



United Nations Annual Results

2012 Report



United Nations
Annual Results Report

2012

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FOREWORD

For 20 years now, the United Nations has been a partner of the Government and people in the country with the goal to ensure inclusive and sustainable development, based on national priorities and plans.

UN activities are carried out in the framework of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2010-2015. The UNDAF was developed in an inclusive manner, in partnership with the Government, and it sets out the priorities for United Nations agencies' work in the country. The UNDAF is centred on three key areas: social inclusion, local governance and environmental protection, including climate change. We are now at the mid-term of the UNDAF cycle, as 2012 was the third year of implementation. As such, the UN is pleased to present a comprehensive overview of our work in 2012 and the results achieved, which bring us substantially closer to the overall goals set out in the UNDAF.

In 2012, results were achieved across a broad range of areas, from increasing human capital and promoting employment, access to services, empowering local government to provide quality social services, and promoting environmentally sustainable development. Over the course of the year programmes in these areas were delivered to a value of US\$16.5 million. This work on the ground was supported by a range of analytical and data collection work.

The work of the UN agencies is supported by the invaluable partnerships we have with Government, local government institutions, other national stakeholders, civil society, academia and the private sector. Alongside technical expertise and funding from the UN agencies, the additional support provided by the Government itself, and the Governments of Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland, the European Union and the Global Environment Facility towards the implementation of UN programmes allowed much of this work to be carried out.

Finally, a special word of thanks must go to some 120 UN personnel in country, mostly national staff, whose skills, knowledge and commitment to the UN's purpose and mission are an essential contribution to ensure that the United Nations delivers its maximum potential for the country.

Deirdre Boyd
UN Resident Coordinator

UN IN THE COUNTRY

UN Organizations with offices in the country:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)¹

UN Organizations that are regionally based with operations in country:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – project office in Skopje

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund also have offices in the country.

¹ IOM is an inter-governmental organisation that works closely with the UN system

UN PRIORITIES (UNDAF 2010-2015)

All of the United Nations' operational activities are carried out at the request and in accordance with the policies and priorities of Government. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was signed with the Government in April 2009 and covers the period 2010 to 2015. The United Nations coordinates its work through the United Nations Country Team under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator

The UNDAF provides the overall framework for the United Nations' work in the country. The UN supports the country's development agenda, including its overarching priority of EU accession, which corresponds to UN values, framed by human rights and the Millennium Development Goals, through three strategic areas and objectives:

- **Social Inclusion** - By 2015, socially excluded people will have gained increased access to improved quality services and greater opportunities to lead full and productive lives.
- **Governance** - By 2015, local and regional governance capacities will have been enhanced to ensure equitable development and greater inter-ethnic and social cohesion.
- **Environmental Protection** - By 2015, authorities will have improved capacities to integrate environmental and disaster risk reduction measures within development frameworks.

The promotion of human rights and gender equity, greater inter-ethnic cohesion and improved aid coordination are integrated throughout all the work of the United Nations.

The United Nations cooperates with a wide variety of partners in the implementation of development activities. These partnerships involve the Government, local government, civil society, international partners, and stakeholders from the private sector. Progress is measured by continuous monitoring, evaluation, and tracking of key indicators. For the year 2012, expenditure on UN programmes and projects amounted to approximately US\$16.5 million.

UN RESULTS 2012

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Addressing social exclusion and inequalities remains an important goal for the country, especially as the social inequalities experienced by certain vulnerable groups remained a key concern in 2012 —particularly poor women and men from the Roma community. The United Nations works to enable socially excluded women and men, girls and boys to improve their lives by helping to expand their opportunities and increase their access to quality services. The focus is on empowering and developing the capabilities of excluded people and supporting the Government to promote employment, provide quality social services and make evidence based social policy decisions.

Human resource development

The longstanding issue of **unemployment** remains of concern, with unemployment remaining high at 30.6%.²

The UN supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to develop the 2012-2013 Operational Plan for Employment. As a result of **Active Labour Market Measures** implemented by UNDP in 2012, 900 beneficiaries successfully started or formalised their own businesses. New job creation in small and micro-companies was supported, resulting in 90 new employments. UNDP worked with national institutions to develop an innovative community service programme to provide employment to the long-term unemployed.

At the end of 2012, performance monitoring of active labour market programmes implemented in 2007-2010 was done by ILO. The evaluation report, with key findings and recommendations, was used by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Employment Service Agency as a basis for designing the 2013 Operational Plan for ALMM.

Supported by ILO, the Government adopted the **National Action Plan on Youth Employment 2015**, which reflects the need for immediate and targeted action in order to avoid losing the potential of the young generation – a significant risk unless the youth employment challenge is addressed.

In addition, UNDP verified 44 **vocational training programs** and supported nearly 200 unemployed persons to attend vocational training courses. Women victims of domestic violence received psychosocial support for economic empowerment in order to fully be able to participate in the labour market and benefit from active labour market measures. As part of a regional initiative, UNDP organised a roundtable on the employment of people with disabilities and published a report with recommendations on how to make the labour market more accessible for people with disabilities³.

² Q3 2012, State Statistical Office.

³ “Employment Policies and Practices in regard to people with disabilities in FYR Macedonia and selected EU member states”, UNDP 2013

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT – A CHALLENGE THAT CALLS FOR ACTION

Youth unemployment is a problem which attracts growing attention and imposes heavy costs on the country's society. Scarce jobs make it so hard for young people to enter the labour market that many of them choose to make a living through engaging in precarious work in the informal economy. This situation perpetuates social instability as youth are increasingly being perceived as a welfare burden rather than a promising talent pool.

The future prospects of youth are bleak as long as unemployment stands in the way of professional development. Many young people in the country are forced to delay their entry into the workforce as they encounter difficulties in finding the first job.

Not all hope is lost

Youth unemployment is a challenge which requires a comprehensive and proactive approach.

The first-ever National action plan on youth employment, developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), with technical support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), offers constructive solutions which would pave the way to an enabling environment for successful implementation of labour market policies for young people in the country. The Government, as well as employers' organizations and trade unions have specific well-defined roles in this concerted, tripartite effort.

This three-year Action Plan, adopted by the Government in October 2012, is likely to increase the youth employment rate which reached a new low of 14.4 per cent in 2011. Young women, aged 15 to 24, are even less likely to enter the labour market than young men of the same age, as only 10.8 per cent of them were employed compared to 17.7 per cent of their male counterparts.

The Action Plan will provide vocational training and job opportunities which are likely to open the doors of the labour market to the country's youth aged 15-29. Employers would have a greater incentive to hire young people if they are granted wage subsidies and tax exemptions for a limited time period. Evaluations show that time-bound and well designed, well-targeted subsidies can have a positive employment impact, especially when combined with training and work experience schemes. Promoting entrepreneurship, social enterprises and cooperatives would provide options for young people including during times of crisis. Moreover, public Employment Programmes are widely being implemented as a last resort in disadvantaged regions and communities.

Supporting human resource development of refugees and potential migrants

UNHCR and IOM supported vocational training and income generation schemes for locally integrating refugees and potential migrants, and UNHCR facilitated work permits for locally integrating Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians. At an IOM organised roundtable in Skopje, "Best practices in professional and socio-economic reintegration of skilled migrants", national stakeholders and experts in the field discussed best practices in the field and strategies for successful reintegration.

In the field of education, UNHCR has actively supported locally integrating refugees to attend primary, secondary and higher level education as well as their participation in extra-curricular activities.

ROMA AND EMPLOYMENT— A NEW STUDY REVEALS THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION AND LOW EDUCATION

The first-ever study of the employment situation of Roma in the country, commissioned by UNDP and ILO, offers fresh insights into the causes of the disparities between Roma and non-Roma in education and employment.

The Vicious Circle of Employment, Discrimination and Low Educational Levels

While the country is found to have somewhat lower levels of discrimination than other countries in the region, the study shows how the low educational levels and employment disadvantages suffered by the Roma population can also be perpetuated by discriminatory attitudes on the part of potential employers.

These closely interlinked problems create a vicious circle in which Roma face discrimination in employment due to their lower educational levels, and therefore are deterred from investing more in education because such discrimination - including major inequalities in the salaries of Roma and non-Roma employees - lowers their expectations of gaining better employment through increased education.

Breaking this vicious circle is imperative, the study concludes, in order to achieve the key long-term aims of raising educational standards amongst the Roma and overcoming disparities in employment. However, the study also acknowledges the difficulty of breaking this circle given the primary role of informal networks and personal contacts in the recruitment practices of many employers.

While commending the country's efforts to help Roma through labour market programmes and other measures, the study calls for new initiatives to change employers' attitudes, for example in terms of the promotion of positive role models from the Roma community. Adopting this approach would not only help the Roma community but will bring benefits for the country's economy, encouraging employers to tap into the skills of the Roma workforce.

Key Findings

Roma—and especially Roma women—are employed less, paid less for similar jobs, and more likely to be working in low-skilled and informal employment than their non-Roma counterparts. Rates of unemployment and joblessness, for example, are at least twice as high amongst the Roma population as among the non-Roma population.

In education, meanwhile, young non-Roma adults aged from 20-24 are more than ten times as likely to be in education as their Roma counterparts, reflecting the very low participation in tertiary education.

These disadvantages, the study concludes, cannot be attributed solely to differences in the educational attainments of Roma and non-Roma but must also arise in part from various forms of discrimination.

And while the study concludes that the impact of discriminatory attitudes on Roma employment may have lessened between 2004 and 2011, it also finds that the overall employment situation for Roma did not improve significantly in these years. Indeed, the gap between the wages of Roma and non-Roma has even widened for women. Overall, the impression is that between 2004 and 2011 things improved slightly for Roma men and worsened significantly for Roma women.

Hopeful Signs

There are however also some signs of improvement in the situation for Roma in the country between 2004 and 2011. Employment rates have risen for Roma men under 45 and for Roma women above this age. Education participation rates have risen for Roma boys aged between 10 and 14 and for Roma women across the board.

Moreover, the study confirms the findings from other research suggesting that Roma in this country suffer relatively less disadvantages in education than in other countries throughout the region.

Better provision of social services

The work of the UN agencies aims to enhance social service provision by addressing the disparities in accessing social services and the quality of services for the socially vulnerable.

Through its **operational support for the Centre of local integration**, based on a participatory needs assessment, UNHCR supported the Government to provide appropriate and tailored services for persons of its concern. UNHCR advocacy also resulted in the amendment of the Law on Health Insurance, so that as of June 2012 more than 500 persons granted asylum benefit from state health insurance, thus gaining effective access to all levels of health care equally as nationals. In cooperation with the Red Cross, UNHCR further supports 300 persons in a refugee like situation to receive health care on a project basis.

UN Women supported the **strengthening of gender responsive social services**; a mandatory training module on gender equality for professionals in Centres for Social Work was introduced and the publication *“Social Work through a gender prism - risks and services”* presents specific recommendations on further strengthening capacities of professional social workers. To support evidence based redressing of the social exclusion of vulnerable women, a policy brief and a study on women in rural areas, who often face obstacles accessing quality health and social services, were published⁴.

In the area of **child rights**, UNICEF conducted an assessment of the child benefits system, which will feed into the new Child Protection Law. Further, the Government institutionalised UNICEF’s training methodology, developed in partnership with the Institute for Social Work and Social Policy, for protecting the rights of child victims and children in conflict with the law. In order to improve planning and budgeting of health programmes at local level, UNICEF piloted a new model in Prilep, which the Ministry of Health has adopted at the national level for its Mother and Child Health Program.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, UNODC launched a family-centred programme for prevention of risky behaviour, including drug use. The programme works with parents and children through 50 primary schools across the country, focusing on supportive parenting, parental monitoring and how to ensure a cohesive, safe family environment.

In the area of **health**, WHO supported an assessment of the human resources for health and UN together with civil society partners facilitated the development of the framework for comprehensive sexual education, which will be integrated into curricula in 2013. UNODC continued to work closely with the Ministry of Health and National Drug Coordination Office in order to develop drug dependence treatment and care.

Several UN agencies supported the **Roma community’s access to health**; with UNICEF support the Government adopted two national health strategies addressing disparities in terms of coverage and child health outcomes especially for Roma children; with UNHCR support Roma refugees were provided with transitional health care support, and the UN successfully advocated for a Roma Health Mediators’ Programme providing maternal and child health services in municipalities. In the framework of the country’s chairmanship of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, a conference on Roma health and the national ‘Declaration on Roma health equity’ were supported.

The UN advocated for an enhanced response to the **needs of people with disabilities**; supporting a study exploring the employment opportunities⁵ of people with disabilities and making pragmatic policy recommendations to improve these, as well as organising a national stakeholder meeting with health officials and representatives of people with disabilities to enhance the health sector’s responsiveness to special needs.

⁴ *“Perspective of Women in Rural areas”* CRPM 2012, study: http://www.crpm.org.mk/?page_id=695
policy brief: http://www.crpm.org.mk/?page_id=697

⁵ *“Employment Policies and Practices in regard to people with disabilities in FYR Macedonia and selected EU member states”*, UNDP 2013

Preventing domestic violence

The UN jointly supported the Government to further improve the institutional response to domestic violence and violence against women in the framework of the Joint Programme “Strengthening Capacities to Prevent Domestic Violence” implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN WOMEN and WHO.

In the framework of the completed programme, the new **national 2012-2015 Domestic violence strategy** was developed and endorsed by the Government with active involvement of line Ministries and civil society. A first baseline survey for prevalence and incidence of domestic violence was conducted, which will be a key element of monitoring the success of future efforts to reduce domestic violence.

The introduction of the **internationally recognized model for multi-agency cooperation** for high risk domestic violence cases improved coordination between service providers responsible for protecting victims of domestic violence in 31 municipalities. The establishment of three shelter centres in the regions of Skopje, Pelagonia, and Vardar ensured that victims of domestic violence are offered a safe haven if required to leave their homes. In order to increase local level engagement in prevention efforts, ten local community bodies were established and trained on prevention and community outreach mechanisms. CSO-supported community outreach and behaviour change programmes at the local level further contributed to awareness raising among the population and to higher levels of reported cases.

Towards ensuring inclusive policy-making processes related to domestic violence, the **capacities of the national CSO network to end violence against women and domestic violence was enhanced**, especially as relates to fundraising and results based project management. The network played an important part in the development of the 2012-2015 National Strategy for Domestic Violence. An evaluation of UN supported free legal aid services to victims of domestic violence demonstrated its positive contribution to improved quality and needs responsive service delivery.

In order to achieve a standardised national data collection system on trends and prevalence on domestic violence a web portal for gathering data on domestic violence within the health sector was established together with the Institute for Social Affairs. This internal portal allows the four sectors involved in the prevention and response to domestic violence, to effectively monitor cases and the prevalence of domestic violence. A public web site, accessible for all, was created for information sharing purposes⁶. 300 health professionals were trained to enable the efficient use of this portal. In order to further support evidence based policy making, a survey on the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence was conducted.⁷

⁶ <http://nkt.mtsp.gov.mk/nkt/Default.aspx?LCID=16&Control=TopNews.ascx>

⁷ “Report on the national survey of Domestic Violence” August 2012 http://mtsp.gov.mk/WBStorage/Files/semeljno_nasilstvo_

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – A SINE QUA NON FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Violence against women (VAW) is one of the most widespread human rights violations worldwide. It includes physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse which transcends age, racial, cultural, social and geographical boundaries. Women and girls are facing it at home, on the streets, at schools and in workplaces.

Violence can take many forms – domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking and controlling behavior – are some of the most frequent harmful practices aimed at women and girls. Ending violence against women, therefore, is a goal which requires a complex, multifaceted approach. This approach entails measures like adequate legislative protection, provision of support services for victims, rapid actions against perpetrators to ensure full protection of victims and their families, as well as awareness-raising and preventive actions with a purpose to eliminate VAW.

UN Women approach

Gender inequality perpetuates Violence against Women and Girls. Putting an end to VAW through tackling gender inequality is thus one of the key priorities of UN Women's mandate.

To this end, UN Women supports civil society efforts for improving the response to violence against women and domestic violence, as well as for raising awareness about its different manifestations. Initiatives in the country range from technical support to improve the legal framework and protection system, to supporting civil society efforts to improve and expand support services, raise awareness and understanding of gender based violence, and social mobilization for prevention of VAW. As a result, issues pertaining to different forms of violence against women have received increased consideration – the quality and availability of legal aid services is substantively improved and awareness-raising actions are determinedly conducted throughout the country.

UN Women also focuses the attention of stakeholders to neglected forms of violence against women such as violence in public spaces, including sexual harassment, stalking and following, as well as rape and sexual assault.

