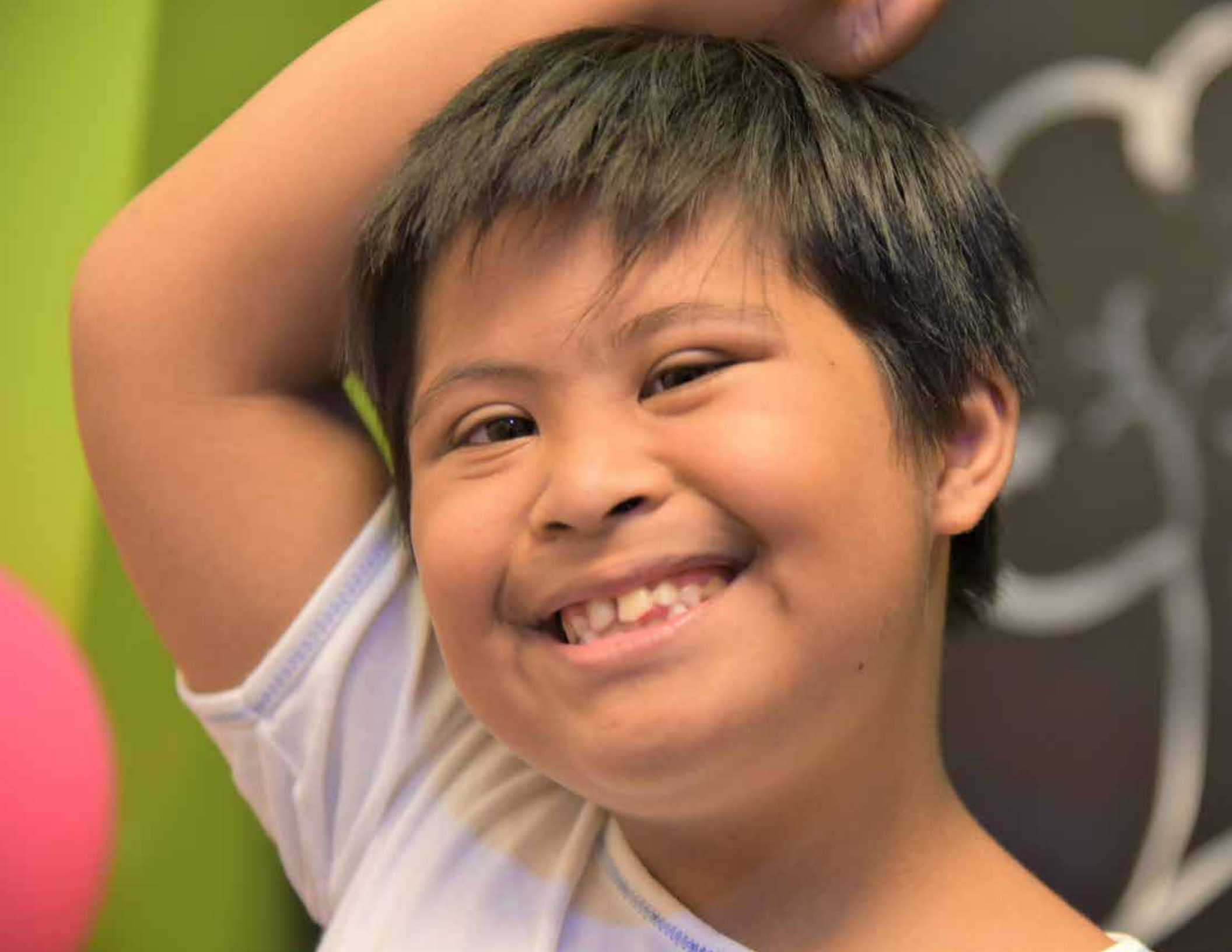
During 2021, WVA continued work and strengthened efforts through advocating to improve the effectiveness of social and protection system, structures and services – from local to national levels. WVA has been invited in giving input during the drafting process of key strategic documents.

WVA was engaged in the consultation process of children for the new Agenda on Children's Rights 2021-2026. The process was led by the MoHSP, and carried out in collaboration with partner organizations: Terre des Hommes and Save the Children. Children from Kurbin, Kamëz, Korça and Librazhd (78 boys and girls) shared their thoughts and recommendations regarding the new Agenda. The outcomes of the consultation process were also shared with the MoHSP in a separate report and the outcomes were also integral part of the final National Agenda document. The National Agenda on Children's Rights was endorsed by the Government of Albania (GoA) in November 2021.

