



Save the Children

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY
REPORT 2024**

**Advancing Children's Rights
and Wellbeing in Albania**

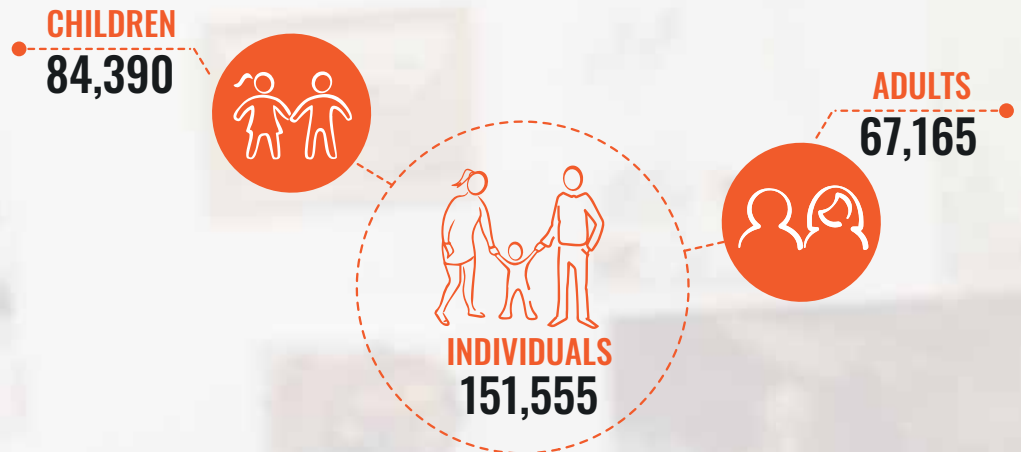
Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Country Context	4
4. 2024 Program Achievements	5
o Education	6
o Child Protection	8
o Child Rights Governance	9
o Child and Youth Poverty Reduction	10
o Health and Nutrition	11
o Humanitarian Response.....	12
5. Advocacy Highlights	13
6. Partnerships and Collaboration	13
7. Financial Overview	14
8. Challenges	14
9. Lessons Learned.....	14
9. Looking Ahead: 2025 Priorities and Risks ...	14



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, Save the Children in Albania (SCiA) continued to make significant strides in promoting the rights and wellbeing of children throughout the country. Across sectors including education, child protection, child rights governance, health and nutrition, and child poverty, SCiA directly reached over



Through evidence-based programming, strong partnerships, and child-centered advocacy, SCiA strengthened systemic changes in Albania while promoting healthy lifestyles, inclusive education, and child protection mechanisms.

Highlights of the year include establishing new dental services in schools, advancing national advocacy on children's rights, expanding child-led climate initiatives, empowering vulnerable youth through vocational pathways, and supporting community resilience through humanitarian interventions. Financially, SCiA successfully navigated a challenging funding environment while maintaining alignment with donor expectations.

Looking ahead, SCiA remains committed to diversifying funding streams, strengthening child/youth-led advocacy, and deepening national and regional partnerships, ensuring that every child in Albania has the opportunity to survive, learn, and be protected.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1999, Save the Children in Albania has worked tirelessly to champion children's rights, placing the most vulnerable children at the heart of everything we do. Guided by our vision of a world where every child survives, learns, and is protected, we collaborate with families, communities, and institutions across Albania to create lasting change.

In 2024, building on our long-standing commitment, we continued to grow as a National Office, leading programs that span across education, child protection, child rights governance, health and nutrition, child poverty reduction, and humanitarian response. Our programs are rooted in the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to survive, thrive, and fulfill their potential.

Through our education initiatives, we have worked to ensure that marginalized children access inclusive, quality learning environments. Our child protection programs strengthened systems at national and local levels, while our child and youth poverty reduction initiatives empowered children and young people to break cycles of exclusion. Health promotion campaigns reached hundreds of thousands with messages of prevention and resilience. Environmental education helped children become eco-champions, and mental health support programs fostered healing and emotional wellbeing.