Gender-based violence in public urban spaces – a phenomenon that deserves intense study

Women and girls face various forms of gender-based violence in public spaces: rude comments, unwanted sexual attention, staring, touching, pinching, physical violence, sexual violence etc.

However, despite its intensity, the phenomenon of violence against women in public spaces remains under-researched and under-reported. A UN Women-backed scoping study on gender based violence and discrimination against women in public urban spaces of Skopje (2012) revealed that public awareness and understanding of gender-based violence remains low, contrary to the actual extent of violence experienced by women. To examine this issue more closely and to encourage safe and anonymous reporting of violence and discrimination experienced by women in the city of Skopje, the study introduced an innovative web-based crowdsourcing platform, React! (www.react-besafe.mk), as well as an interactive map of hotspots of violence against women in public spaces. It serves to inform about the locations, the frequency and the type of violence occurring in public spaces, but also to spur awareness and counteract social acceptability of gender based violence. This ground-breaking initiative brings attention to this under-researched phenomenon and provides a set of clear recommendations to move forward and address violence against women in public spaces.

Social inclusion policy making

Towards enhancing social inclusion policy making, in 2012 a number of knowledge products were produced by the UN.

The Government was supported to revise the **National Strategy for Social Inclusion** – consultative meetings were organised across the country to enable an inclusive assessment of the effectiveness of current policy measures and implementation of the Strategy so far. UNDP further supported the establishment of a National Coordinative Body tasked to monitor the implementation of the strategy.

Data for evidence-based policy making

In view of further **strengthening the national capacities on monitoring and evaluation of social policy**, UNDP supported four municipalities (Gostivar, Resen, Kocani and Petrovec) to prepare assessment reports on the capacities of the municipal authorities and local vulnerabilities, serving these municipalities as a comprehensive overview of the needs and institutional gaps for providing effective social services to the local population. A “Handbook on Development of Social Services at Local Level” was produced to help local service providers to better plan, develop and deliver social services and local stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, have received training on innovative models of social service delivery.

UNICEF contributed to making quality data available for evidence-based policy making by completing the **Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4**. (MICS provides data to monitor the situation of children and women and allows countries to track progress towards national goals and global commitments in areas of education, health etc.). This time, the survey includes an additional module on disability and additional analyses based on focus group discussions.

In the area of **child welfare**, UNICEF has further supported the National Child Rights Commission and CSOs to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and supported the Association of Local Self Government (ZELS) to generate data related to child-wellbeing and implementation of CRC at the local level. Working with the Parliamentary Group on Child Rights, UNICEF has advocated for enhanced Early Childhood Development provision and supported working missions to educational institutions. In cooperation with MLSP UNICEF also conducted an assessment of the child benefits system to improve the targeting, scope and amount of child benefits that reach the most vulnerable children.

In the area of **gender equality**, UN Women continued to support the Institute for Social Affairs to enhance its capacity – the publication “*Social Work through a gender prism - risks and services*” mentioned above, presents evidence based policy recommendations for the incorporation of gender analysis in policy. UN Women also supported the first scoping study on violence against women⁸ and other forms of gender based discrimination in public spaces in the City of Skopje. The study, presented to policy makers in November, contributes to the understanding of public safety from a gender perspective.

As a result of UN Women work with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Government adopted a **Strategy on Gender Responsive Budgeting**. The Club of Women MPs has further committed to enhancing gender sensitive policy planning and budgeting.

Also in the area of gender equality, ILO provided technical assistance to the State Statistical Office (SSO) on **gender sensitive statistics** and how to use data available to present the situation as regards gender equality. A study on equality in the workplace was produced and discussed with trade unions, employers’ organisations, MLSP and the SSO.

⁸ *Scoping study on gender based violence and discrimination against women and girls in urban public spaces of the city of Skopje*” Reactor, Research in Action 2012:
<http://www.reactor.org.mk/CMS/Files/Publications/Documents/scoping%20study%20%20VAW%20public%20spaces%20Skopje.pdf>

Also, a “School to Work Transition Survey” was conducted in partnership with the SSO. The extensive analysis and information gathered will allow for better understanding of challenges faced by young people in the labour market.

In order to strengthen **occupational health and safety** (OSH), during the first half of the year, ILO supported an information campaign on OSH in the construction sector and launched two publications on the topic. As a result, the Government ratified the ILO Framework Convention on OSH.

To increase understanding of the **national pensions system**, as well as explore issues such as flexible retirement age, inclusion of social partners in the pension management board and assessment of invalidity benefits, a guidebook, “Guide for your rights to pensions”⁹ was published by ILO.

In the area of **health**, WHO published a prevalence report on elderly abuse in the country, as well as a report on adverse childhood experiences highlighting the kinds of abuse and health risks that children face.

Towards **enhancing national and local bodies’ response to drug trafficking**, a criminal intelligence needs assessment mission was carried out by UNODC in October. UNODC also produced and disseminated the Drugs Situation Analysis report and continued to work closely with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Customs Administration, Ministry of Justice and the Bureau for Money Laundering in order to strengthen knowledge about the trends of drug trafficking and organised crime.

The UN also provided technical assistance to the **National HIV/AIDS Commission** in coordinating and elaborating the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for 2012-2016 and the corresponding Action Plan. UN supported the Group for Support and Self-help of people living with HIV “Stronger Together” in conducting a Campaign for Solidarity and Support of People Living with HIV, the first time such activities have been undertaken.

⁹ http://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS_173446/lang-en/index.htm

EMPOWERING TEACHERS TO DELIVER QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

The quality of teaching is the single-most important variable in improving learning outcomes and creating a productive learning environment. This has been proven with a wide body of evidence which clearly demonstrates the benefits of a child-focused education – also promoted by the child-centred approach of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a children’s rights champion, UNICEF has been empowering teachers in this country to deliver education that puts children in the first place.

The success story started in 1991 with an interactive learning project which has since evolved into an all-encompassing holistic approach to education reform – the Child Friendly Schools initiative. This initiative seeks to create schools that promote inclusiveness, provide a healthy, safe and protective environment, promote effectiveness, strive for gender parity and promote participation and multiculturalism.

What in this country began as a project in 2006 has today evolved into a national initiative. Over the past six years, UNICEF has been focusing on the different ways to empower teachers to reach diverse populations. It has provided them with the tools needed to develop content and teaching methodologies that reach ALL children.

Teaching/learning methodologies for literacy, numeracy, multiculturalism and the specific needs of children with disabilities are some of the issues being currently taught to teachers across the country. To date, in line with international good practices, 60 per cent of all early grade teachers have been trained on improved techniques for teaching numeracy and 40 per cent have been trained to improve their teaching of literacy. The benefits of these methodologies are evident, as evaluation shows improvement in learning outcomes in numeracy in early grades (1-3).

The success of this initiative, UNICEF’s continuous advocacy and the Ministry of Education’s renewed commitment towards inclusive education in 2012 resulted in developing a number of child-centred schools and changes in discriminatory attitudes. The initiative has also brought to the forefront the need to ensure that the educational system, schools and communities deliver quality education for ALL children.

However, despite reform efforts, the country’s educational system continues to struggle with improving learning outcomes of children from marginalized groups. This situation warrants a renewed effort towards empowerment of teachers, so that they would be able to reach and fully include the most marginalized students.

With Inclusive Education as its main framework, a group of trainers-of-trainers composed of teachers, administrators, university professors, special education experts and members of NGOs and partner organizations is currently involved in capacity development activities focused on Inclusive Education and issues related to children with disabilities. Taking on a pioneering role in the region, this group of professionals is investigating the possibilities of providing education under a social model of disability, one that has the whole child at the centre of instruction. With the guidance of a leading expert in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health-Children and Youth Version and a committed group of inclusive education experts, the group is learning the ways in which it can shift the focus in the work of teachers so that they would adjust their teaching methods to this model of disability.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING – A TOOL TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) seeks to apply a gender mainstreaming approach to the budgetary process. As one component of budgetary reform, it involves taking account of the different needs, expectations and roles of women and men as determined by their gender. GRB is not about a separate budget for women. It is about recognizing the contribution women make to the economy through their unpaid labour in maintaining the home and caring for family and neighbours; addressing the challenges women face in accessing labour market opportunities and taking into account the different ways men and women access and use public services.

GRB, therefore, entails targeting expenditure towards what women and men actually need. As such, GRB contributes to the efficiency, transparency and accountability of government budgets, while at the same time working towards greater gender equality.

‘Making gender equality central to national, local and sectoral planning and budgeting’ is one of the priorities of the global mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Through various GRB initiatives, UN WOMEN supports the policy-making and budgetary processes in several countries around the world.

Changes in social policy which are not coupled with changes in budget formulation cannot ensure the attainment of gender equality goals. Thus, in a context where most governments - including those of South-Eastern Europe – seek to reform their governance and align the processes of policy development and budget formulation, UN Women strives to advocate for integrating gender sensitive analysis in all decisions related to budget allocation.

GRB, however, goes beyond achieving gender equality – it strives for democratizing the budget process so that it becomes more transparent and participatory. The final goal of this gender equality principle is to enable citizens to have a greater say in how public money is spent and raised.

Budget reform processes in South-Eastern Europe present a window of opportunity to ensure that GRB is embedded as a key gender equality principle into governance at national and local level. For this to happen, UN Women supports the strengthening of the technical knowledge, skills and strategies of key policy-makers to help integrate the principle of gender equality into decision-making.

GRB in FYR Macedonia

Increasing civil servants’ and institutions’ capacities to integrate gender in public policy and providing civil society organizations and parliamentarians with the necessary tools to monitor the commitment of their governments to gender equality were the central focus of a UN Women-backed regional umbrella project ‘Promoting Gender-Responsive Policies in SEE’ (2010– 2013). As a result, the recently enacted Law on equal opportunities between women and men (2012) legally binds the country’s state institutions at national and local level to incorporate the principle of equal opportunity in their strategic plans and budgets and to monitor the impact of their programs on women and men.

UN Women assisted the Government to meet these legal obligations by taking part in the development of a comprehensive National Strategy on gender-responsive budgeting for the period 2012–2017. This strategy lays the groundwork for introducing gender-responsive changes in the relevant legal and policy documents and provides training for civil servants to be able to implement these changes at all levels. In its budget instructions for 2013, the Ministry of Finance has already incorporated gender indicators that will enable gender-responsive budgeting analysis of the programmes of selected budget users.

Combating HIV and AIDS

Combating HIV and AIDS is one of the focus areas of UN in the country and in 2012 the UN supported a number of initiatives in the area. To increase knowledge on social and behavioral attitudes of men-having-sex-with-men, as the most affected population with HIV in the country, the survey “Sexual and Gender Identities of men-having-sex-with-men in FYR Macedonia” was finalized and promoted in partnership with CSOs.

To increase the understanding and knowledge of gender aspects and gender vulnerability for marginalized groups (injecting drug users, sex workers, people living with HIV and AIDS and others) the survey “Gender vulnerabilities and barriers for key populations in FYR Macedonia” was published in partnership with CSOs and all public health institutions that deliver preventive services to key affected populations.

The UN also provided technical assistance to the National HIV/AIDS Commission in coordinating and elaborating the National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2012-2016 and Action Plan. The UN continued to participate *ex officio* in the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meetings, with a view to oversee and support the implementation of activities that are initiated by the CCM in line with national program priorities and supported by the Global Fund.

LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT ENSURES BETTER FUTURE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

The longevity and quality of life of people living with HIV depends on the continuous and uninterrupted supply of antiretroviral medications. The life-saving HIV treatment involves taking a combination of these medications once or twice every day.

“Thanks to the therapy, HIV today does not mean an automatic death sentence. A person living with HIV can function normally, be a productive member of society, create a family and have healthy children,” says Andrej Senih, Coordinator of the Working Group for Support and Self-help of People Living with HIV in the country “Stronger Together”.

These days, such medicines have become more affordable and the Ministry of Health can provide the much needed therapy with a minimal budget. It is essential that anti-retroviral medicaments are provided on a regular and predictable basis. More action is needed so that the current situation whereby the provision of anti-retroviral medicaments suffers from interruption and uncertainty is resolved.

The group “Stronger Together”, in consultation with experts on HIV treatment, pharmacology and health economy, compiled a policy study which provides recommendations for policy makers to ensure the provision of continuous and uninterrupted HIV treatment. One of the recommendations of the study provides that The Ministry of Health needs only a minimal budget to purchase the minimal antiretroviral medications and monitoring tests at regional market prices. It is essential that anti-retroviral medicaments are provided on a regular and predictable basis. More action is needed so that the current situation whereby the provision of anti-retroviral medicaments suffers from interruption and uncertainty is resolved. While this is the preferred durable solution, Senih said that the country could still save on treatment costs if existing procurement-related legal and administrative barriers are eliminated.

The group “Stronger Together” brings together 15 people living with HIV. It started as an informal group in 2010 and was consolidated in 2011 as a result of a capacity-building initiative supported by the United Nations. Thanks to this initiative, the group adopted a rulebook, devised a strategic and action plan, and conducted advocacy training for its members. It also published 2 booklets in the local language - one of which is designed to support persons diagnosed with the virus.

Lobbying for increased access to treatment is only part of the broad range of activities of “Stronger Together”. The group also provides peer support and counseling to people living with HIV, members of their families and their close friends. This peer support is essential, especially in the adjustment period when the group helps its new members to embrace their HIV positive status.

However, despite the support of their families and close friends, many people living with HIV decide against disclosing their status in public for fear of experiencing discrimination. Senih added that these people also want the media to spread accurate information and positive messages, so they avoid appearances in which their problems and challenges are likely to be sensationalized.

“I hope I will live to see the day when we no longer need to conceal our status or strive to get the life-saving treatment; when we could freely speak up for our rights and it would not bother anyone”, Tomi, 32, who is living with HIV and prefers to use a pseudonym to protect his identity, added.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The overall goal of the UN is to support the country’s ongoing decentralisation process and make local and regional good governance a reality. To this end, the UN works closely with national counterparts to enhance fiscal decentralisation, strengthen anti-corruption policy, increase policy accountability and promote cohesive governance.

Supporting local government - decentralization and gender

The **2012 – 2014 Action Plan for the new national Decentralisation Programme** was prepared with technical assistance from UNDP and adopted by the Government in April 2012. The Ministry of Local Self-Government was assisted in preparation of a methodology for monitoring of the decentralisation process, adopted by the Government in November 2012. The European Commission has referred to the preparation of this set of programming and planning documents as a positive contribution to the country’s EU accession.

UNDP continued to work with the Ministry of Finance and municipalities to promote **fiscal decentralisation**. A “Fiscal Decentralisation for Local Development” study provided evidence-based recommendations on how to address the remaining challenges in the fiscal decentralisation process. State and local level officials’ skills for equalization of fiscal transfers, monitoring and evaluation of local government fiscal performance and allocating capital grants were strengthened. In the municipalities of Jegunovce, Cair, Konce and Krucevo, local plans for budgeting and fiscal monitoring, local inclusive development, and multi-annual capital investments planning were developed by community-based planning groups.

In addition, the policy-making process of the Ministry of Finance was supported with simulations for amending the VAT formula by incorporating a revenue capacity factor for fiscal equalisation purposes.

Towards ensuring that governance equally reflects the interest of men and women, UN Women strengthened administration capacities in the City of Skopje on **gender budget analysis and gender responsive policy planning**.

Anti-corruption

In the area of corruption, UNDP together with the State Commission for Anti-Corruption and municipalities developed a concept for authentic and functional Integrity Systems in twelve municipalities and encouraged ten municipalities to publicly sign up to official anti-corruption policies, affirming the principles of integrity and declaring zero tolerance for corruption. Analysis on the level of accountability of local government was also done with assistance

from UNDP. Based on the findings and identified gaps, NGOs have been encouraged to design new social accountability measures addressing the gaps.

A capacity-building plan for the **Anti-Corruption Commission** was developed and aligned with the policy-analysis and monitoring functions of the Anti-Corruption Commission pertinent to the new State Programme for Prevention of Corruption 2011-2015. To that effect an application was developed for better monitoring of the State Programme, streamlined and coherent collection of data, and improved reporting mechanisms.

Inter-municipal cooperation

Inter-Municipal Cooperation (IMC) efforts focused on supporting measures for quality service provision, particularly related to energy efficiency and **environmental governance**. Concrete energy efficiency measures have been implemented in municipalities across the country, reducing energy consumption and producing municipal budget savings. In 2012, seventy public buildings, such as kindergartens, schools and cultural institutions benefited from energy efficiency programming measures. Innovative social media campaigns were used targeting 2 500 youth, to raise awareness on the merits of energy efficiency.