Building upon two key processes (the new EU Strategy on Children's Rights and the National Agenda on Children's Rights) for which WVA supported children in providing their feedback and recommendations, a follow up child-led event was organized in November 2021. On the occasion of the International Children's Day, WVA together with partners, such as the offices of UNICEF, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes in Albania have supported children and young people in organizing a child-led event in Tirana. The event aimed to give voice to the concerns and issues that children and young people raise in respect to the implementation of their rights, as well as to better harmonize Albania's efforts towards the implementation of European Union standards for protection and promotion of children's rights. This activity, which was organized under the special care of the European Union Delegation to Albania, brought together: children and young people, representatives of the EU Delegation, decision-making and law enforcement institutions in Albania, civil society organizations and international agencies and was a follow up process to build upon the consultation process of the new European Union Child Rights Strategy. Beyond informing all stakeholders about the situation of children's rights today in our country, seen from children's own perspective, the activity served also to seek accountability of national and international authorities on how they will respond to children and young people's issues and challenges.

Whereas, in regard to strengthening of local structures and services, we provided support together with Intersectional Technical Groups at local level, to 234 children in need for protection. The support provided consisted in: technical support, material support, shelter, food, psychosocial services, etc.





## Tungjatjeta...Jetë!

The Tungjatjeta...Jetë (Hello...Life!) community mobile service continued to provide in-home services for 211 children with disabilities and 258 parents/ caregivers, in the municipalities of Dibër, Bulqizë, Lezhë, Librazhd, Përrenjas, and Rrogozhina. The services are made available as a result of the core funding from WV support offices, the UNDP in Albania, the Social Fund from the MoHSP, awarded to municipalities applying with the WVA's program Hello...Life! During this year were conducted: 2,244 developmental therapy sessions, 2,545 speech therapy sessions, 2,542 physiotherapy sessions, 98 biopsychosocial evaluations, 77 development plans, 16 psychosocial counselling sessions, etc. Other types of services included assessment and re-assessment related to health conditions and other support necessary for children with disabilities. Specific services (662) were coordinated and provided in the community centres when the children were able to transition from at home towards accessing services in the community centre and a total of 110 sessions have been school visit support service for those children who were able to attend school during the year.

WVA was invited at the request of the MoHSP to initiate the process of designing the standards and protocols for the mobile units that offer specialized services at home for children with disabilities in Albania. This process is being done for the first time, and every step is being consulted with the mobile teams as the direct service providers, social services directorates in the municipalities and families of children with disabilities part of Hello...Life! throughout the year. The process will be finalized in 2022 with the formal endorsement of the standards by the MoHSP, which will create specialized home-based and integrated services in local level for children with disabilities in rural and remote areas of Albania.

## Children's City in Korçë

For the third year, in a partnership with the Korçë municipality, WVA continued to administer the services offered in the Children's City, the largest centre in the region to offer a variety of activities for children and youth between the ages of 3 and 14 years old. The centre is specifically designed for social, sports, and cultural events for children and adults. In 2021, 5,110 children visited the centre, and 4,613 of them participated at least in one of the 771 activities organized there. In addition, several local projects were undertaken in collaboration with local partners, choosing Children's City as their destination for activities that focus on children.

## Emergency Centres in Dibër and Durrës

Work continued in centres for Protective, Empowerment and Emergency Services to help children and families in Dibër and Durrës municipalities.

The centres promote a model of services within the National Reform for Social Services and Social Protection Strategy. Their focus is protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, targeting high-risk children and their families in vulnerable situations. The facilities provide a complete package of efficient protective, empowerment, and emergency services, in accordance with current legislation as well as complex needs, while adhering to the operating standards and protocols for such service as developed and implemented together with our partners. In both municipalities, WVA partners with local organizations (in the case of Diber) or with municipal stakeholders (in the case of Durres) for providing adequate protection services based on the specific needs of survivors. In 2021, the Minister of Health and Social Protection, the Deputy Minister of MoESY, and the Mayor paid special visits

in the centre in Durrës. During these visits they had opportunity to discuss and hear from beneficiaries how supportive these services are, especially to unprotected and vulnerable women and children being in need. The centre's services and work, was introduced as well in a special meeting called by the Durrës Regional Anti-Trafficking Committee and to the Regional Public Health Directorate, highlighting the importance of early identification and detection of domestic violence victims, trafficking victims, etc.