Throughout it all, Save the Children in Albania has remained steadfast in promoting inclusion, gender sensitivity, resilience, and meaningful participation – because every child deserves a future.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

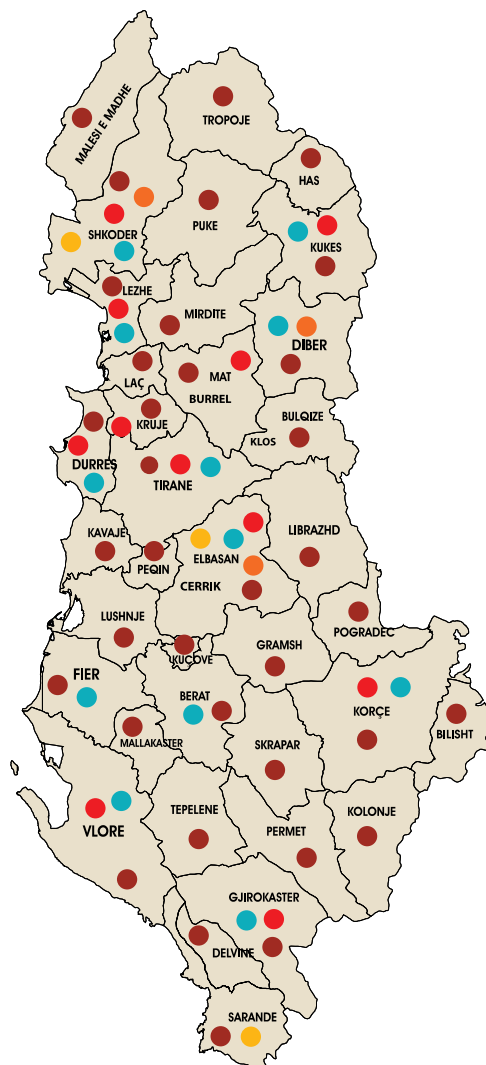
Albania continued its path toward EU accession, accompanied by economic growth (3.3% forecast) but persistent challenges including child poverty (28% at risk) and regional inequalities. Education

quality, healthcare access, and protection services remain pressing concerns, especially for marginalized groups such as Roma communities and children with disabilities.





2024 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS



- **Education & ECCD:** Mat, Elbasan, Gjirokastër, Thumanë, Vlorë, Durrës, Korçë, Kukës, Lezhë, Shkodër, Tiranë
- **Child Protection:** Tiranë and nationwide
- **Child Rights Governance:** Sarandë, Shkodër, Elbasan
- **Child Poverty:** Elbasan, Shkodër, Dibër
- **Health & Nutrition:** Tiranë, Elbasan, Vlorë, Korçë, Dibër, Kukës, Durrës, Shkodër, Fier, Lezhë, Berat, Gjirokastër

EDUCATION

In 2024, Save the Children in Albania made significant strides in improving the lives of children through focused interventions in education and environmental sustainability. By targeting the most marginalized communities, we worked to ensure every child has access to inclusive, quality learning and the opportunity to thrive in a safe, supportive environment.

Through initiatives like eco-school programs and “Leave No Child Behind,” we supported smoother transitions from early childhood education to primary school, trained over 500 physical education teachers on scoliosis prevention and management, and enhanced early learning environments for 694 early years children.

By promoting inclusive practices, innovative learning approaches, and child-led initiatives in schools, we created environments where every child could thrive.

Our efforts empowered children, teachers and families not only to build stronger educational foundations but also to engage meaningfully in addressing climate change and protecting their communities.