A policy dialogue on utilization of IMC in the area of **energy efficiency** was facilitated in order to bring together the Ministry of Local Self-Government, the national IMC Commission, the Energy Agency and the Centres of all eight planning regions in the country, resulting in exchange of best practice and lessons learned.

UNDP also worked closely with the Vardar Planning Region to enhance Inter-Municipal Cooperation for sustainable development. The eight municipalities in the region established a joint administrative unit and agreed on a cost-sharing mechanism for joint initiatives in this area.

Further, the National Commission for IMC was supported in preparing a work plan for 2013, a methodology for selection of best IMC practices, and in upgrading the existing IMC web platform with software for on-line evidence of IMC and international cooperation of municipalities, thus enabling the Ministry of Local Self-Government and the municipalities to fulfil legal obligations deriving from the Law on IMC and the Law on Self-Government.

Climate change governance

A ground breaking **Governance Assessment on Climate Change**, the first in the country and in all of South East Europe, was produced with the support of UNDP. The report contains a methodology for a detailed governance assessment, to be implemented in the second phase as well as concrete recommendations on governance reform in the area of climate change, including a strategic Roadmap for approximation to the climate *acquis* of the EU.

In order to gauge citizens' satisfaction with local government performance, UNDP supported community-based surveys on service delivery practices in Jegunovce, Konce, Krusevo and Cair municipalities. Based on the survey results, local plans for budgeting and fiscal monitoring, local inclusive development and multi-annual capital investments planning were prepared in a participatory manner for the four pilot municipalities.

Enhancing Inter-ethnic Dialogue

The UN Joint Programme to "Enhance Interethnic Dialogue and Collaboration", implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO, focused on the municipalities of Kicevo, Kumanovo and Struga as well as civil society, academic institutions and the education sector. The programme allowed the UN to bring some new perspectives and activities into this important area for the country and achieved significant results, which will continue to be built upon by national actors.

Towards promoting consensual governance that **enhances inter-ethnic dialogue and collaboration**, citizens in three micro-regions were encouraged to build consensus over common development issues. Through inter-municipal co-operation arrangements, local leaders, CSO representatives, business sector and public institutions built consensus over promotion of sports in Struga, energy and environment issues in Kicevo and Oslomej, Kumanovo and Staro Nagoricane.

Drawing upon the recommendations of institutional and civil society partners, a follow-up intervention was designed, aiming to increase **youth participation** in local governance and social service delivery. A comprehensive governance assessment, the first ever of its kind, with focus on youth empowerment was conducted in six municipalities (Bitola, Caska, Ilinden, Kumanovo, Stip and Tearce), aiming to identify governance-related gaps that lead to or have a potential to widen exclusion of youth in society. The Assessment Study serves as an important document for national counterparts, as a baseline through which to measure progress on other youth-focused and social cohesion initiatives.

Dispute resolution in multicultural communities

The first **national Dispute Resolution System** was established and strengthened systems for managing inter-ethnic relations were introduced in municipalities. For example, the Commission for Inter-Community Relations in the Municipality of Struga provided recommendations to the local self-government on ways to reduce and avoid inter-ethnic and inter-religious tension in the Municipalities of Struga and Vevcani following the outbreak of violence in January and February 2012. In addition, tolerance and respect for diversity were incorporated in national education policies together with a methodology for textbook development. Furthermore, the Association of Local Self Government and UNDP jointly launched a “Handbook to Support Dispute Resolution in Multicultural Communities”, which will serve as a reference guide to municipal authorities, local civil society organizations, school administrators and other relevant institutions active in multicultural communities.

A new curriculum on **Life Skills Based Education** was developed and Ministry of Education officials were enabled to better plan and implement inter-ethnic education.

Women and dialogue

Towards strengthening the **role of youth and women** in enhancing inter-ethnic dialogue, assessing awareness on issues relating to women, peace and security, and supporting active participation of women in local governance, the UN partnered with civil society and local officials in Kicevo, Struga and Kumanovo to increase their capacities. Specific attention was dedicated to improving knowledge on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which is directly related to women, peace and security.

Education and media

With support from UNESCO, the Faculty of Philosophy at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University inaugurated the **Centre for Intercultural Studies and Research**, which will be a forum for the support of education, training and research on intercultural studies. For the purpose of enriching the Faculty’s educational offerings, the Centre has submitted for accreditation an M.A. program in Intercultural Studies. The South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo also opened the Centre for Cultural Interaction and Dialogue, which aims to foster research in intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation and facilitate partnerships with key organizations in the country and the region, as well as disseminate research and ideas through its own academic journal to be published every year.

The UN Inter-Ethnic Programme also produced innovative social content programming for TV – two interesting “reality shows” aired on national television during prime time. The programmes aim to promote diversity, tolerance, and social cohesion and have reached record breaking numbers of viewers.

The lessons learnt from the three year Joint Programme have been used to start a new intervention aiming to enhance the dialogue between political parties and ethnic communities represented in Parliament. The focus is on capacity building activities of the Inter-Community Relations Committee.

Support to EU accession in the field of Governance

In addition to supporting the country in its approximation to the EU climate *acquis* and the monitoring and evaluation of decentralisation efforts, the UN has provided specific expert support to **accelerate the EU accession of the country**. As part of this specific support, UNDP has offered technical assistance, transferring knowledge, experience and lessons learned from Slovenia and Croatia to officials working with **agriculture, regional and rural development**. Under Chapter 22, Regional Policy and Structural Instruments, a working seminar was organised, attended by more than 50 participants belonging to the IPA operative structure and ZELS. The reforms related to Chapter 22 are crucial for absorbing EU assistance available in the process of accession. The national institutions are now equipped to continue their reform efforts and speed up the implementation of these reforms and make more effective use of the available IPA funds.

The first scoping mission of Croatian experts and the UNDP Regional Advisor on Chapter 11, Agriculture and Rural Development, resulted in collection of information on the priority needs of national, regional and local partners regarding review of programmes, strategies, development plans, as well as the implementation challenges with emphasis on the IPA projects and the IPARD programme and the capacity building needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The key goals of the UN in the area of environmental protection and disaster risk reduction are to support the country's efforts to meet the challenges of climate change and disaster preparedness; to support national capacities for ecosystem and biodiversity management; and assist the country in meeting its obligations under multilateral environmental agreements.

Addressing Climate Change

In 2012, new **country specific climate change scenarios** were developed by UNDP using the available software tools recommended by the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC). A comprehensive Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory was prepared for 2003-2009, and the GHG Inventory for 1999-2002 was revised. GHG data gap-analysis was conducted and recommendations for acquisition of missing data were provided. Training material for development of future GHG inventories were prepared. Vulnerability Assessments and Action Plans on climate change were initiated in five sectors: agriculture, biodiversity, forestry, health and water resources.

In addition, a **case study of climate change mitigation** potential in the transport sector was developed, using a participatory approach to develop the marginal abatement cost curve and to prioritize mitigation strategies; and new country specific climate change scenarios were developed using the available software downscaling tools recommended by the UNFCCC.

In order to prepare the country to take on EU obligations, a roadmap for introduction of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of GHG Emissions under the EU Emission Trading Schemes (ETS) was developed. The roadmap will support the country in deciding on the best path for implementing the EU ETS and it proposes actions and measures needed to address climate change issues relevant for the country in this regard.

With an aim to assist the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and other national institutions in developing a systematic, effective approach in communicating on issues related to climate change and encourage action, a **Climate Change Communication Strategy and Action Plan** were prepared with UNDP support. The national climate change website (<http://www.unfccc.org.mk/>) was revived and upgraded, and together with the energy efficiency portal that was developed earlier serve as information and knowledge sharing mechanisms for climate change issues in the country.

UNDP also supported the Government to develop a **National Vision for sustainable development** in the context of Rio + 20 and EU accession. The document links the challenges identified in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development with Rio+20 priority areas and EU positions towards sustainable development, indicated in the EUROPE 2020 Strategy and EU policy perspectives towards Rio+20.

Also in the field of climate change, an assessment of the impact climate change has on mountain regions in the country and region was published by UNEP. The assessment considers multiple sectors and points out vulnerabilities and potential priority actions for adaptation, and resulted in a Research paper on Adaptation to Climate Change in South East Europe. To increase knowledge about the regional effect of climate change, UNEP also launched two key publications, entitled "Climate Change in the West Balkans", and "Climate Change in South Eastern Europe".

An Action Plan for preventing negative health effects from cold weather and cold waves was developed with WHO technical support and adopted by Government in December. An evaluation of the implementation of the National Climate Change Health Adaptation Strategy and the Heat Health Action Plan were carried out, resulting in recommendations for officials and policy makers.

SUPPORTING COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements is often a challenging task for many developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Capacity building assistance, therefore, is crucial to ensure proper compliance with these international agreements.

Under the thematic priority Energy and Environment, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) provides such assistance to these countries in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Montreal Protocol on the Phasing out of Ozone-Depleting Substances and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The Montreal Protocol aims to reduce the abundance of ozone-depleting substances in the atmosphere. UNIDO assists countries to comply with its requirements through supporting mitigation and adaptation approaches like the development of viable projects for greenhouse gas emission reductions in developing countries, providing sustainable development benefits at the national level and contributing to global environmental efforts to mitigate climate change. These approaches include the development of relevant programmes and projects, focusing on adaptation priorities of the industrial sector in developing countries.

As a result of UNIDO's projects to leverage Montreal Protocol environmental technology to developing countries, a number of enterprises working in these countries have adapted some of the most environmentally friendly technologies before many of their counterparts in technically advanced developed countries.

The production and use of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), as well as their presence in the biosphere, causes serious damage to human health and the environment. The Stockholm Convention on POPs, which aims to mitigate their harmful impact through various measures, binds its signatories to implement legal, organizational and environmental management measures, including substantive technological changes. UNIDO assists developing and transition economy countries in preparing National Implementation Plans (NIPs) as primary guidelines for their efforts undertaken under the Stockholm Convention. UNIDO helps countries in many ways, including through enhancing information management, evaluating the POPs situation and establishing POPs inventories as well as through conducting analyses of existing environmental legislation and policies.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a type of POPs banned by the Stockholm Convention in 2001, because of their environmental toxicity. UNIDO has established facilities to increase technical capacity for PCBs management in the country and the region.

The dismantling of PCB equipment reduces the disposal costs and its separation for oil, metal parts and other wastes help to store it more safely and more compactly. As a result of a UNIDO/Global Environment Facility project, whose aim was to enhance national capacity in management of PCBs-containing equipment and wastes, the country obtained a facility for the treatment of transformers and lubricants for the storage of such wastes. The Rade Koncar Ltd. Facility was opened in November 2012.

One of the main objectives of the project, which started in September 2008, is to develop a sustainable Environmental Sound Management (ESM) system to support phasing-out and disposal of PCB-containing electrical equipment. This system is implemented in identified demonstration areas and can later be used by other potential PCB holders.

Enhancing energy efficiency

The UN supported several measures to enhance energy efficiency. UNDP assisted the refurbishment of two kindergartens in the capital, contributing to a 40 to 60 percent decrease of energy consumption in each and signed an agreement with the municipality of Karposh for implementation of a comprehensive energy efficiency programme, making this municipality the first in the country with full-fledged energy management on the local level. WHO undertook energy efficiency measures in the hospitals of Gostivar and Stip, installing solar thermals and assessing their impact on energy saving.

UNIDO continued to support the agro industry to implement Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) practices and to carry out Low Carbon Production assessments. Government officials and relevant national stakeholders were trained in RECP and Low Carbon and two joint awareness raising events with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning were carried out.

Management of Ecosystems and Natural Resources

UNDP has supported a number of initiatives for the **protection and promotion of ecosystems and natural resources**, financed to a large degree by the Global Environment Facility, the largest multilateral source of funding for global environmental issues.

Significant new financial resources have been mobilized for implementation of the priority actions and measures of the **Prespa Lake Watershed Management Plan**, the first of its kind in the country. Action Plans for management and conservation of five transboundary priority species and habitats were completed and delivered to the key stakeholders (in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Greece). UNDP supported civil works for a composting plant and four transfer collecting stations in the municipality of Resen by Prespa watershed, in order to reduce the pressure of organic waste on the ecosystem.

In order to enhance natural resource management, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has assisted national counterparts to produce a **national soil map**, in line with European and global standards. This will provide reliable data and information on the spatial distribution of soil types and soil properties of the country.

Towards strengthening the understanding of interrelated **services provided by ecosystems** of selected regions, improving management of shared trans-boundary ecosystems and to enhance cooperation for the establishment of protected areas, UNEP organised regional consultations in the mountain areas of South Eastern Europe and published “Towards the Network of Mountain Protected areas in The Balkans and the Dinaric Arc”.¹⁰ UNEP also published a feasibility study on establishing a transboundary protected area in Sar Planina – Korab – Desat¹¹.

UNESCO has worked closely with national stakeholders to nominate the transboundary reserves of Osogovo Mountains and of the Ohrid-Prespa Region for **Man and Biosphere Reserves**. The municipality of Ohrid has further received UNESCO training on World Heritage Site Management and is in the process to improve its site management plan.

¹⁰ “Towards the Network of Mountain Protected areas in The Balkans and the Dinaric Arc” UNEP 2012 http://www.unep.at/documents_unep/Balkan_Feasibility_Studies/Balkan-Network_25-10-2010.pdf

¹¹ “Feasibility Study on Establishing a Trans-boundary Protected Area Sharr/Sar Planina – Korab – Desat/Deshat” UNEP 2012 http://www.unep.at/documents_unep/Balkan_Feasibility_Studies/Sharr_25-10-2010.pdf

INVESTING IN NATURE, INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

A study funded by UNDP estimates the tangible benefits of the Ezerani Nature Reserve recently established on the shores of Lake Prespa to be approximately 225,000 euros per year.

The country's first ever study into the economic benefits of investing in conservation areas, brings stakeholder participation to a new level by directly addressing some of the key concerns people have about the costs of conservation. In doing so, the study showcases a model approach to sustainable environmental development—an integrated economic and ecological approach that fully takes into account the diverse interests of all the people most affected by the establishment of nature reserves.

Failing to take account of all the benefits of responsible environmental management is a typical cause of unsustainable land management. Individual farmers, for example, often make choices about land use without being fully aware of the advantages to be gained from alternative strategies. Take the case of a farmer in a mountainous region who must choose between clearing a patch of native forest for crops or maintaining the forest. In making this decision, the farmer will naturally consider the obvious costs of either strategy—the costs of clearing the land, the profits from selling the timber, etc. But it is not likely the farmer will consider the less direct benefits of preserving biodiversity in the region or the wider social costs of more frequent flooding and increased erosion from deforestation.

The central premise behind the economic valuation approach is that stakeholder participation and support is crucial to the sustainability of nature conservation projects. Important decisions about the use of natural resources should always be based on a consideration of many factors because such decisions affect the wellbeing of entire communities and have different consequences for different stakeholders. Economic valuation takes both economic and ecological factors into consideration and applies full cost and full benefit accounting to ensure all stakeholders can make more informed and sustainable decisions on land use.

Clearly presenting the rationale for public spending on ecological restoration, the study will also heighten awareness of the advantages of healthy local ecosystems. And the study findings will further help to inform policy-makers when reaching decisions about future conservation projects.

Without a thorough knowledge of all the consequences, and in the absence of clear incentives to adopt more sustainable practices, farmers will continue to make choices on the basis of limited factors and a perception that the costs of environmentally responsible land use—for example, the profits lost from not clearing a patch of forest for crops—must be borne by farmers themselves. And of course the need for decisions on land use to be fully informed is even greater at the level of regional and national policy-making. The new study on Ezerani Nature Reserve directly addresses this need, providing policy-makers with valuable information on the tangible benefits of public investment in the Reserve.

The total sum from tangible benefits was calculated by quantifying the values from fishing in the borders of the park (22,200 EUR), sand collection (182,000 EUR), hay for seasonal sheep herds (9,200 EUR), educational visits (7,000 EUR), research (2,400 EUR) and wildlife-viewing (1,800 EUR).

But while these benefits of nature reserves may be easily quantifiable, the study further explores innovative ways of measuring the less easily calculable advantages of conservation. These include a range of ecosystem services from the provision of habitats for rare species to flood mitigation and control of soil erosion—benefits that typically outweigh the costs of conservation when assessed in monetary terms.

Weighing up all these factors, the study's overall assessment is that conservation and restoration investments have significant payoffs for local communities, regional and national users and foreign investors—payoffs which need to be communicated effectively to ensure they are taken into account in future policy-making.

Having a clear and accurate picture of the costs and benefits of conservation projects can provide the basis for a fairer distribution of these costs and benefits to stakeholders in future—especially to local people and particularly for local farmers. In this way the study is pioneering a new approach to stakeholder involvement in conservation—part of UNDP’s wider aim of promoting an optimum balance of nature and community in Prespa.