In Dibër 10 cases of domestic violence were fully managed: three of them children and seven adults. These cases were referred by local institutions that are members of the referral mechanism, such as the Social Services of Dibër municipality, State Social Service, and the Regional Police Directorate. The member institutions involved managed as per responsibility they hold all cases aiming their reintegration after leaving the centre.

Meanwhile in Durrës, the following were achieved:

- 45 children and 21 parents (females) in high-risk situations, mostly victims of domestic violence were provided protection, safe accommodation, transportation, food, clothing, hygienic-sanitary, medical care as well as psychological support.
- 40 children from families in poor economic condition participated in the summer camp "Invitation for Celebration", organized by the centre. The program included a set of educational and entertainment activities aiming to enable these children to spend quality time during the summer season.
- 112 children participated in several awareness raising activities on children's rights as well as to increase their knowledge on legislation and institutions responsible for child protection.



World Vision

## Our COVID-19 RESPONSE

For the second year, WVA responded to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on Albanian families by reaching approximately 56,526 beneficiaries, including 28,489 children, in 24 municipalities<sup>16</sup> across the country.

Under the global response<sup>17</sup>, WVA designed and implemented an evidence-based emergency response aimed at helping Albanian families build resilience while reducing the impact of COVID-19 on their children and communities. Our interventions integrated activities that primarily addressed and responded to the communities' needs affected by the pandemic consequences.

16. Berat, Bulqizë, Dibër, Durrës, Elbasan, Gjirokastër, Kamëz, Korçë, Kurbin, Lezhë, Librazhd, Maliq, Mallakastër, Mat, Memaliaj, Mirëdita, Patos, Përrenjas, Pukë, Shkodër, Skrapar, Tiranë, Vau i Dejës and Vlorë.

17. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic and within hours, World Vision launched the largest emergency response in our 70-year history. WVA too, this global emergency response. Working closely and together with government, partners, supporters, and communities, WVA designed and implemented for two years an evidence-based emergency response aimed at helping Albanian families build resilience while reducing the impact of COVID-19 on their children and communities.

### COVID-19 Emergency Response Highlights

Our interventions focused on education, child protection, and livelihood with the following objectives and results:

#### Scale up preventative measures to limit the spread of disease

- **48,154 individuals** estimated indirect recipients reached with preventive behaviour messaging on COVID-19 through the social media (WVA's platforms).
- **26,803 individuals**, including **16,152 children** supported with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).
- **21,442 hand washing supplies** distributed.
- **17,937 comprehensive hygiene kits** distributed.

#### Strengthen health systems and workers

- **2,456 health workers** supported with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

- **147,783 face masks** distributed to health facilities, Community Health Workers (CHW), and caregivers.
- **37,280 glove sets** distributed to health facilities, CHW, and caregivers.

#### Support for children affected by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food security, and livelihoods

- **2,104 education materials** distributed to enable and support remote learning.
- **323 people**, including **30 children**, received sets of materials to do psychological activities at home, as well as supported with psycho-social support.
- **503 people**, including **236 children**, reached with CASH in hand assistance.
- **21,144 people**, including **10,575 children**, reached with food security assistance/packages.
- **284 families** (HHs) provided with livelihoods trainings.
- **2,718 people** provided with livelihoods assets including fertilizers, seeds, seedlings, poultry, bees, goats, and more.



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30  
children

received sets of  
materials to do  
psychosocial activities  
at home

503  
people,  
including

236  
children,  
reached with CASH  
in hand assistance



21,144  
people,  
including

10,575  
children,  
reached with food  
security assistance/  
packages

2,718  
people  
provided livelihoods  
assets including  
fertilizers, seeds,  
seedlings, poultry,  
bees, goats, and  
more.