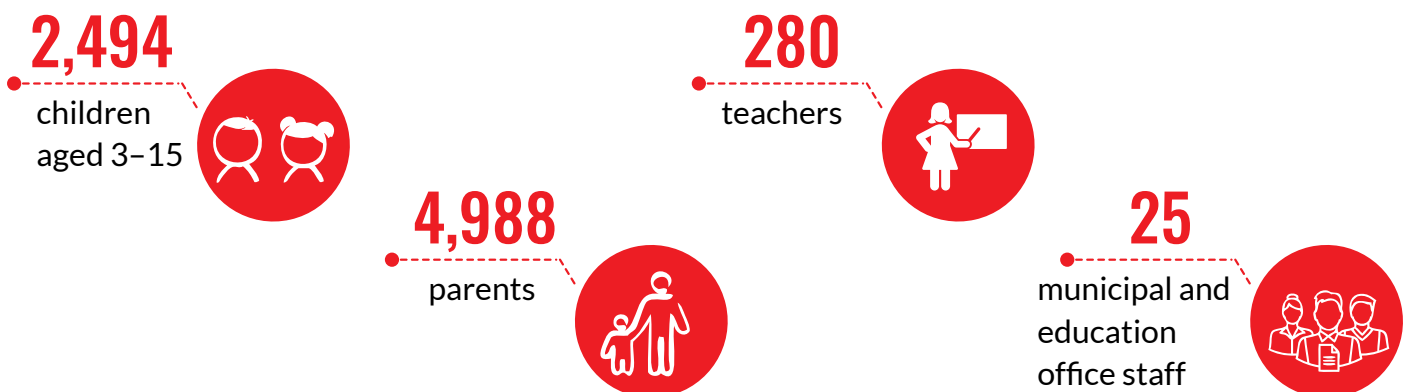


Key Achievements

Education and Early Childhood Development

Goal: Ensure quality, inclusive learning in pre-primary and primary education.

Reached:



Highlights:

- Supported 9 schools and 9 kindergartens in remote and marginalized areas.
- Strengthened transition from preschool to primary school.
- Promoted inclusion and well-being through innovative learning and reading approaches.

Environmental Education and Climate Action

Goal: Empower children and communities to address climate change and environmental protection.

● Reached:

19,069

children
(ages 6-15)



4,418

adults including
teachers and
parents



● Highlights:

- Children and teachers measured air pollution and led eco-initiatives.
- Established eco-clubs and trained educators in climate education.
- Promoted child-led climate action nationally and internationally.



CHILD PROTECTION

Recognizing that a strong protection system is vital for children's wellbeing, we focused on policy reform, service improvement, and community activation. Through technical and financial support to national authorities, training of judiciary professionals, activation of community centers, and positive parenting sessions, we fortified Albania's child protection framework.

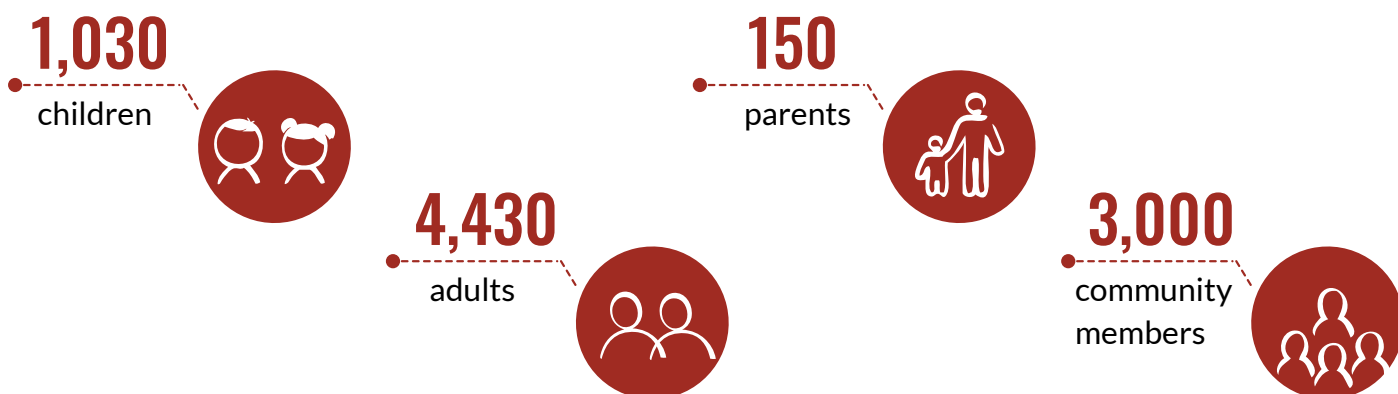
In 2024, 1,034 children directly benefited from case management services, and advocacy efforts led to legal reforms strengthening protections against online abuse.