Reducing Risk and Responding to Disasters

The capacities of national authorities continued to be strengthened to **reduce the risk of and enhance the response to natural and man-made disasters**.

The UN Disaster Management Team worked closely with the national **Crisis Management Centre** to develop Standard Operating Procedures that will enhance a joint response in crisis situations. UNDP also worked with all regional branches of the Crisis Management Centre to develop the national Risk and Hazard Assessment. In the South East region, climate risk assessments were carried out in 10 municipalities.

An **innovative smart phone application** for disaster risk reduction was launched by UNDP and is expected to make a major contribution to public safety through detailed information on dangerous events, location on map and recommended behaviour for prevention and response.

In the area of **crisis response**, UNDP and WHO jointly developed a needs assessment for fighting forest fires for the municipality of Strumica that was heavily affected during the summer by fires resulting in loss of human lives and significant material damages. The assessment served as a basis for the Municipal Recovery Plan. Both documents ensured that gender equality and the needs of the most vulnerable categories in the municipality are fully taken into consideration.

WHO supported a simulation exercise to test the **hospital preparedness plans** of the hospitals in Bitola and Prilep as well as the functioning of the Emergency Medical Services. The results of the simulations were discussed with national decision makers and the lessons learned will feed into further development of the plans. In addition, an analysis of the hospital safety of more than 50 health institutions in the country was performed, using the WHO Hospital Safety Index Tool methodology.

UNISDR and WMO initiated a new regional project in the in Western Balkans and Turkey aimed at enhancing **regional institutional capacity and coordination in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures**, data and knowledge sharing on risks, promotion of insurance and reinsurance products for disaster risk transfer, increasing public awareness on disaster risk reduction, improving capabilities in hazard analysis and mapping, accurate and timely warnings for hazardous meteorological and hydrological phenomena.

An environmentally sound **management system for disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** and PCB-containing equipment was established at the Rade Koncar company in Skopje, with support from UNIDO. The decontamination of 150 tons of PCB contaminated electrical equipment will be conducted by the company, which also offers its services to neighbouring countries.

In order to **prevent dam failure** that could lead to pollution in surrounding areas, UNEP has worked with Government to build and improve construction at tailing dams. These measures will also control overflow and erosion of dams. UNEP has also provided technical assistance on **risk reduction for three mining hotspots** and helped set up monitoring mechanisms for these, as well as contributed expertise to national cleaner production programs. In order to increase policy makers’ knowledge on sustainable mining practice, UNEP has produced and disseminated a number of publications on the topic, such as “Mining and Environment in the Western Balkans” and “Mining for Closure, Policies and Guidelines for Sustainable Mining practice and Closure of Mines”.¹²

¹² “Mining and Environment in the Western Balkans” UNEP, 2012 http://www.unep.org/pdf/MiningBalkans_screen.pdf ; “Mining for Closure, Policies and Guidelines for Sustainable Mining practice and Closure of Mines” ENVSEC, 2005 <http://www.envsec.org/publications/Mining%20for%20closure.pdf>

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN continued to assist the Government to strengthen its capacity and improve interaction with the UN human rights mechanisms, with support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

UN assisted the newly established Government **Inter-sectoral Body on Human Rights**, which coordinates interaction and follow up to mechanisms' recommendations, to prepare the Common Core Document which includes basic information required by all human rights treaties¹³. This will reduce the Government's reporting burden and allow officials to focus on further improvement of the regularity and quality of reports under specific treaties.

To assist the implementation of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**, UN translated and disseminated the OHCHR thematic study on national mechanisms under CRPD. The study helped national actors to understand the implementation and monitoring requirements and facilitated the establishment of the **National Coordination Body for the Implementation of CRPD** in November.

¹³ The Common Core Document allows a State to report on adherence to the full range of international human rights treaties to which it is a party, thus streamlining the reporting process.

STATELESS PERSONS NEED TO FIT IN, NOT TO BE LEFT STRANDED

Up to twelve million people all across the globe are not recognized as citizens of any state – they are stateless. Stateless persons have no legal existence and consequently have almost no rights. These persons have no access to education, employment and healthcare. They are not able to formalize their marriages, get birth certificate for their children and register their death.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is tasked to act as an intermediary between States and stateless persons. Identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness have become priorities of UNHCR's global mandate since 1961, after the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Statelessness in a successor state leaves many outside the system

The dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) in 1991 resulted in the emergence of successor states, one of which is this country. The succession process adversely affected a considerable number of people who overnight became aliens in the country where they were born or spent most of their lives. The resulting effect for many was de facto statelessness, i.e. lack of effective citizenship. This problem is often passed from one generation to the next and thus creates a vicious circle.

Though the country has a sound legislation compatible with international standards, it has not yet acceded to the 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR Representation in Skopje continuously advocates both for the country's accession to the Convention and the improvement of the legal status of the 1,119 identified persons who are at risk of becoming stateless.

The elimination of risks leading to statelessness calls for a well-thought-out strategic approach. In over a decade, through joint efforts of all actors involved - the authorities, UNHCR and civil society, considerable progress has been achieved in the reduction and prevention of de facto statelessness. Reaching out to members of marginalized groups, primarily Roma, who are at risk of statelessness and/or experience difficulties in establishing their nationality, has been a stepping stone in this endeavor. Since early 2008, the UNHCR Representation in Skopje has managed to reach out to the most vulnerable among these groups – persons who face an absolute lack of identity i.e. whose births were never registered.

In addition, over the last couple of years, the office has managed to provide free legal assistance and to cover the costs of document/registration fees. This effort resulted in 2,504 birth certificates, 157 marriage certificates, 69 death certificates, 888 citizenship certificates, 1,314 national ID cards and 327 alien residence permits.

ADDITIONAL UN HIGHLIGHTS IN 2012

Marking UN Days

In collaboration with national partners, UN in the country observed several international UN days during 2012. **Women's Rights Nights** were celebrated in cooperation with the City of Skopje in March and **World Health Day** was marked on 7 April. To raise awareness about the potential of cultural diversity and common heritage for economic development and as a community integrator, the **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** was celebrated on 21 May, with UNESCO support. In October, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UN Women jointly marked the first **International Day of the Girl Child** with a photo exhibition and the launch of a recent study on early marriage in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

On 24 October, **UN Day** was marked by all UN agencies in the country together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The event was an opportunity for the UN and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss the progress the country has made towards reaching its development objectives and reconfirm joint priorities for the future.

UN Women supported national CSOs to mark **16 Days of Activism against violence against women**, and as part of this initiative the National CSO network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence engaged in dialogue with the broader public, representatives from local self-governments and civil society on the need to recognize and address gender based violence.

To raise awareness and strengthen solidarity and support for people living with HIV, the UN supported the newly established group for support and self-help of people living with HIV, "Stronger Together", to mark **World Aids Day** at the National Opera. The UN also marked **Human Rights Day** through showcasing the work that has been done to ensure inclusion and the right to participate in public life, with an emphasis on women's participation in political life.

The visit of the UN Secretary General

The first visit of the UN Secretary-General to the country on 25-26 July 2012 was a successful event that reconfirmed the country's commitment to shared UN visions and gave new momentum to the negotiations on the name issue. UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon visited Ohrid and Skopje, meeting the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, as well as addressing Parliament and young leaders from across society. In his meetings, the Secretary-General highlighted messages of reconciliation, sustainable development and gender equality and expressed his strong desire to support the resolution of the dispute over the country's name.

ANNEX I

UN AGENCY PROFILES



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mandate:

UNDP supports the country's development through activities designed to help increase the effectiveness of governance, to promote greater social inclusion and to ensure better protection of the environment.

Approximate Annual Expenditure: US\$ 8,3 million

In the country since: 1998

Number of staff: 60

Key funding partners: Host Government, Global Environment Facility, Spain (MDGF), Switzerland, the Netherlands and Norway

UNDP at a glance

Good Governance — delivering better services to all

Good governance is essential for the successful implementation of developmental measures and for the effective delivery of services to all. This is why UNDP works closely with public administrators from national and local institutions to increase their skills and capacities to design more responsive and inclusive policies and to deliver their services more effectively. In recent years, for example, UNDP has provided substantial assistance to municipalities throughout the country to help them meet the challenges of decentralization, achieving significant results through increased cooperation amongst municipalities.

UNDP supports greater citizen participation in decision-making and has helped in the design and development of numerous policies, laws and measures to increase the accountability of public institutions. As part of this commitment to good democratic governance, UNDP has also provided significant support for officials from central and local government to improve aid effectiveness, to combat corruption and increase inter-ethnic dialogue and cooperation.

Social Inclusion – empowering the most vulnerable people in society

Increasing social inclusion means empowering people to participate more equally in society—in education and employment, in the decision-making processes that affect their lives, in access to social services and social protection and all other resources of their local communities. To this end, UNDP supports national efforts to improve the social and economic conditions of individuals and groups at risk of exclusion, as well as providing knowledge and expertise to help policy-makers develop more inclusive policies and reforms.

UNDP has concentrated its greatest efforts in recent years on supporting the Government's commitment to reducing unemployment as an essential step in increasing social inclusion. Much of UNDP's support for social inclusion in recent years has been focused on developing measures to promote self-employment, helping train the long-term unemployed and other vulnerable groups—such as members of the Roma community, women living in rural areas, and victims of domestic violence—to start up their own sustainable businesses.

Energy and Environment – ensuring sustainable development

Long-term social and economic development requires responsible management of natural resources and the reduction of environmental hazards. To strengthen the country's capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner, UNDP helps decision-makers integrate environmental considerations and incorporate measures in their policies and in the work of their institutions to prevent pollution, maintain biodiversity, decrease the negative effects of climate change, implement energy efficiency measures and reduce the risks of natural disasters.

UNDP has provided expert assistance to policy-makers in transposing UN conventions on environmental issues and EU environmental directives into the national legal framework. Specifically, this has involved helping the Government to implement the three major UN conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Desertification adopted at the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, together with the provisions of the EU Water Framework and the EU Energy Efficiency Directive.

Key results 2012

Local and Regional Development

- UNDP supported national authorities to develop major policy documents on decentralisation: the 2012–14 National Action Plan on decentralization and the Monitoring Methodology. In its annual Progress Report, the European Commission recognized that this work has accelerated the decentralization agenda.
- UNDP continued to provide expert assistance to support the country's ongoing fiscal decentralization reforms. Analysis and simulations have provided sufficient evidence for policy-makers to decide to move towards introducing for the first time a more equitable system of fiscal decentralisation, which represents a major contribution to addressing inequalities and social inclusion. Also, over 90 officials from various national institutions and municipalities were trained on the new concept for the local finances system.
- To help combat corruption, UNDP and the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption helped the municipalities of Petrovec, Veles, Aerodrom, Gostivar, Strumica, Gevgelija, Kocani, Debar, Kratovo and Brvenica Comprehensive to develop comprehensive anti-corruption policies and introduce integrity systems. With this major undertaking, the mayors will not only improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of municipal work, they will also help in preventing corruption and reducing the waste of resources needed by the people in their municipalities.
- Support to institutional and strategic capacities for policy-making has been most prominent this year in the area of local/regional development and the rule of law - areas very important for the accession process. Working with sub-regional expertise, UNDP was able to bring in key experts and former negotiators from the negotiating team of Croatia, the country with the most recent experience in accession negotiation with the EU, and also from Slovenia, to transfer experience and know-how. This supported the country's progress in the implementation of the High Level Accession Dialogue, and was praised in the European Council's conclusions in December 2012.
- As part of UNDP's commitment to improving inter-ethnic relations, this year saw the launch of a first ever TV show that takes a fresh and innovative approach to promoting cultural diversity. The Key is Under the

Mat – a series of five short films that document two-day visits between young people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds – was broadcast on Macedonian National Television and received an excellent viewers' rating. Innovative in concept and design, this project brought together and trained a unique mix of professionals who will be using media more effectively to send out positive messages about tolerance and diversity.

Social Inclusion:

- UNDP's long term commitment to helping tackle the country's high level of unemployment continued this year with support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in designing and implementing the National Operational Plan on Employment. UNDP assisted in the design and implementation of a number of active labour market measures, helping 900 unemployed people to open or formalize their own business and regulate their employment status.
- UNDP further facilitated effective policy dialogue this year between labour market institutions and policy makers to improve the competitiveness of the labour force, expanding adult education and long-life learning and increasing access to sustainable jobs for the most vulnerable members of society, particularly the Roma and women victims of domestic violence.
- As part of UN's commitment to reducing domestic violence, UNDP supported the Government to develop a new Domestic violence strategy for the period 2012-2015 and to carry out the country's first ever baseline survey for prevalence and incidence of domestic violence. The survey findings will support the country efforts to create effective policies and improve its domestic violence legislation and to overcome the existing gap with domestic violence data. UNDP also supported the establishment of 3 Regional Shelter Centres for victims of domestic violence, increasing thus fully the national sheltering standards in line with the international standards.
- In September 2012, a new Political Analysis and Emerging Scenarios initiative (PAESi), began, with the main purpose to strengthen the national political analysis capacities for the country's long-term development through the generation and use of high-level knowledge and analyses in an environment that brings key stakeholders together on strategic development issues. This project is set to generate and explore prospective political scenarios that development actors – including national institutions as well as international partners - can respond to.
- Through its Social Inclusion Strategy Project, UNDP has been supporting the process of revision of the current National Strategy of Alleviation of Poverty and Social Exclusion and its alignment with the EU framework, targets and indicators. UNDP has also been working with national and local institutions to improve the decentralization of social services, in line with the National Programme for the Development of Social Protection 2011-2021.
- With its Capacity Building for Aid Coordination project, UNDP continued to support the Secretariat for European Affairs to introduce a Programme Based Approach (PBA) to promote a more holistic approach to development assistance. This approach, also supported by the EU and the World Bank, has helped ensure greater aid effectiveness and meeting the global principles of the Paris Declaration.
- In 2012, UNDP developed a comprehensive study on the employment of disabled people. The study focuses on good practices from EU member states in elaborating policy measures, programmes and services for persons with disabilities and on proposing specific recommendations for public policy measures that may improve the employability of persons with disabilities.

Energy and environment

- The Prespa Lake Watershed Management Plan developed with UNDP's support—the first such plan of its kind in the country fully aligned with the EU Water Framework Directive—now serves as a model for the development of river basin management plans throughout the country. Thanks to the financial support from the Swiss Development Cooperation, UNDP will continue to work in the Prespa region for the next six years, to help implement the priority measures of the Prespa Watershed Management Plan and further improve the Prespa Lake overall health, strengthen its resilience, and ensure, in the long-run, control of the eutrophication processes.
- UNDP supported the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning to develop the first ever National Roadmap for transparent and accurate monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the Emissions Trading System – the cornerstone of the European Union's policy to combat climate change. The *National Roadmap for the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification of GHG Emissions* is a new instrument that can contribute to a cost-effective reduction of industrial greenhouse gas emissions and open discussions on topics important for future negotiations with the EU. A key contribution to greater energy efficiency this year included the development of an internet-based energy monitoring system for local governments that tracks the energy expenses of each public building and calculates CO2 emissions, while enabling national institutions to gather statistics on the CO2 emissions of public buildings. Demonstrations of retrofitting measures to increase energy efficiency in public buildings were conducted in a number of selected municipalities, serving as models for replication countrywide. This year saw an increase in partnerships with local governments for implementing demonstration projects for energy-efficient kindergartens and schools.
- The preparation of the Third National Report on Climate Change, supported by UNDP, is underway. It has produced additional evidence and policy recommendations for national action on climate change. The Report also serves as a platform for dialogue among policy-makers, the academic community, and the private/public sector. Also, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning was provided with the software EMI – Emission Monitoring in Industry that helps them to utilize the information from several databases and inventories thus harmonizing the country reporting obligations for the industry sector.
- UNDP continued to partner with national institutions to support actions aimed at reducing disaster and climate risks in the country. For the first time in the country, an assessment of climate risks at local level was carried out in 2012 in the South East Planning Region (involving 10 municipalities). The results of this assessment will help municipalities and the region as a whole to plan adequate measures for the prevention and reduction of climate risks and to include these actions and measures in their development plans. Increased numbers of municipalities are implementing small-scale disaster risk reduction measures and receive financial resources in their municipal budgets.
- UNDP and the Ministry of Information Society and Administration launched an innovative smartphone application for disaster risk reduction that will make a major contribution to public safety by providing detailed information on events such as fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, violent thunderstorms and heavy snowfalls.
- UNDP supported the Government to develop a National Vision for sustainable development in the context for Rio + 20 and EU accession. The document links the challenges identified in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development with Rio+20 priority areas and EU positions towards sustainable development, indicated in the EUROPE 2020 Strategy and EU policy perspectives towards Rio+20. The document points out that strong administrative, financial and personal commitment for sustainable development to all levels of governance and society is needed to ensure balanced economic prosperity, social cohesion and preserved environment for the present and future generations.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Mandate

UNICEF is the UN's lead agency for children's rights, mandated by the UN General Assembly to advocate for the promotion and protection of the rights of all children, to help meet their needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential in times of conflict, peace and transition. Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. UNICEF insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress. UNICEF aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.