## We are **World Vision**

World Vision (WV) made a firm promise to the world's most vulnerable children as expressed in [Our Promise](#) Global Partnership Strategy. This was a promise to implement humanitarian, development, and advocacy actions at every level so that no child, especially the most vulnerable ones in Albania, is left behind and prevented from reaching the God-given potential. In Albania, this promise was kept by reaching over 62,000 children, especially the most vulnerable of the country, through the work of a motivated team and partnerships. This report will attempt to capture the contribution made to the children and communities of Albania.

### **We value and invest in people**

During 2021, WVA has had an average of 156 employees (and interns) and around 76 volunteers working and serving to the communities across Albania. The organization emphasizes the staff development by engaging them in learning programs and activities, and promoting them in new positions, more challenging, dynamic and complex roles. There have been 24 recruitment processes during this year out of which 13 were interns. During 2021, WVA has designed and promoted an appropriate young talents schemes, thus increasing opportunities through Internship Programs. The internal employee engagement survey conducted in March 2021 showed that among things staff appreciated the most were the commitment of

senior leadership team in diversity and inclusion, the opportunity to report unethical practices or grievances without fear of reprisal, and the attention to safety and security. The greatest improvements of scores from 2020 survey were regarding living out WV Christian identity and commitment, adopting good ideas regardless where they come from, and in the work done to minimize or eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy.

### **We are stewards of resources and strive for efficiency**

World Vision Albania has internal auditing system and standards, as well as undergoes annual external auditing. Audit of the financial statements and the financial activity for the reporting period 01 January 2021- 31 December 2021 is under process from the company Crowe.al shpk, member of Crowe International, to assure that financial activity and financial statements of World Vision Albania are prepared in accordance with National Accounting Standards applicable for NGO and relevant accounting legal principles applicable in Albania.

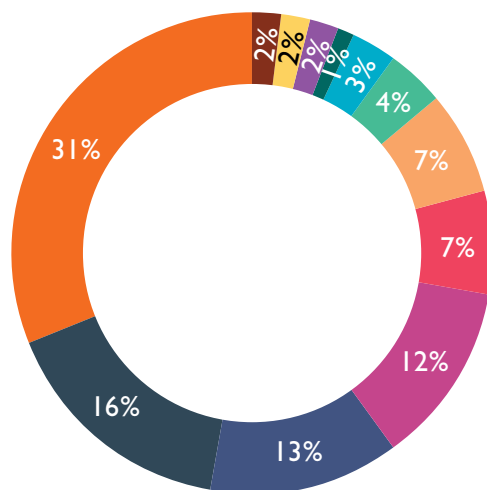
World Vision's ability to serve and improve the lives of the most vulnerable children is dependent on our ability to obtain the necessary resources, goods and services, required to respond to the needs of children and their communities. When these resources are efficiently acquired at the lowest "total cost of



ownership,” with transparency and sustainability, it has a significant impact on our ability to reach the WV Partnership’s goal to improve the well-being of children in our communities. Our supply chain management team relies on a procurement manual that equips them with clear policies and detailed procedures so they can improve procurement processes, increase visibility, and demonstrate accountability. This results in greater savings and quick reactions to changing needs.

During 2021, in the middle of global supply chain disruption, with effective strategic sourcing we were able to achieve:

- Over 2,500 suppliers invited for collaboration
- Over 750 suppliers/service providers engaged in financial transactions
- 143 Tenders conducted
- 40 Consultancy and service contracts signed
- 58 Long-term Agreements signed
- 9 Single sources provided



Below are the top 12 expense categories in 2021 based on programmatic need and emergent interventions:

### Community Feedback and Compliance Mechanism

In 2021, WVA the Community Feedback and Response Mechanism increased transparency, provided empowerment, program improvement, and improved our monitoring and evaluation system. This mechanism provides a way for children, families and community members who benefit from every intervention that WVA implements through grants and programs but not limited to, for easily raising: i) questions, ii) suggestions, iii) requests, iv) concerns and any v) complains about activities World Vision conducts, and the organization itself. It is a system that enables action to be taken as well as informing communities about what has been done. The dedicated communication channels include: 1) dedicated phone line (+355 68 40 75 263), 2) dedicated email address ([llogaridhenia@wvi.org](mailto:llogaridhenia@wvi.org)),

- Construction materials
- Office and school Furniture
- Educational events and marketing
- Video production
- Promotional materials
- Consultancies
- IT and digital equipment
- Hotel and venue
- Education materials
- Office and school supplies
- Agriculture machineries and agriculture inputs
- Food and Hygienic Items

3) Area Program/ National Office level suggestion’s boxes and 4) face to face meetings with WVA employees, inters and volunteers. In less than five months, nearly 50 cases contacted us and expressed their request for help and support, be that material or economic support, such as: foods, clothes, employment opportunities, etc. All cases, were referred and addressed solutions as per typology of issue presented.