Key Achievements

Goal: To strengthen child protection by improving laws and policies, offering inclusive and gender-sensitive community services, and helping children, youth, and communities build resilience against violence.



Reached:



Highlights:

- Delivered inclusive, gender-sensitive services that responded to the specific needs of vulnerable children, including survivors of violence, children on the move, and those without parental care.
- Empowered 1,030 children and 150 parents through awareness-raising sessions on child rights, protection mechanisms, and positive parenting.
- Mobilized over 3,000 community members to support violence prevention efforts through community-based campaigns and engagement activities.
- Advocated for improved policy frameworks and stronger implementation of child protection legislation, contributing to national efforts in aligning with EU and international standards.
- Promoted resilience in children and youth through psychosocial support, life skills sessions, and peer-led initiatives that foster safe and supportive environments.

CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

Children's voices are central to our mission. We revitalized Child-Led Groups (CLGs) in Elbasan, Shkodër, and Sarandë, empowering over 150 children to advocate for their rights, including contributing to Albania's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on climate change.

Key Achievements

Goal: To empower children through Child-Led Groups (CLGs) in amplifying their voices in policy discussions and advocating for their rights, including contributions to Albania's UPR on climate change.

● **Reached:**

150

children directly involved in Child-Led Groups



1,200

children and young people engaged through outreach, consultations, and awareness activities



● **Highlights:**

- Through structured support and capacity-building, we ensured children were not only heard but also taken seriously in policy discussions.
- Our work continues to strengthen connections between children and decision-makers at local, national, and EU levels, assuring that the voices of those most affected are shaping the policies and systems designed to protect and support them.



CHILD AND YOUTH POVERTY REDUCTION



Poverty and exclusion continue to restrict opportunities for Albania's youth. Through Youth and Community Centers, life skills sessions, vocational education support, and entrepreneurial training, we empowered 1797 youth, 300 early adolescents, and 851 adults.

By creating safe spaces, offering vocational pathways, and supporting youth employment, we helped break cycles of inequality and fostered hope for brighter futures.

Key Achievements

Goal: To empower adolescents and youth in Albania affected by poverty and discrimination by improving their well-being, building self-confidence, and supporting families and communities to ensure equal rights, protection, education, and opportunities for all girls and boys.

Reached:



Highlights

- Created safer, violence-free environments through life skills development, psychosocial support, and community-based protection initiatives.
- Delivered targeted sessions on safe migration and informed decision-making, helping youth avoid harmful migration pathways.
- Supported youth and their families to access education, vocational training, and job readiness programs tailored to their needs.
- Promoted entrepreneurship and economic empowerment through individual development plans, start-up training, and mentorship opportunities.
- Strengthened community resilience by involving families and caregivers in awareness and skills-building sessions, ensuring more inclusive and supportive environments for young people.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Health promotion is vital to a child's development. Through the "Schools for Health" project, we trained over 7,339 teachers and professionals, reached 58,321 children with healthy behavior messages, installed a permanent dental unit, and deployed mobile dental services to rural communities.

By focusing on non-communicable disease prevention and health emergency readiness, we built a foundation for healthier generations.

Key Achievements

Goal: To reduce risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and improve health emergency preparedness, with a focus on primary schoolchildren in Albania. We promote healthy behaviors such as good nutrition, physical activity, and the avoidance of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.



Reached :

58,321

children in basic education (ages 6-16)



7,339

teachers and professionals



44,224

people reached through health education



Highlights:

- Equipped children with practical knowledge and life skills to prevent NCDs and respond to health emergencies, including COVID-19.
- Trained teachers and school staff to integrate health education, hygiene practices, and safe behavior promotion into everyday learning.
- Supported schools in creating safer, health-promoting environments by aligning with updated national standards and guidelines.
- Collaborated with local and central government institutions to advance health policies through inter-sectoral approaches and evidence from nationwide school health assessments.
- Led the first-ever national study on food provision in schools, which contributed to local government decisions to provide healthier meals for children in Tirana.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In response to the needs of Afghan refugee families, we provided daily psychosocial support through Child and Youth Friendly Spaces, conducted well-baby visits, and ran HEART activities (Healing and Education through the Arts).