Approximate Annual Expenditure: US\$ 2.75 million

In the country since: 1994

Number of staff: 19

Key funding partners: EU, UN Trust Fund, the Netherlands, Spain (MDGF) and private sector fundraising

UNICEF at a glance:

UNICEF began its first cycle of cooperation by supporting the national immunization programme and improving the quality of education in the country. UNICEF is currently engaged in comprehensive programmes in the areas of System Strengthening for Child Rights and Child Rights Monitoring and Social Policy. UNICEF works to create more opportunities for children to access early childhood development services and promotes and supports the inclusion of all children in basic education and the improvement of outcomes for students in line with adopted standards for child-friendly schools.

UNICEF supports the improved implementation of preventive health programmes for mothers and children and works to build the capacities of the health sector for planning and budgeting at national and local level. UNICEF works to strengthen the child protection system through improvement of the normative framework, through the development of human resources, and by enhancing service provision for the protection of children from abuse, violence and exploitation. UNICEF generates data and knowledge on social inclusion to ensure that the issues of the country's most vulnerable children are reflected and incorporated in the development of social and economic policy.

Key Results 2012

SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Health System Strengthening

- UNICEF technical support to the Ministry of Health's preparation of the project for Rehabilitation of Mother and Child Health came into fruition with the official signing of an agreement with the Government of the Netherlands. Through evidence based advocacy, including knowledge generation on the situation of community health care, and successful partnership with the government and international donors, UNICEF helped leveraged significant external (\$8 million) and domestic (\$15 million) financial support to revive Mother and Child Health services and address disparities. This should ensure over 80% of funding required to implement the key health sector strategies, i.e. Immunisation, Safe Motherhood and Nutrition strategy.
- UNICEF support to improving management practices and the efficiency of Mother and Child Health (MCH) programmes: Given that fiscal decentralization in the health sector has not yet taken place, instead of supporting local health planning as was initially foreseen, the programme provided international expertise to the national health authorities to start modernising public health programming, account for local disparities and introduce evidence-based planning.
- UNICEF provided support to address the bottleneck in the quality of MCH services and help improve the competencies and skills of health professionals in community health care. UNICEF partnered with renowned international academic institutions - Imperial College London - to upgrade the pre-service teaching curricula for child health care at the state medical university, with a special emphasis on the needs of marginalized children such as children with disabilities.

Early Childhood Development

- A revised Child Protection Law and supporting by-laws, with new provisions for expanding early childhood development services - developed with UNICEF technical assistance – was adopted by the Government. The new legislation includes provisions for diversified service provision, clear reference to the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) for work with children, licencing, professional development, inspection, and record keeping based on ELDS.
- Building on the findings of a UNICEF supported cost-benefit analysis (Fair Play), UNICEF initiated the preparation of a more in-depth financial study (to be completed in 2013) which will provide the basis for a new funding formula for Early Childhood Development services with a focus on the most marginalized.
- UNICEF's advocacy with municipalities has resulted 3 new municipalities (Zelino, Konce, Lubnica), taking over the operating costs of UNICEF supported ECD centres in Roma and rural communities in 2012. Recognised as a cost-effective model for service delivery to the most marginalized children, of the 20 ECD centres established with UNICEF support and covering 1,843 marginalized children, 9 centres are now fully taken over by municipalities (Zelino, Konce, Lubnica, Logovardi, Mogila, Novaci, Babi, Oblessevo, Kocani) and one by local business (Vero Bitola).
- UNICEF continued to support on the job training and mentoring in early childhood development centres and model kindergartens to build capacities for implementing Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and to address lack of support to teachers and educators.
- UNICEF technical support helped leverage IPA funds in the amount of €230,000 for support to ECD centers and other forms of ECD provision to be implemented directly by the local NGO partners (ECD CoR and Lifestart).

Quality and Relevant Education

- UNICEF support to improving teaching methodology in literacy and numeracy resulted in concrete improvement in students' learning outcome. The preliminary results of a longitudinal study in schools whose teachers have been trained in early numeracy show improvement in teachers' knowledge to apply new techniques (from 34% in 2009 to 49% in 2012) and student outcomes (from 38% to 58% per cent respectively). To date, 60% of all early grade teachers have been trained on improved techniques, in line with international good practices for teaching numeracy, and 40% have received similar training on teaching skills to improve literacy.
- UNICEF continued to support the roll out of the five modules for inclusive education (IE) in-service and pre-service teacher training developed in 2011. During 2012, UNICEF supported capacity development of a team of national trainers on the concept of inclusive education, school inclusion teams and out of school children, as well as the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health-Children and Youth Version (ICF-CY) – the social model of inclusion - as a framework for assessment.
- Support to promote international best practices for school integration of students from different ethnic backgrounds continued in 2012. An assessment conducted 12 schools involved in joint extracurricular activities showed significant improvement in student's attitudes towards those from other ethnic groups; three youth centres organizing joint activities for more than 3,200 students from different ethnicities were officially handed over to the municipalities (Kicevo, Struga, Kumanovo).
- UNICEF developed a strategic partnership and effective coordination with USAID in the implementation of their project on inter-ethnic education. USAID is now supporting the expansion of extracurricular activities based on a model developed by UNICEF. UNICEF and USAID are also working together to jointly support teacher professional development in competencies needed for effective work in inclusive education.
- UNICEF supported the development of the National Action Plan and National Protocol on Reduction of School Violence (adopted by the Government in October, 2012) and the Programme for implementation of inter-ethnic integration in education. Moreover, all secondary schools were trained on reduction of violence.

Child Protection

- UNICEF continued to support efforts to strengthen the child protection legal framework. Efforts in 2012 focused on improving the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Law to include the rights of child victims and witnesses, developing by-laws for children in conflict with the law, and new tools for child-oriented policy to assess children for adoption. Also, standard rules for treatment of children in police procedure and the standard rules for children in detention were developed. As a result of UNICEF technical assistance and partnership with MLSP, the Family Law was amended to make adoption process simpler and more transparent. UNICEF partnership and advocacy with the Parliament was instrumental in introducing a programme for assessment of children and parents in the adoption procedure as part of this amendment.
- UNICEF support led to the incorporation of the indicators framework for monitoring the implementation of the JJ law in the electronic courts data collection system. All juvenile judges and the administrative staff that support those judges were trained on the mechanics and use of the data collection system.
- UNICEF partnership with the National Council to Prevent Juvenile Delinquency led to the Council's endorsement of the indicators framework. With technical support from UNICEF, the Council's annual report was prepared based on the indicators framework and submitted to Government and Parliament.

- UNICEF continued to support efforts to improve standards and quality of services provided by the Center for Social Work (CSW). UNICEF support to capacity development for the Institute for Social Activities resulted in revised CSW service delivery standards, and endorsement of a standardized national curriculum with 14 modules for continuous education of CSW staff. The standards together with the new curriculum will form the basis for issuance or extension of CSW staff licence.

CHILD RIGHTS MONITORING AND SOCIAL POLICY

Generating and Using Child Related Data

- UNICEF cooperation with SSO on improving child related data resulted in the SSO agreement to use the data generated through the two newly developed monitoring systems in their regular reports, i.e. juvenile justice monitoring framework, and the social work database in CSWs, both of which were developed with UNICEF technical support.
- For the first time, the National Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, prepared and submitted its annual report on the implementation of the JJ law using the model, methodology and the indicators developed with UNICEF support.

Child focused governance

- Through a detailed assessment of the child benefits system, UNICEF generated previously unavailable knowledge and evidence on the efficiency and effectiveness of child related cash transfers system in reaching and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children. UNICEF advocacy efforts have led to commitments by the Government to initiate administrative and legislative reforms in 2013 based on the specific recommendations of the assessment.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF conducted a study on the adequacy, efficiency, and effectiveness of fiscal allocations in the area of education from the central to the local levels. UNICEF's work in improving the use and effectiveness of fiscal transfers in the area of education continued in 2012 through the implementation of a Public Expenditure Tracking Survey. This detailed scrutiny of education allocations and management of resources is in the final stages of completion and will feed into the process of optimizing the education funding formula that currently governs the level of central transfers to municipalities.
- UNICEF partnered with UNDP to build upon their work in the area of financing municipalities to deliver services. UNICEF has built upon the work of UNDP in the area of bridging fiscal gaps between municipalities through equalization grants, focusing particularly on the recommended changes to the fiscal transfer formulas to municipalities in the area of education.

Child Rights Monitoring

- The first two annual reports on the situation of child rights and CRC implementation, prepared by two civil society coalitions, were published in 2012. In the process clear improvements have been noted in the capacities of the coalitions and in their approach to child rights monitoring. These include: i) a less centralized approach and higher involvement of coalition members in the monitoring and reporting process; ii) moving away from a “desk review” approach to a “field-based” data collection; iii) better defining of indicators; iv) gradual shift from national level data to collecting data at municipal level. It was agreed that each coalition should select 14 urban and 14 rural municipalities (i.e. one third of all the municipalities in the country) for data collection following a unified approach, methodology and same set of indicators.

- UNICEF support to the National Commission for Child Rights ensured the National Action Plan for Children (2006-2015) was revised in line with the recommendations of the latest recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- UNICEF continued to provide technical support to roll out MICS4. The report will provide vital statistics on the situation of children and women in the country, to be used by both Government institutions and CSOs.

Alliance Building and Partnership for Children

- UNICEF signed a multi-year agreement with the T-Mobile Foundation, to support the expansion of early childhood development services. The partnership is a milestone as it taps into the local private sector for the first time, integrating a one-off cash donation and leveraging other mechanisms for fundraising from private individuals through the foundation's parent companies T-Mobile.
- Participatory activities initiated in 2010 to inspire discussion and provoke change to ensure schools are safe and protective environments were expanded to secondary schools in 2012, bringing the total number of youth and children who participated in the initiative to over 8000.
- During 2012, the programme finalised a set of communication material activities conducted as part of the UNICEF and EU Justice for Children Project, helping to increase the awareness of the public, the Government stakeholders, and media on the rights of children in conflict with the law, needed reforms of the child justice system, as well as the issues affecting children in conflict with the law.
- UNICEF's partnership with Parliament yielded concrete positive results for children. The UNICEF supported Working Group on the Rights of Children, a subsidiary body within the Parliamentary Committee for Labour and Social Policy, reviewed and amended the draft Law on Adoption to incorporate specific assessment procedures for children and parents in the process. In addition, based on their field visits to the correctional facility for children in conflict with the law, the members of the Working Group made specific recommendations for relevant authorities in order to improve conditions in this facility. Finally, the Working Group visited three municipal Early Childhood Development centers, to garner support for greater support for ECD.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Mandate

UNHCR is mandated to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees, ensuring that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state and to return home voluntarily. UNHCR's efforts are mandated by its statute and guided by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. UNHCR also has a mandate to help stateless people.

Approximate Annual Expenditure:	US\$ 2.19 million
In the country since:	1992
Number of staff:	11
Key funding partners:	Voluntary contributions by various governments and private donors

UNHCR at a glance

UNHCR advocates with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) to strengthen the national asylum system based on full and inclusive application of the 1951 Refugee Convention and to further harmonize the national procedures and practices in line with the EU *acquis* and international standards. Capacity-building activities target government and state officials, including the judiciary, and civil society.

UNHCR collaborates with the Government in the implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Refugees and Foreigners and the National Plan of Action. This implementation process is steered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) through its Centre for Integration of Refugees and Foreigners. In 2012 MLSP and UNHCR prioritised constructing apartments and upgrading individual houses of the most vulnerable integrating families. Also, MLSP and UNHCR sought to ensure that all persons granted asylum have access to state health insurance services and education, including early childhood development.

UNHCR, in partnership with the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) and their national civil society partners, provides free legal aid and representation to all persons of concern in their asylum procedure as well as legal assistance to stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness.

UNHCR cooperates with UNHCR Offices in the region to facilitate the voluntary return of the refugee population. Facilitation includes the provision of transport and financial assistance, as well as the organization of Go-and-See and Come-and-Inform visits.

In cooperation with the City Red Cross of Skopje (CRC), UNHCR delivers logistics, material relief assistance, promotes education and raises awareness on HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Human Trafficking, Family Planning etc. for all persons of concern. It also provides health care for persons in a refugee like situation.

Together with the Regional Enterprise Support Centre Skopje (RESC) and the Agency for Employment, UNHCR provides income generation and vocational training opportunities for locally integrating refugees.

UNHCR cooperates with the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors to strengthen the capacities of the national judiciary by promoting within the judiciary a common understanding of refugee law and asylum principles, and by encouraging the development of national practices fully compatible with applicable international law standards subject to the rule of law.

UNHCR advocates for the ratification of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the establishment of procedures to determine statelessness.

Key Results in 2012

Social Inclusion

- UNHCR provided multi-sector assistance to extremely vulnerable persons facing delays in voluntary return to their homeland as well as to persons in a refugee like situation. UNHCR also provided material and financial assistance to locally integrating persons facing delays and/or lacking effective access to social welfare assistance including accommodation.
- UNHCR together with MLSP promoted the implementation of the national strategy for local integration through publications and operational support for the Centre for Integration. Most notably UNHCR and MLSP obtained a permit and started the construction of 20 apartments for the most vulnerable families. It also funded the improvement of living conditions through an upgrade of 6 individual houses of locally integrating families.
- UNHCR and MLSP co-funded the enrolment of 12 refugee children to enrol in public pre-schools. In cooperation with CRC, UNHCR provided scholarships for 180 primary, 10 secondary school and 2 university students. In partnership with RESC, UNHCR supported 15 adults to complete their primary education.
- UNHCR and RESC also assisted 25 direct and 76 indirect beneficiaries with vocational training projects. Both organizations also assisted 2 direct and 8 indirect beneficiaries with income generation projects.
- MLSP in coordination with UNHCR started the coverage of the health insurance costs for 612 locally integrating families from Kosovo. In addition, UNHCR and CRC provide all levels of health care for 254 persons in a refugee like situation. UNHCR continued the funding of a multi-disciplinary community centre in Suto Orizari, tasked to identify vulnerabilities/capacities, map basic and urgent needs, as well as provide tailored assistance to minimize social disparities between persons of concern and domestic populations.
- The amendments to the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection adopted in December 2012 further aligned the asylum legislation with EU acquis on refugee status determination standards and incorporated most of UNHCR's recommendations.
- In view of increased migratory movements through the country, UNHCR in cooperation with MoI organized workshops on refugee protection within mixed migration flows for all four regional centers of the border police and several workshops on Country of Origin Information on Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia involving asylum, reception and NGO staff in the country.

- UNHCR continuously monitored the reception practices and advocated for their improvement in line with international standards. To this effect UNHCR provided material support to the asylum-seekers' reception centre in Vizbegovo in order to improve hygiene and capacities to respond to an increased arrival of new asylum-seekers.
- Enhanced engagement with the Judiciary, through the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors, resulted in signing a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Academy for the coming two years. In cooperation with the Academy, UNHCR organized the fourth annual Roundtable on refugee law and practice for more than 20 Judges and supported the submission by the Academy of a proposal for a regional refugee law judges' conference.
- UNHCR organised two annual cross-sectoral cooperation meetings – on mixed migration and the prevention of statelessness. The cooperation meetings involved key government officials, with the aim to strengthen cooperation on refugee protection within mixed migration movements and to prevent statelessness by sharing good practices, familiarise participants with regional developments in this area and adopting recommendation for joint actions.
- Extensive advocacy with the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs and Labour and Social Policy on accession to the 1961 Convention resulted in the Government's decision to consider adherence to the Convention, announced by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative at the 63-rd session of the UNHCR Executive Committee in October 2012 in Geneva.
- UNHCR supported the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association to develop regional cooperation on asylum and statelessness issues and become a member of the ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles) and the ENS (European Network of Statelessness).

United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)



UNFPA Mandate

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA Goals

The goals of UNFPA - achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health (including family planning), promoting reproductive rights, reducing maternal mortality and accelerating progress on the ICPD agenda and MDG 5 - are inextricably linked. UNFPA also focuses on improving the lives of youths and women by advocating for human rights and gender equality and by promoting the understanding of population dynamics. Population dynamics, including growth rates, age structure, fertility and mortality and migration have an effect on every aspect of human, social and economic progress. Sexual and reproductive health and women's empowerment all powerfully affect and are influenced by population trends.