### Our Advisory Council

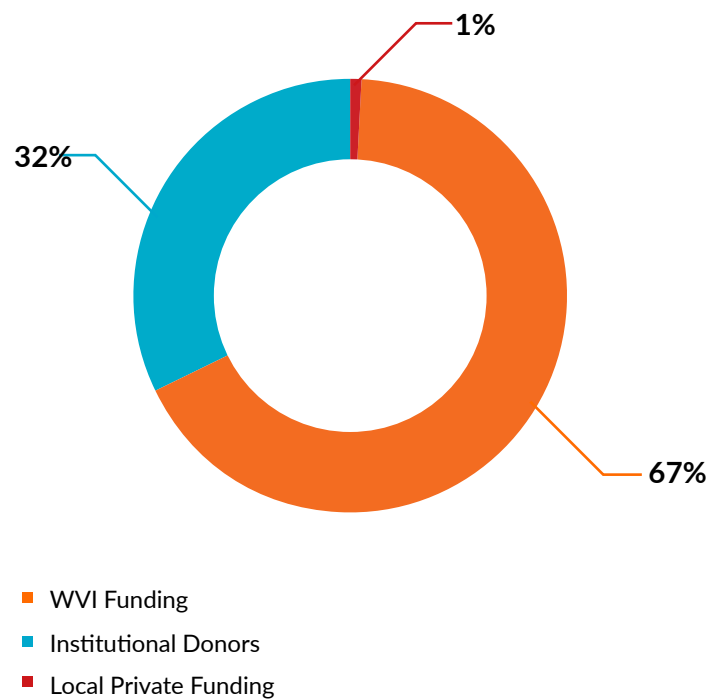
To make certain that we always maintain excellent governing discipline and accountability, in addition to the Board of the foundation, WVA has an Advisory Council whose primary role is to advise on, support and promote WVA work. The current Advisory Council members are Mr. Elidion Lilo – Chairman of the Advisory Board, Ms. Eleanor Monbiot – WV Middle East and Eastern Europe Region Leader, Ms. Eljona Boçe Elmazi – WVA National Director, and members Nathan Hoppe, George Balla, Fred Westerink, and Sokol Haxhiu. WVA is in the process of enriching this board with new members. During 2021, the Advisory Council has focused in strengthening the effectiveness of its governance systems and alignment against WV’s core document, policies and standards. This has been done by ensuring the knowledge and adherence of WV Core Documents, focusing on leadership development, helping in the improvement and overseeing of organizational programmatic and financial performance. The Governance Committee and Resource Development committee have been working closely with WVA senior leaders in providing recommendations contributing to a more efficient operation of the organization.

# Financial Summary

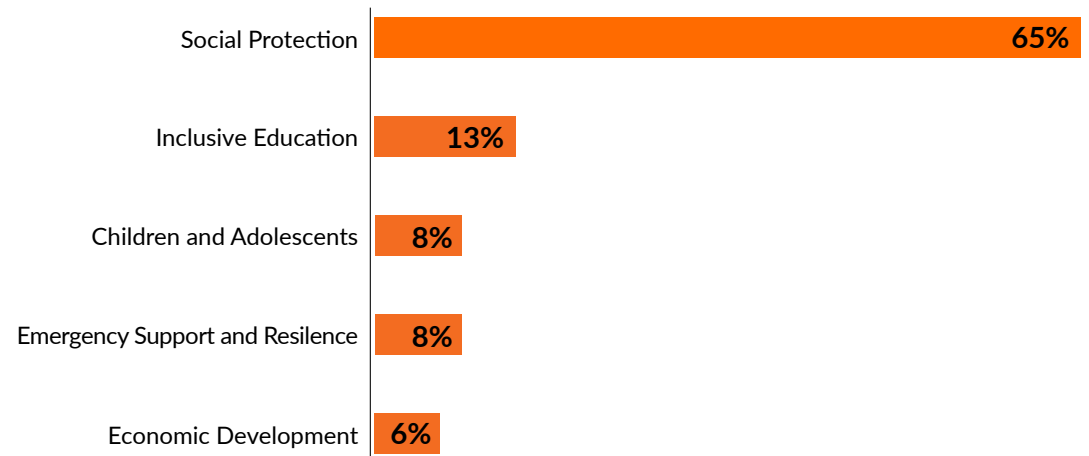
Funding for WVA is primarily supported by the core funding from WV partnership entities. Our goal is to diversify funding streams by increasing grant acquisitions and local fundraising. We will accomplish this with emphasis on corporate funding, and public-private partnerships. This will ensure we can deliver our mission and reach the most vulnerable children in poor and remote areas in Albania.