Our humanitarian interventions ensured that displaced children and families found safety, healing, and hope during challenging times.

Key Achievements

Goal: To support children, youth, and families in achieving emotional well-being and managing stress through mental health support, educational programs, creative healing activities, stress management sessions, and counseling.



Reached:

977

children aged 4-12 in Shengjin



252

teens aged 13-17 and their family members in Shengjin



690

adults (parents and caregivers) received mental health support



Highlights

- Provided comprehensive emotional well-being and psychosocial support to children, youth, and families in Shengjin.
- Delivered play-based learning, emotional support, and creative healing activities to children of various age groups.
- Offered informal education, stress management, and psychological support to children, teens, and their families.
- Supported parents and caregivers with mental health services, enhancing coping strategies and communication skills.
- Trained local staff to implement child-focused programs using innovative learning approaches and creative arts.
- Collaborated with local communities to raise awareness and offer ongoing psychosocial support.

ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



1. In partnership with with Civil Society Organizations, advocated for children's rights within Albania's EU integration process, influencing policy changes for children's well-being.



2. Collaborated with the Albanian government to implement child-centered policies in health, education, and social protection.



3. Partnered with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to ensure access to quality, inclusive education and to promote healthy behaviours for all children, with a focus on the most vulnerable.



4. Led the Generation Hope campaign, raising awareness on climate change and empowering youth to act through school Eco-Clubs and child and youth groups.



5. The **"Protect Without Fear"** campaign reached over 900,000 people, raising national awareness on preventing child sexual abuse. It engaged communities through training, social media, events, and digital exhibitions, empowering children, parents, and professionals to safeguard children and promote help-seeking behaviors.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

In 2024, we maintained strong partnerships with CSOs such as IPSED, Special Olympics Albania, and Help for Children. We co-led humanitarian response clusters with UNICEF and expanded collaborations with national and local authorities, the Ombudsman Office, and the Health Care Services Operator.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Budget Summary 2024:

Submitted 2024 Master Budget USD	Humanitarian response USD (locally received and humanitarian funds)	% of Humanitarian	Secured funds USD	% of Secured funds USD	Pipeline USD	% of Pipeline
3,857,884.67	116,517.47	3%	3,823,780.57	99.12%	34,104.10	0.88%

CHALLENGES

In 2024, we faced strong competition for donor funding, political changes that slowed down some activities, and difficulty keeping rural youth engaged due to ongoing migration.

LESSONS LEARNED

We learned that being flexible and tailoring our work to local needs makes a big difference. Staying closely connected with partners at all levels helps keep things moving. We also saw the need to find new ways—especially digital ones—to reach and involve young people in remote areas.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2025 PRIORITIES AND RISKS

Priorities:

- Diversify funding sources including digital fundraising and corporate partnerships.
- Strengthen child/youth-led advocacy aligned with Albania's EU integration.
- Continue investments in child protection, inclusive education, and health promotion.

Risks:

- Political instability and shrinking civic space.
- Compliance challenges with digital fundraising regulations.
- Barriers in legal framework implementation for children's rights.

Opportunities:

- Capitalizing on Albania's EU accession momentum.
- Increased donor interest in climate change and children's rights.
- Strengthening regional partnerships with Save the Children Europe members.

VRAPQJMË për Mirëqënien e Fëmijëve

#TeamSaveAl

 Tirana
Marathon
2024



Tirana, Albania — April 2025

Save the Children in Albania
National Office

Rr. Mihal Popi, Ndërtesa 7, ish Pallatet 1 Maji (Vila Lami),
PO Box 8185, Tiranë - Shqipëri; Tel: +355 4 2261840

E-mail: info.albania@savethechildren.org

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/save-the-children-in-albania>

 Savethechildrenal

 savethechildreninalbania

 SaveChildrenAlb