Approximate Annual Expenditure:	US\$ 300,000
In the country since:	2007
Number of staff:	4
Key funding partners:	Government of Netherlands, UN TRUST Fund to End Violence against Women

UNFPA at a glance

Established in 2007, UNFPA's main areas of work in the country are the prevention of domestic violence and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

UNFPA supports efforts of the Government in the development of strategic documents and policies that address population and development issues, such as the National Strategy for Population Development and the National Strategy for Reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Key Results 2012

- Domestic Violence:** In partnership with other UN Agencies, UNFPA was part of the joint programme "Strengthening National Capacity to Prevent Domestic Violence 2008-2011". UNFPA's role focused on public awareness raising activities and the establishment of a unified data collection system for domestic

violence. In 2012 UNFPA organized an “Open Day Against Domestic Violence” – where UN Agencies, NGOs and institutional partners promoted the achievements of the joint programme, as well as a media event under the slogan “DOMINO – One hit is affects all of us”.

- **Sexual and reproductive health:** In the area of sexual and reproductive health, UNFPA has supported the Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health to develop the National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health. Through this strategy UNFPA helped establish 18 youth counseling centers for sexual and reproductive health throughout the country and to train and sensitize medical personnel to provide sexual and reproductive health counseling and distribute free contraceptives.
- **Observance of International Day of the Girl Child:** To mark the occasion, UNFPA and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy organized a public event, including a photo exhibition on the topic of early marriage. UNFPA also promoted contextual analysis of the issue of early marriage in different regions in the country; the prevalence of early marriage in urban and rural communities; and the state and public institutions’ response.
- **World Population Day:** UNFPA recognized the individuals who made progress in the country possible and helped increase access to reproductive health and reproductive rights (the theme of World Population Day 2012). In partnership with the School of Journalism and Public Relations, students of journalism produced video TV packages on the topic of sexual and reproductive health, which were distributed to all TV stations in the country. In addition, on 11 July a panel debate was organized on the topic “Covering Sexual and reproductive health issues in the media – ethics and standards”.
- **Partnership:** UNFPA has established partnerships with the Government, civil society and private sector. The main partners of UNFPA are the Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, a network of over 13 civil society organizations, the Club of Women Parliamentarians and the Parliamentary Commission for Equal Opportunities of Women and Men.
- **Demography and population:** UNFPA has partnered with the Ministry for Labour and Social Policy to provide support in the process of updating the National Population Strategy, as part of continued efforts to ensure equality in terms of regional development, overcoming the disparities in rights and opportunities between men and women, and girls and boys across the country.

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN Women)



Mandate

UN Women is the lead driver advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment globally, supporting Member States in the advancement of gender equality in line with national priorities and international norms and policies. UN Women focuses on five priority areas that are fundamental to women's equality: 1) Increasing women's leadership and participation; 2) Ending violence against women; 3) Engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; 4) Enhancing women's economic empowerment; and 5) Making gender equality central to national development, planning and budgeting.

Approximate Annual Expenditure: 470.000 USD

In the country since: 2006

Number of staff: 7

Key funding partners: The Netherlands, the Austrian Development Cooperation and Norway.

UN Women at a glance:

UN Women supports the country in the fulfilment of its national and international commitments to gender equality, including commitments expressed in the Law on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2007–2012 and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The activities of UN Women are focused on:

- Providing support to the Government in implementing national commitments on gender equality; Promoting gender-responsive budgeting as a tool for advancing gender equality and democratic governance and strengthening the capacities of key Government institutions, MPs, units of local self-government, gender equality mechanisms and civil society organisations to review and monitor policies and budgets from gender perspective.
- Supporting women who are subject to exclusion or discrimination and their organisations in voicing their needs, claiming their rights and actively participating in decision making process.
- Participating in joint UN efforts aimed at strengthening national capacities for the prevention of domestic violence and improving the provision of support services to victims; and supporting civil society efforts to address violence against women.
- Strengthening the capacity of key Government institutions and civil society organisations to implement and monitor commitments under UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

- Enhancing accountability towards gender equality commitments through supporting capacity development and dialogue between the Government and civil society organisations, as well as promoting innovative approaches to raise awareness on gender equality and women's rights.
- Supporting regional dialogue, networking and exchange of best practices and experiences among countries from South East Europe under the framework of regional programmes.

Key Results 2012

Social Inclusion

- With Joint UNCT Support and under UN Women leadership, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy developed the country's first Gender Equality Strategy 2013-2020 and National Action Plan 2013-2016.
- UN Women supported the think tank Reactor – Research in Action to conduct an in-depth study on gender based violence and discrimination against women in urban areas of Skopje. This is the first-ever study in the country analyzing violence against women in public spaces and women's perceptions of safety in public. Building on the findings, Reactor used innovative social applications to spur awareness of violence against women in public spaces by creating an anonymous reporting platform www.react-besafe.mk.
- UN Women supported free legal aid providers in the area of domestic violence to enhance use of minimum standards in provision of legal aid in response to domestic violence and establish a system of monitoring of their implementation. CSOs initiated a process of establishing an independent body for monitoring the implementation of the standards and providing guidance and training to registered CSOs.
- Continued support to the National CSO network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence enabled successful advocacy and awareness raising in the area of violence against women. The CSO Network used evidence-based inputs to advocate for improved policies and institutional response to violence against women and domestic violence, in the working group for development of the national Strategy on DV 2012-2015.
- As part of 16 Days of Activism against violence against women, the National CSO network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence engaged in dialogue with the broader public, representatives from local self-governments and civil society on the need to recognize and address gender based violence.
- UN Women completed three years of technical support to the Women's Civic Initiative Antico with local advocacy actions focused on women's needs and priorities in economic empowerment in the municipalities of Tearce and Krushevo.
- Continued cooperation with the Institute of Social Affairs aimed at enhancing gender mainstreaming capacities in area of social work resulted in gender-based analytical study "Social Work through gender prism - risks and services". Support in enhancing gender mainstreaming capacity of Public Institute for Social Affairs (ISA) resulted in evidence-based policy recommendations on strengthening social work services from gender perspective. In response to study recommendations on strengthening social work services from gender perspective, specific mandatory training module on Gender equality and Social Work was produced as part of ISA's institutional / official training package to support accreditation of currently and newly employed social workers. Subsequently, training of trainers was conducted with ISA's pool of trainers.
- Continued support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in enhancing capacities for using gender responsive budgeting as a tool for advancing gender equality and mainstreaming gender in sectoral policy resulted in development and adoption of Government Strategy for Gender Responsive Budgeting (2012-2017) by an inter-ministerial working group. As the first step towards implementation of the Strategy,

the Ministry of Finance amended the budget instructions 2013 requesting pilot budget users to formulate gender sensitive output indicators which would enable gender analysis of their programs.

- A cooperative effort with the Parliamentary Commission for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men and the Club of Women MPs resulted in a decision to prioritize Gender Responsive Budgeting and develop MPs capacity in this area.
- Support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Defense resulted in the adoption of the first National Action Plan on UN Security Councils Resolutions (UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960) on women, peace and security.

Local Governance

- City of Skopje benefited from technical support in the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2010-2015 through 1) conduction of the first gender assessment of the programme for activities in the area of social, child and health protection and its budget and 2) a comprehensive capacity building programme for the civil servants involved in strategic planning and budgeting processes.
- Engagement of civil society in monitoring the Strategy for GRB at local level was encouraged through a) commissioning watchdog reports on programs and budgets of eight municipalities (Strumica, Shtip, Debar, Gostivar, Centar, Prilep, Kumanovo, Tearce), b) enhancing capacities through gender responsive budgeting training and c) developing a CSO toolkit with guidance on gender responsive budgeting advocacy
- Technical and financial support provided to two CSO initiatives at municipal level (Kumanovo, Kicevo, Struga) to strengthen the role of youth and women in enhancing inter-ethnic dialogue, assessing awareness on issues related to women, peace and security, strengthening knowledge on UN SCR 1325, and supporting the active participation of women in local governance.
- Capacities of mediators (official and non-official) strengthened on gender perspective in alternative conflict resolution in the frame of UNSCR 1325 through two trainings (basic and advanced) and one simulation exercise.



International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mandate

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. The Organisation's main aims are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection, and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues. ILO brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers to shape joint policies and programmes, making it the only tripartite agency of the United Nations. ILO is the global body responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards.

Approximate Annual Expenditure:	US\$ 410,000
In the country since:	2009
Number of staff:	1
Key funding partners:	Denmark, Netherlands, Norway

ILO at a glance

ILO Country Office works in close partnership with the Government, trade unions and employers' organisations. The primary goal is to promote people's opportunities to obtain decent work. This goal links ILO's support for the development of productive and competitive enterprises with the Organisation's support for the fulfilment of people's most important employment needs and aspirations: the need for a fair income; the need for security in the workplace and social protection for themselves and their families; the need for better prospects of personal development and social integration; the need for people to feel free to express their concerns and to organize and participate in decisions that affect their lives; and the need to endure equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

ILO's diverse tasks in the country are grouped under four strategic objectives:

- Promoting and implementing standards, fundamental principles and rights at work;
- Creating greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income;
- Enhancing the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all;
- Strengthening tripartism and promoting social dialogue.

Key Results 2012

- **International Labour Standards:** As set out in the Decent Work Country Programme, the country ratified four ILO Conventions in 2012:

 - C187 Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention
 - C177 Home Work Convention
 - C183 Maternity Protection Convention
 - C181 Private Employment Agencies Convention
- **Youth Employment:** A three-year National action plan to promote more and better jobs for young people aged between 15 and 29 was adopted by the Government in October 2012. The action plan has been developed with the technical assistance of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in cooperation with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin. The process of preparation, based on the ILO Guide for preparation of National Action Plans on Youth employment, was carried out by a tripartite working group composed of members of the relevant institutions in charge of implementing the activities, social partners and experts from the International Labour Organisation. The Youth Employment Action Plan 2013-2015 was subject to discussion within the Economic and Social Council, which gave a positive estimate and supported the planned activities.
- **School to Work Transition Survey** was done in partnership with the State Statistical office in the third quarter of 2012. The extensive analysis and information gathered will allow for better understanding of challenges faced by young people in the labour market. The activity is part of the Work for Youth project of the ILO in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation.
- **Active Labour Market Measures (ALMM):** Performance monitoring of active labour market programmes implemented in 2007-2010 was done by the ILO at the end of 2012. The evaluation report, with key findings and recommendations, was used by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and ESA as a basis for the changes to the 2013 Operational Plan for ALMM.
- **Occupational safety and health:** A campaign on safety and health in the construction sector was carried out in the first half of 2012, in partnership with the State Labour Inspectorate, Trade Union of workers in construction sector and employers. The construction sector had the highest number of fatal occupational accidents in 2011; therefore it was considered necessary to increase awareness of employers and workers in the sector.
- **Pension system:** A reform of the pension system in 2006 generated a series of misunderstandings owing to a lack of information provided on how the changes would affect the social partners and citizens at large. In responding to the knowledge gap regarding the pension system, particularly among workers' and employers' organisations, the ILO conducted a series of activities designed to enhance capacity and prepare for an inclusive tripartite representation on the Pension Management Board. Through the activities conducted by the ILO, momentum was created to advance tripartite participation in the pension management board. Tripartite partners are now considerably more aware of the pension system, as a consequence of ILO activities. The involvement of the social partners in the governance of the pension system was successfully achieved in August 2012 with the adoption of the new Law on pension and disability insurance.
- **Peaceful settlement of labour disputes:** ILO carried out activities for the promotion of peaceful settlement of labour disputes based on ILO's Guide and ILO workbook on labour disputes settlement in the public service.



World Health Organisation (WHO)

WHO mandate

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the UN system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options and providing technical support to countries.

Approximate Annual Expenditure: 443.000,00 USD (Both Voluntary Funds and Assessed - Regular Funds)

In the country since: 1996

Number of staff: 9

Key funding partners: Government of Netherlands, UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, Government of Germany

WHO at a glance

The priorities for the WHO Country Office are set out in the Biennial Collaborative Agreement (BCA) with the Ministry of Health for 2012-2013. WHO assists the Government in developing national strategies and action plans on: general health policy, mental health, pharmaceuticals, HIV/AIDS, tobacco control, alcohol consumption control, environment and health, climate change, disaster preparedness and response, food and nutrition, health information systems, communicable diseases, immunization, occupational health, and tuberculosis. It provides technical support in addressing a wide range of health topics, such as immunization, vaccination of newborns, poliomyelitis eradication, anti-stigma campaigns for inclusion of vulnerable groups, and the promotion of many healthy lifestyle activities. WHO further supports the process of national capacity building among health professionals.

Key Results 2012:

Strengthening Health System Performance

Good Governance on Medicines (GGM) - The second phase of implementation of the GGM project completed and the National Framework for Good Governance for Medicines (GGM), which aims to help countries to improve the regulation and supply of medicines, including launching of the GGM Web Site officially published. The country was first in the region to implement this national framework, launched in more than 26 countries worldwide.

Health in transition profile (HiT) – As relates to preparing the Health in Transition profile, a priority area for WHO in the country, co-authors have been assigned and engaged and a first draft has been submitted to external peer-

review. The a country-based report presents an analytical snapshot of the current health policy and health situation in the country, as well as elaborates the reform undertaken and policy initiatives in progress.

Health information – With engagement of an external WHO consultant a comprehensive report entitled “Overview of the integration and functioning of the Health Information System and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System” has been produced. Further discussion of its recommendations is planned for 2013.

Roma health- WHO in cooperation with other UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA) organized an orientation meeting to introduce the concept of Roma Health Mediators (RHM) to health centers and patronage nurses. As one of four pilot countries, the country (Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria) took part in the initiative for reorienting strategies, programmes and actions towards Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 focusing on child and maternal health. A feasibility study for possible implementation of SWIFT (Sustainable Work Initiative For a healthier tomorrow) - recycling centre and cooperative development in MKD was undertaken.

Violence Prevention - WHO has provided substantial technical support for development of the National Strategy for Prevention of Domestic Violence 2012 – 2015. A recent survey conducted among 1277 students aged 18 and older found high rates of various forms of abuse and household dysfunction as well as a strong association between adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and the likelihood of drug abuse, attempting suicide and early pregnancy.¹⁴ The gathered evidence points to the importance of reducing cycles of violence by investing in nurturing relationships and improving social cohesion across generations. The report has stimulated a national policy dialogue on how to address the problem of child maltreatment, which has fruitfully concluded in development of the National Action Plan on Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect (2012 – 2015). On 19-20 June TEACH-VIP training for the countries from South East Europe was held in Skopje to familiarize participants with the modules on violence prevention and alcohol; promote their uptake in universities; and generally encourage recognition of the harmful use of alcohol as an important risk factor for violence.

Mental Health - The National Commission on Mental Health has been re-appointed to further address the development of The Strategy and Action Plan on Mental Health focusing on de-institutionalization and community services for mentally ill persons. Capacity building for 387 general practitioners (GPs) on integration of mental health into the primary health care system, based on joint WHO and World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) Report, Integrating Mental Health into Primary Care (2008), has been completed in collaboration with the National Association of Psychiatrics and National Association of General Practitioners.

Communicable diseases - WHO Technical assistance to the National HIV/AIDS Commission for coordinating and developing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2012-2016 and Action Plan has been provided and the National Strategy was adopted by Government. WHO Strategy for Global Action-Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis Infection was presented on World Hepatitis Day, organized by NGO Hepta.

Health security - An analysis of the level of hospital preparedness for crisis situations, by using hospital safety index tool methodology has been performed and a report developed. A simulation exercise to test the emergency preparedness of the Clinical Hospital in Bitola and the General Hospital in Prilep, as well as of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in both cities was organised. The exercise allowed officials to identify the strengths of the current hospital plans and to identify potential problems.

Climate change and health - Results of the project Protecting Health from Climate Change – A seven country initiative – were presented in a parliamentary debate. An action plan for prevention of health effects from cold weather and cold waves was developed and adopted by Government in December 2012. Evaluation of the implementation of the climate change health adaptation strategy and the heat health action plan was performed in cooperation with

¹⁴ http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/185570/e96810.pdf

the Ministry of Health. Study in the area of climate change and occupational health has been initiated in order to identify the effects of heat waves on workers' health.

World Health Day 2012- WHO in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy organized a press conference for media to promote World Health Day's (WHD) motto for 2012 "Ageing and health: Good health adds life to years" on 5th April. At this occasion the main findings of the survey on prevalence of elderly abuse in the country were presented.