In 2021, these funding streams enabled us to reach and support the children in our program:

**Fig 1. Funding Streams**



**Fig 2. Funding Expenditures by Sectors**





# Our Partners

Collaboration is fundamental to WVA's ability to meet the strategic objectives regarding child well-being by increasing incomes, and influencing our ministry.

The table below provides an overview of the institutions, organisations, corporate and individual donors who trusted us their trust in 2021. We are thankful for their contribution to our common endeavours and goals for the overall well-being of children, families and communities.

Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF)	Kisha "House of Prayer" Durrës	Municipality of Përrenjas	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Albania	Municipality of Cërrik	Regional Directorates of Agriculture
Albanian National Association of the Deaf (ANAD)	Kompania Credo.al	Municipality of Pukë	Dhoma e Biznesit të Diasporës	Municipality of Dibër	Regional Youth Cooperation Office
Alfa and Omega Centre Dibër	Kompania 'Tring'	Municipality of Rogozhinë	Different and Equal organization	Municipality of Durrës	Sebastia Organization Kurbin
Alpha Bank	LIBURNETIK Organization	Municipality of Shkodër	Down Syndrome Albania (DSA)	Municipality of Elbasan	Shoqata RR B SH Apostuj P&Pal - V Don Orione
Ambasadorët e Paqes - Baqël Lezhë	Minister of State for Youth and Children	Municipality of Tiranë	Famullia Effata "Bijat e Zellit Hyjnor"	Municipality of Fier	Special Olympics Albania Association
American Bank of Investment	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MBZHR)	Municipality of Vlorë	Foundation 'Spirit of Love' - Diakonia Agapes	Municipality of Kamzë	Të ndryshëm e të barabartë
Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania	Ministry of Economy and Finance	National Civil Protection Agency	Foundation Alo!Mik	Municipality of Korçë	The Global Albanian Foundation
Balfin Group	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	National Youth Congress	Foundation European Centre/ Qendra Europiane Tirane	Municipality of Krujë	The National Agency for Employment and Skills
Beyond Tomorrow Organization	Ministry of Health and Social Protection	Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARSIS	Foundation Together Albania	Municipality of Kurbin	Tirana International Airport
BIG Market	Ministry of Interior	Novi Horizont (New Horizon)	French Alliance Durrës	Municipality of Lezhë	Tirana Legal Aid and Society (TLAS)
Caritas Dioqjezan Tiranë - Durrës	Motrat Françeskane të Zojës së Papërlëme	Public Institution Combined Secondary School "Bratstvo Jedinstvo"	Gruaja ne Zhvillim Shkodër	Municipality of Librazhd	UET Centre
Change the Future Organization Dibër	Municipality of Belsh	Qendra Kristiane Durrës	Hamdi Bushati School Shkodër	Municipality of Maliq	UK Embassy in Albania
Defending the Rights of People with Disabilities Association (MEDPAK)	Municipality of Berat	Qendra Psiko - Sociale "Vatra" - Vlorë	Help the Life Association	Municipality of Mallakastër	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Albania
Delegation of the European Union (EU) in Albania	Municipality of Bulqizë	Regional Directorate of Primary Education Offices	Hope Foundation Berat	Municipality of Mirditë	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Albania







**World Vision** is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

Our vision for every child is life in all its fullness.  
**Our prayer for heart is the will to make it so.**

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