Immunization - As part of the BCA priorities for cooperation an Effective Vaccine Management Assessment was conducted. The countrywide Assessment mission was carried out on the 13 lowest distribution levels, vaccination points as well as in 3 primary stores and wholesalers in 9 cities, including Skopje with its 5 municipalities.

Tuberculosis - As relates to cooperation on tuberculosis and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, WHO supported the development of the document "*National Protocol on Diagnosis and Treatment of Multidrug - Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)*".



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mandate:

UNESCO's mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

Approximate Annual Expenditure:	US\$ 360,000
In the country since:	1993 as Non-Resident Agency
Number of staff:	1 in Skopje Project Office
Key funding partners:	Governments of Italy and Spain (MDG-F)

UNESCO at a glance:

UNESCO works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilisations, cultures and peoples on the basis of respect for commonly shared values. It is through this dialogue that the world can achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO's mission and activities.

The broad goals and concrete objectives of the international community, as set out in internationally agreed development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), underpin all UNESCO's strategies and activities. UNESCO's unique competencies in education, the sciences, culture and communication and information contribute towards the realisation of these goals.

UNESCO focuses on a number of overarching objectives:

- Attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning;
- Mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development;
- Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges;
- Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace;
- Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) serves as an operational branch of the Organisation, fostering cooperative contributions towards the strengthening of capacities and the provision of expertise in science and culture with a special emphasis on South East Europe and the Mediterranean region.

The National Commission for UNESCO of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia operates on a permanent basis with the purpose of associating governmental and non-governmental bodies with the work of the Organisation. In the period 2012-2013, the National Commission implemented two projects with the financial contribution of UNESCO through its Participation Programme:

- Free teaching web resources for visually impaired people
- Caravan “To live with one another, not side by side”

Key Results 2012:

Local Governance:

- The country is home to the Regional Centre for the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage (RECEDIG) and hosted a Regional University Forum, “Promoting and Integrating of Values and Principles of Culture of Peace in Higher Education”, in collaboration with the National Commission of UNESCO, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Culture (Bitola, 6-8 July 2012). Experts and representatives of the country were regularly invited to regional-level activities.
- 2012 was the last year of the MDG-F Joint Programme (JP) “Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Community Dialogue and Collaboration”, under the “Conflict Prevention and Peace building” Thematic Window. Some key results achieved in 2012 under this JP included:
 - A Celebration of the “World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development” in Skopje on 20-21 May 2012, focusing on the diversity of cultural and natural heritage as a foundation for sustainable development.
 - A media monitoring methodology developed to analyse media reporting on diversity and interethnic issues. The monitoring team completed three analyses and a final expert panel discussed them on 18 May.
 - 15 internships were supported for journalism students in media houses, each with a different ethnic focus. A summary meeting of the interns and their mentors reflecting on their experiences was held on 17 May 2012.
 - The premiere Pantomime Performance was held on 15 May at FON University, the culmination of a 7-month training programme for a group of students attempting to break down language barriers and stereotypes and create inter-ethnic dialogue using non-verbal communication techniques.
 - The South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo formed a Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and developed a new elective course in intercultural communication available for students of all majors. The centre was launched on 4 May 2012.
 - The Association of Journalists of the country is supporting the new Council of Honour through training and mentorship and they are producing the new handbook on ethics in journalism with the support of UNESCO.
 - The inclusive media web platform “Res Public” was developed to engage media and civic society in discussions over the role of media in promoting interethnic cohesion. The platform was linked to a UN supported community mediation support unit, to act as a media rapid response mechanism.
 - A one-year specialization degree in media management and public relations with a focus on inclusive journalism and diversity sensitivity was accredited at the School of Journalism and Public Relations (SJPR) and students enrolled. Professionals in the communications field were supported with scholarships for this program.
 - An inclusive journalism and intercultural communications round table for Public Service editors was organized during the first half of 2012.

Environmental Protection:

- The nomination processes for Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (MAB) for the Osogovo Mountains and the Ohrid-Prespa region (watershed) have been actively supported through dissemination of information materials and training of stakeholders on the biosphere reserve (BR) concept. In late 2012, a MAB National Committee was formally established in order to facilitate these processes and activate the necessary interface with national and international partners.



Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Mandate

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. The FAO is mandated to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. We help developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all.

Approximate Annual Expenditure:	US\$ 170,000
Country's membership:	1993
Level of presentation:	1 national correspondence
Key founding partner:	FAO Regular Programme Budget - TCP

FAO at a glance

FAO's activities comprise four main areas

- putting information within reach;
- sharing policy expertise;
- providing a meeting place for nations;
- bringing knowledge to the field.

The Organization's activities are influenced by the fact that the global economic and financial crisis, climate change and volatile food prices have had serious impacts on economic development in many countries in the European and Central Asian region. FAO's Technical Assistance can be provided in the form of Technical Cooperation Programmes, Technical Cooperation Program Facilities and through the implementation of projects and/or technical assistance funded by other donor organisations or funded by the Government.

In May 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy adopted a document titled "Priority Gaps for Donor Assistance in the Agriculture and Rural Sectors" prepared with our technical assistance. 5 areas were identified as priorities: **Rural Development, Agricultural Competitiveness, Irrigation, Forestry and Bio-security.**

In November 2011 Ministry of Agriculture and FAO jointly launched the preparation of the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2012-2015 due to be signed in early 2013. It is based on the document "Priority Gaps for Donor

Assistance in the Agriculture and Rural Sectors” in consultation with relevant stakeholders and partners in the country.

Key Results 2012

- FAO continued to support the management of state-owned agricultural land and to strengthen national forest fire preparedness. FAO also supported the preparation of the national soil map and information system.
- FAO also provided technical assistance for updating the National Strategy for Organic Production and for preparing the strategic framework for the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020.
- On the regional level, FAO has supported the establishment of rural development networks in South East European countries as well as the streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies for EU accession. FAO also provides assistance to improve Western Balkan countries’ compliance with International Standards for Aquatic Animal Health.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mandate:

Established in 1972, UNEP's mission is "to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations".

Approximate Annual Expenditure: Approx. 100 000 euro

In the country since: 2009 (Regionally based)

Key funding partners: Global Environment Facility and Austrian Development Agency.

UNEP at a glance

UNEP, in the framework of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, has implemented a set of activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in the whole region of Western Balkans in the past year.

For almost a decade, ENVSEC and its partners have worked with great dedication on capacity building and environmental risk reduction at mining sites in South Eastern Europe, including The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Key results from 2012:

- Regional Workshop on trans-boundary environmental risks arising from mining: Presentation of the past 3 years of experience and future planning was held in Kolasin, Montenegro 12-13 November. Attended by Government representatives, technical experts, private sector representatives and academia, the workshop served to present the activities of the ENVSEC project in the region; mine assessments and remediation measures, national capacity building activities and knowledge transfer activities.
- Through regional dialogue, cooperation, numerous consultations, research and workshops held in the region, UNEP in the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative has assessed climate change while considering all aspects affecting different sectors, and pointed out vulnerabilities and potential priority actions in two publications "Climate Change in the West Balkans", and "Climate Change in South Eastern Europe".
- Currently, UNEP is implementing a project to support the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and development of the Fifth national Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, financed by the Global Environment Facility. The first workshop took place in Skopje in February 2012.



United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

Mandate

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is the specialised agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. UNIDO's mandate is to promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition.

Approximate Annual Expenditure: US\$ 268,500

In the country since: Since 1994, UNIDO has completed 46 projects in FYR Macedonia with a total budget of USD 6,724,971.

Number of staff: UNIDO does not have an office in FYR Macedonia

Key funding partners: Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Montreal Protocol, Global Environment Facility

UNIDO at a glance

In recent years, UNIDO has assumed an enhanced role in the global development agenda by focusing its activities on poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. The Organization carries out two core functions: as a global forum, it generates and disseminates industry-related knowledge; as a technical cooperation agency, it provides technical support and implements projects.

UNIDO is recognized as a specialized and efficient provider of key services meeting the interlinked challenges of reducing poverty through productive activities, integrating developing countries in global trade through trade capacity building, fostering environmental sustainability in industry, and improving access to energy.

UNIDO's vision is a world where economic development is sustainable and economic progress is equitable. The Organization focuses on three main thematic areas:

- Poverty reduction through productive activities
- Trade capacity-building
- Energy and environment

Key Results 2012

- **Improved capacity to phase-out harmful chemicals** In Skopje, a ceremony at the company Rade Koncar Ltd in November marked the opening of the facility for the treatment of transformers and lubricants containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and storage of PCB-containing waste. The facility has now been upgraded to international standards, an important step towards phasing-out and eliminating PCBs and PCB-containing equipment in the country. The country has now increased its technical capacity in terms of new technologies for PCB management, which will reduce the release of PCBs into the environment. The dismantling of PCB equipment will be done in order to reduce the disposal costs and its separation for oil, metal parts and other wastes will help to store it more safely and more compactly.
- **Low carbon production in the agro-industry** In cooperation with UNEP, UNIDO continued to support sustainable development in the agro-industry in the country through low carbon production. The National Cleaner Production Centre, hosted by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, coordinated national activities in Resource Efficient Cleaner Production (RECP) practices and technologies, the objective of which is to reduce the environmental impact of the food processing agro-industry through the development and implementation of low carbon production. RECP is a practical and effective approach to address high energy consumption, waste and pollution intensity and the unsustainable use of natural resources. In 2012, several companies from the agro-industry adopted energy measures and national experts were trained on RECP methods, practices and techniques. UNIDO also organized two information and awareness raising events (in Skopje and Ohrid) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.
- **Updating the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)** UNIDO reviewed and updated the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention, focusing particularly on the ten new POPs added to the Convention. UNIDO assisted the country in endorsing the NIP by key stakeholders and its submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat. The project entailed the creation of inventories of the ten new POPs, assessment of national capacities to manage the new POPs, and the development of action plans for eliminating or restricting the production, use, release and disposal of POPs.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



UNODC mandate

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is committed to achieving health, security and justice for all by tackling threats from illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism worldwide. UNODC is a global leader in the struggle against illicit drugs and organized and serious crime, and the lead United Nations entity for delivering legal and technical assistance to prevent terrorism. UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism and works directly with Governments, international organizations, other United Nations entities and civil society groups to develop and implement programs that meet the needs of the countries and regions we assist and that are fully coordinated with our core themes.

Approximate Annual Expenditure: US\$ 250 million (approximate figure for the global 2012 budget)

In the country since: 2010

Number of staff: 1

Key funding partners: The Governments of USA, Russia, Germany, Austria, United Kingdom, Norway, the European Union

UNODC at glance

UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90 per cent of its budget.

The three pillars of the UNODC work programme are:

- Field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism;
- Research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions;
- Normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of the relevant international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies.

In pursuing its objectives, UNODC makes every effort to integrate and mainstream the gender perspective, particularly in its projects for the provision of alternative livelihoods, as well as those against human trafficking. As Governments and other development partners increasingly look to UNODC for specialized assistance and expertise,

the Office has expanded its scope and volume of work to provide comprehensive and coherent responses to these challenges.

Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015) The Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe aims to address regional threats associated with illicit trafficking along the “Balkan Route”, by promoting regional cooperation and supporting regional and country-level capacity to improve interdiction results against drug trafficking and organized crime and the strengthening of related capacities in the justice and health sectors. As such, it provides a framework for stronger country level action and new intra-regional cooperation at policy and operational levels, taking into account the importance of partnership with various actors, including the European Union.

The Regional Programme Framework operates in the three sub-programmes:

- Sub-Programme 1: Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime
- Sub-Programme 2: Enhancement of Integrity and Justice
- Sub-Programme 3: Prevention, Treatment and Care

Key results 2012

Activities related to Paris Pact Initiative

- UNODC participated in the Mini-Dublin Group meeting held on 7th November 2012 under the chair of Hungarian Embassy. At the meeting UNODC strengthened contacts with members of the Mini-Dublin Group and Government representatives from Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and the Customs Administration.
- UNODC continued its successful collaboration with Government counterparts from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Customs Administration, Ministry of Justice, Bureau for Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism, through meetings and exchange of information related to drug trafficking and organised crime trends and threats.
- UNODC actively participated in the Third International Conference on combating drugs, held in Ohrid, October 2012. The main theme of the Conference was Criminal Drug Organisations’ Situation in the EU, with a special focus on the Balkan area.
- UNODC produced and distributed the Drug Situation Analysis report and Fact sheets.
- Activities related to Regional Programme for SEE
- The establishment of the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS among drug users in prisons was a joint activity involving UN Agencies, CSOs and the Government through the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health.
- A successful UNODC mission to present the Regional Programme for SEE (2012-2015) allowed UNODC to meet with the OSCE and EU, important bilateral actors, as well as key Government counterparts.
- A successful assessment mission on Child trafficking for sexual exploitation was conducted in February 2012 and a successful assessment mission on Criminal Intelligence needs of the country was conducted in October 2012.
- UNODC enjoys excellent collaboration with the National Drug Coordination Office, Bureau for Medicine, Sector for Control of Medicines, of Ministry of Health in conducting capacity development initiative regarding drug dependence treatment and care. The Government delegated 10 experts to participate in the Regional TREATNET training in Serbia.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, UNODC launched the “Strengthening Family Programme” aiming to strengthen families’ capacities to prevent children’s exposure to drugs and other risky behaviour.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Mandate

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and societies. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Approximate Annual Expenditure:	EUR 525,000
In the country since:	1999
Number of staff:	9
Key funding partners:	European Union, Kingdom of Belgium and Federal republic of Germany

IOM at a glance

IOM is an inter-governmental organization founded in 1951 and is the leading international organization in the field of migration. It currently has 127 member states and 90 observer states. IOM is not part of the UN, but works very closely with the UN and is part of many of the UN mechanisms and processes, including the UN Security system, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the UN Country Team to mention but a few.

IOM acts to:

- Assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration;
- Advance understanding of migration issues;
- Encourage social and economic development through migration; and
- Work towards effective respect for the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

The IOM Mission in Skopje was established in 1999 and with the purpose to assist the country in the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, with particular emphasis on migration management. Since then, IOM Skopje activities have expanded to address a variety of pressing migration related issues including trafficking in human beings, technical cooperation and institutional capacity building in the field of migration, Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programmes, Economic stabilization programmes etc. IOM's strategy takes into consideration the EU membership process and the need for progressive alignment with the EU migration *acquis* as one of the main

driving element of its activities. IOM's primary objective in the country is to act in full partnership with the Government and national and international partners in order to work towards strengthened and harmonized standards in all key migration-related areas.

IOM is a member of the United Nations Country Team and works closely with the other International organizations like OSCE, ICMPD and the MARRI Regional Center.

Key Results 2012

Social Inclusion

- In close cooperation with the Employment Service Agency, IOM has organized 8 workshops for 202 Roma on the active employment policy measures that facilitate the access of unemployed people to the labour market, in occupation deficient on the labour market. During these workshops, a session on the mechanism for protection against discrimination was also delivered.
- IOM Skopje, through the established Migrant Service Centers in Skopje, Bitola, Strumica and Tetovo has delivered basic employability training for 154 returnees and potential migrants. The training included sessions on active job searching skills, CV writing, interview skills, adjustment courses for returnees and referral to skills development opportunities.
- Within the project "Promoting responsible migration decisions through education and outreach"¹⁵, 15 community meetings were organized that targeted 340 community members in the municipalities of Tetovo, Tearce, Lipkovo, Kumanovo and Shuto Orizari. In addition, music caravans and mini concerts were organized in the targeted municipalities to raise awareness on the risks of irregular migration and the positive aspects of regular migration.
- Through its programmes for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration, IOM assisted 231 country nationals to voluntarily return home, offering and on a case by case basis providing transportation, reception and re-integration assistance. Based on individual case specifics, the support encompassed: counseling, referral and/or direct assistance to address beneficiaries' needs in the areas of health, education, civil/administrative matters, employment and housing.
- IOM Skopje has facilitated the engagement of several experts, qualified diaspora members under the Temporary and Virtual Return Component of the MIDWEB Project. The qualified nationals have returned to the country for a short period of time to share their knowledge with specific institutions, organizations and/or private sector parties, thus supporting the development efforts of the country.

¹⁵ The projects "Preventing Irregular Migration through Outreach and Education" were implemented by IOM Skopje and IOM Pristina with the financial support of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany in the period February-July 2012. The project was tailored to provide outreach and information toward specific target groups including youth of ethnic Albanian and Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. The project was designed to constitute two campaigns that combined traditional and innovative outreach methods in an integrated way.

Local Governance

Through the Migration for Development in the Western Balkans (MIDWEB)¹⁶, IOM Skopje in 2012 has:

- Organized a regional Roundtable on “Best practices in professional and socio-economic reintegration of skilled migrants” in June 2012, in partnership with the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative – Regional Centre (MARRI – RC) in order to share best practices and procedures for the successful reintegration of skilled migrants into countries of origin. The roundtable brought together representatives of institutions in the Western Balkans, selected EU Member States, and international experts to discuss practices in the field of reintegration of migrants, especially highly skilled migrants; present the current policies and practices in the region and other countries of emigration; evaluate institutional support structures to returning skilled migrants; and agree on recommendations for action to improve reintegration framework in the region.
- Hosted nine Information Exchange and Networking Meetings between the Migrant Service Counselors, senior representatives of the Employment Service Agency, designated officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and representatives of the Consulates and Embassies represented in the country. During these meetings the consular representatives presented information on the regulation and discussed the possibility for expansion of cooperation in the area of labour migration (bilateral or less formal mechanisms of cooperation on labour migration).
- Strengthened the network and capacity of the Migrant Service Centers to provide relevant and reliable information to potential migrants and returnees through development of reference material and on-the job training for MSC counselors.
- In cooperation with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, created a data base on skills shortages for the Western Balkans countries and selected EU Member states – main countries of destination for WB nationals. The database is available at: <http://www.migrantservicecentres.org/>.
- Led a national delegation to the regional conference “Skills Transfer Programmes and their Contribution to Development”, held in Sarajevo in November 2012. The conference was a platform to share and discuss best practices and lessons learned through case studies of skills transfer programmes, including the temporary and virtual return component of the MIDWEB programme. The delegation was comprised of senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Emigration Agency and the Cabinet of the Prime Minister.
- Organized two-day training on labour migration for consular services for representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The training served to strengthen the capacity and role of embassies and consulates abroad in identifying temporary employment and study/internship opportunities in destination countries (EU), and promoting the labour potential and skills of WB nationals.

¹⁶ The project Migration for development in the western Balkans was implemented by in the period February 2011 - November 2012 with financial assistance from the European Commission IPA 2009 Multi-beneficiary Programme 2, IOM Development Fund as well as the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. The overall objective of the project was to strengthen and increase the capacity of the existing network of Migrant Service Centres in the Western Balkans in order to ensure efficient dissemination of information about legal channels for migration among potential labour migrants and to provide opportunities for return of skills and human capital and their contribution to the development of the Western Balkans (WB) to the mutual benefit of migrants and countries of origin.

ANNEX II

LIST OF UN PROJECTS IN 2012*

UNDP/UNICEF/UNESCO

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Community Dialogue and Collaboration (UNDP/MDG Fund-Spain)	29/07/2009	28/07/2012	Secretariat for Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement; Municipalities of Kicevo, Kumanovo, Struga; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Education and Science; Bureau for Education Development; State Education Inspectorate; Primary and secondary schools in target municipalities; Commission for Inter-community relations; Institute for Social, Political and Judicial Research; University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius; School of Journalism and Public Relations; University of South Eastern Europe, Tetovo; Association of Journalists and Civil Society Organisations.	4,000,000

* This is not a comprehensive list of all UN activities in the country, and excludes some projects by non-resident agencies. If no funding source is mentioned, the project is funded by UN agency core budget.

UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/UN Women/WHO

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Strengthening National Capacities to Prevent Domestic Violence (<i>UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the Netherlands</i>)	2008	2012	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Education.	3,728,900

UNDP/UN WOMEN

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Preventing Domestic violence through competent national institutions and accountable and transparent judicial system 2012 – 2013 (The Netherlands)	10/19/2012	12/31/2013	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	132,800 USD

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Governance				
National and Local Integrity Systems for anti-corruption (Norway)	01/01/2012	31/03/2013	State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption	415,000
Fiscal Decentralisation	01/09/2010	31/12/2013	Ministry of Finance	320,000
Youth as Driver of Social Cohesion	23/03/2012	31/12/2015	Agency of Youth and Sport	230,000
Local Development Programme	31/01/2012	31/12/2014	Center for Development of Vardar Planning Region	126,000
Support to Inter-Community Relations Committee (Switzerland)	21/06/2012	31/12/2013	Parliament Committee for Inter-Community Relations	124,000

Mid-term Review of the Process of Decentralization (USAID/ MKD)	01/10/2010	31/12/2012	Ministry of Local-Self Government	93,000
Think Globally Develop Locally – Climate Change at the local level	31/05/2011	31/12/2012	Ministry of Local Self-Government; Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Selected Municipalities	55,000
Social Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives				
Promoting Sustainable Development (Host Government)	05/03/2012	31/12/2013	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; the Employment Service Agency; and the Agency for Promotion of Entrepreneurship	4,518,000
Self-employment Programme 2011 (Host Government)	01/03/2011	31/12/2012	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; the Employment Service Agency; and the Agency for Promotion of Entrepreneurship	4,458,000
Aid Co-ordination Capacity Building (Norway)	01/01/2007	31/03/2013	Secretariat for European Affairs	1,344,000
Political Analysis and Emerging Scenarios	10/01/2012	30/06/2013	Academia and civil society	100,000
Strengthening Local Capacities for Provision of Better Social Services	01/11/2011	28/02/2013	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	51,000
Strengthening National Capacities for Monitoring and Implementation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy	25/12/2011	28/02/2013	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	49,000
Environment and Energy				
Prespa Lake Ecosystem Restoration (Switzerland)	28/06/2012	31/12/2016	Municipality of Resen	5,100,000
Integrated Ecosystem Management of the Prespa Lakes in Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece (Global Environment Facility - GEF)	25/09/2006	31/06/2012	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning; Municipality of Resen	3,084,000
Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings (Austria, Municipality of Aerodrom, Municipality of Karpos)	01/07/2009	31/12/2013	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Municipality of Aerodrom, Municipality of Karpos	1,134,000

Biodegradable Waste Management in the Prespa Region (Switzerland)	01/01/2011	31/03/2013	Municipality of Resen	800,000
Support to development of the Third National Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (GEF)	17/05/2010	31/12/2013	The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	500,000
Disaster and Climate Risk Assessment (Crisis Management Centre, Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica, Municipality of Kicevo, Municipality of Veles, Municipality of Strumica)	01/01/2011	31/12/2012	Crisis Management Centre, Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica, Municipality of Kicevo, Municipality of Veles, Municipality of Strumica	228,000
Emergency Coordination Support to Strumica	07/09/2012	14/08/2013	Municipality of Strumica	77,000
Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Bulgaria)	01/01/2012	31/12/2012	The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	55,000
Support to Biodiversity and Land Degradation	02/03/2012	31/12/2012	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	49,000
Preparation for Rio+20 Conference	05/11/2012	31/12/2012	Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs	20,000
The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme for Macedonia (GEF)	05/01/2005	31/12/2014	UNOPS	1,950,000

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Elaboration of a national policy and plan on Early Childhood Development (ECD), an in-service training programme, and ECD service provision in the most marginalized communities	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; the municipalities of Bitola, Radovis, Stip, Tetovo and Skopje; local expert institutions/NGOs	280,000
Support for the development of inclusive education policy, a normative framework, and the introduction of inclusive education practices for Roma and other disadvantaged children.	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Education and Science; the Bureau for Education Development; local expert institutions and NGOs	180,000
In-service teacher training on Life Skills-based education, the prevention of violence, numeracy and literacy, and the development of pre-service training programmes on the same themes.	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Bureau for Education Development; NGOs; teacher-training faculties	1,245,000
Multiculturalism and inter-ethnic education	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Education and Science; municipalities	430,000
Support for education sector reform in the areas of school self-evaluation, professional teaching development, and prevention of violence in schools	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Education and Science; the Bureau for Education Development; the Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution	246,000
Improving capacities for planning, budgeting and implementation of the MCH-related programmes and policies at national and local level	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Health; municipalities; Institute of Public Health; NGOs	360,000
Generating knowledge, analysis and policies for the social inclusion of vulnerable children, and capacity building on child-focused governance	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; the municipalities, of Tetovo, Gostivar, Cair, Saraj, Veles, Bitola, Prilep, Kocani, Radovis, Stip and Strumica; ZELS; NGOs	375,000

Improving the normative framework, capacities, and monitoring and evaluation of the Child Justice system; supporting local councils for the prevention of juvenile delinquency	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Justice; the National Council for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency; academic and research institutions; ZELS; municipalities	634,000
Improving the normative framework of social work, building social work capacities, service delivery, and data collection for child victims and children at risk of abuse, exploitation, and violence	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; the Ministry of Interior; the Institute for Social Activities; academic and research institutions; NGOs	600,000
Child Rights monitoring and reporting, including a Multiple-Indicator Cluster Survey	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	National Child Rights Commission; NGO	350,000
Generating and using child related data	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	The State Statistical Office; the municipalities, of Tetovo, Gostivar, Cair, Saraj, Veles, Bitola, Prilep, Kocani, Radovis, Stip and Strumica	60,000
Alliance building and partnerships for children, including a communication strategy on violence in school and juvenile justice	01/01/2010	12/31/2012	Parliament	453,000

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Reception and local Integration (education, health, shelter) for persons of UNHCR's concern	01/01/2012	31/12/2013	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	1,152,428
Logistics, Health Care, Education, Community Services	01/01/2012	31/12/2013	City Red Cross of Skopje	640,749
Vocational Training, Income-Generation and Adult Education	01/01/2012	31/12/2013	Regional Enterprise Support Centre Skopje	177,463
Legal Assistance and Representation for Refugees	01/01/2012	31/12/2013	Macedonian Young Lawyers Association	161,652
Legal Assistance and Representation for Stateless	01/01/2012	31/12/2013	Macedonian Young Lawyers Association	127,613
Multi-sectoral assistance and capacity building (direct implementation) for Refugees	01/01/2012	31/12/2013	UNHCR	333,278
Legal / Protection assistance and capacity building (direct implementation) for Stateless	01/01/2012	31/12/2013	UNHCR	39,684
Support to Section for Asylum	01/01/2013	31/12/2013	Ministry of Interior	16,903
Support to Section for Citizenship	01/01/2013	31/12/2013	Ministry of Interior	5,282

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

Project	start date	end date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Support to country National population strategy	24/08/2012	31/12/2013	Ministry of labour and social policy	65,000
Sexual and reproductive health: 1. Evaluation of the project “Improving national response to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Macedonia” ; 2. Assessment of Family planning services in the country	09/2012	12/2012	Institute for public health	45,000
World population day	05/2012	07/2012	Macedonian Institute for Media: School for journalism and public relation	4,000
Observance of the International day of the girl child	06/2012	10/2012	Ministry of labour and social policy Production company “Porta FM”	5,500

UN Women-United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
“We are the future leaders and agents of change in our communities” Enhancing women’s political participation and empowering women candidates and elected mayors and councilors	7/12/2012	6/12/2015	Department for Gender Studies, Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities Research “Euro-Balkan” and Macedonian Women’s Lobby	403,000 ¹⁸
“Strengthening the capacities of local governance and local activism toward an effective gender equity policies”	18/10/2012	17/12/ 2013	Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities - Skopje	59,000
Facilitating gender equality in social work through capacity building	1/8/2012	31/12/2012	Institute for Social Affairs	40,000

¹⁸ Total budget for 3 years

Strengthening capacities of young women and men in advocating for gender equality through cultural initiatives and GE forums – Third and Fourth edition of Women’s Rights Nights	1/1/2012	1/4/2012	City of Skopje, University for Audio Visual Arts ESRA and Institute of Gender Studies at Philosophy Faculty	35,000
	1/1/2013	1/1/2013		
Advancing Implementation of Women, Peace and Security in the Western Balkans (2011 – 2013) – part of Regional project (Norway)	15/06/2011	31/03/2013	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MoU with the Ministry of Defense) NGO Youth Centre for Equal Opportunity, NGO Women Organization of Municipality of Sveti Nikole	57,834
	12/10/2011	11/10/2012		
Advocating for improved policies/strategies on ending violence against women	09/11/2012	08/11/2013	National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	49,602
Establishing the system for standardization of free legal aid services provided by CSOs to victims of domestic violence	01/10/2012	30/09/2013	Educational and Humanitarian Organization - EHO	50,400
Promoting Gender-Responsive Policies in SEE (Austrian Development Agency and UN Women)	30/10/2010	30/10/2013	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management; City of Skopje; Citizen’s Initiative “Equal Access”; The National Council for Gender Equality and Health Education and Research Association (HERA)	400,000

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Improved gender equality in the World of work	01/01/2011	31/03/2012	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP); the State Statistical Office; the State Labour Inspectorate; the Public Employment Service; Trade Unions; Employers' Organizations	100,000
Connecting enterprises, workforce and community development: Improving local employment policy and skills development	03/01/2011	31/03/2012	Trade Unions; Employers' Organizations	120,000
Strengthening the effectiveness of the labour inspection system	03/01/2011	31/03/2012	State Labour Inspectorate	59,764
Safety and health conditions at workplace improved through the implementation of the new OSH law	01/04/2011	31/03/2012	State labour Inspectorate, Trade Unions; Employers' Organizations	50,000
Improved capacities of the tripartite partners to implement the new pension system effectively and to improve governance and administration of the system	01/04/2011	31/03/2012	MLSP, Trade Unions; Employers' Organizations	50,000
Strengthening capacity of social partners regarding minimum wages	01/04/2012	31/12/2013	MLSP, Trade Unions; Employers' Organizations	89,000
Support to establish operational labour disputes mechanisms	01/04/2012	31/12/2013	MLSP, Trade Unions; Employers' Organizations	94,000

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$)
Management plan for Ohrid World Heritage Site	07/20/2009	ongoing	National Commission for UNESCO	20,000
Integrated protection of the Transboundary Prespa Region for establishment of a trilateral UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at Prespa Lake	02/2010	ongoing	National Commission for UNESCO, Macedonian Ecological Society and the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation	25,000
Integrated protection of the Transboundary Osogovo Mountain Region for establishment of a trilateral UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	02/2010	ongoing	National Commission for UNESCO – MAB National Committee – Ministry of Environment – Local stakeholders	5,000
Support to the Regional Centre for the Digitization of Cultural Heritage	17/01/2007	ongoing	Ministry of Culture (Cultural Heritage Protection Office; National Commission for UNESCO)	340,000
Regional Programme for the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage	01/01/2011	ongoing	National Commission for UNESCO, Cultural Heritage Protection Office	6700 EUR

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (EUR)
Migration for Development in the Western Balkans	01/02/2011	30/11/2012	MARRI Regional Centre; Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW); Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)	1,950,000 EUR ¹⁹
Preventing Irregular Migration through Outreach and Education	01/02/2012	31/07/2012	Local Civil Society Organizations	210,000 EUR ²⁰

¹⁹ overall budget for all project locations

²⁰ overall budget shared for the two project locations MK/KS

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (US\$) in 2012
Support for the management of state-owned agricultural land	09/2010	02/2013		69,188
Strengthening national forest fire preparedness - Phase II	01/2012	12/2012		68,634
Provide technical assistance for updating the national strategy for organic production	06/2012	11/2012		40,000
Preparation of a Project Proposal for the development of the national soil map and information system	04/2012	06/2012		16,000
Assistance in preparing a strategic framework for the national strategy for agriculture and rural development 2014-2020	11/2012	02/2013		10,000
Support for establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries	01/2011	06/2013		2,000
Assistance to Western Balkan Countries for Improving Compliance with International Standards for Aquatic Animal Health	10/2012	09/2014		0
Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries for EU accession	10/2012	07/2014		14,000

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

Project	Start date	End date	Implementing Partner	Amount (EUR)
Enabling Activities to review and update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	2012	2013		116,870
Phasing-out and elimination of PCBs and PCB-containing equipment	2008	2013		721,578
Low Carbon Production in the agro-industry in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2010	2014		290,366
HCFC phase-out management plan (phase I, third tranche)	2012	2014		103,246
HCFC phase-out management plan (phase I, third tranche) (Conversion from HCFC-141B to HFCs in the manufacture of polyurethane foam for the commercial refrigeration units, sandwich panels and insulated doors)	2012	2014		103,264

This report provides a snapshot of the work UN agencies in the country undertook throughout 2012.

In partnership with Government, local government institutions, other national stakeholders, civil society, academia and the private sector, results were achieved across a wide range of areas – from increasing human capital and promoting employment, to empowering local government to provide quality social services, and promoting environmentally sustainable development together with a strengthened response to climate change.

Fourteen resident and non-resident UN agencies provided technical and financial support that multiplied the impact of Government and civil society efforts aimed at improving the lives of all, especially the most vulnerable, and enabling everyone to contribute to the development and prosperous future of the country.

