



Save the Children

Save the Children

Impact Report 2025

DRIVING CHANGE

FOR CHILDREN

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Partners, Supporters, and Friends,

2025 was a year marked by both progress and persistent challenges for children in Albania. While we witnessed important advances in education, protection, and youth empowerment, many children continued to face poverty, violence, discrimination, and the impacts of climate change.

Throughout the year, Save the Children in Albania worked relentlessly to reach children and families in need. We expanded inclusive education and early childhood programs, strengthened child protection systems, supported vulnerable adolescents, youth and adults with life and vocational skills, promoted health and wellbeing of children in schools, empowered children to raise their voices on climate issues, and delivered timely humanitarian assistance to Afghan families under temporary protection and communities affected by severe flooding.

These achievements were made possible through close collaboration with government



institutions, local authorities, schools, civil society partners, and our generous donors. Above all, we are inspired by the resilience, creativity, and active participation of children and young people themselves, who continue to show us what is possible when they are given the opportunity to lead.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain fully committed to building stronger systems, scaling sustainable solutions, and ensuring that no child in Albania is left behind. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership on this important journey.

Sincerely,

Anila Meco
Executive Director
Save the Children in Albania



Executive Summary

In 2025, Save the Children in Albania delivered impactful programs across six thematic areas: Education and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), Child Protection, Child Rights Governance, Health Promotion and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Prevention, Reducing Child and Youth Poverty, and Humanitarian Response.

We reached directly more than forty thousand children and adults in 12 districts, through inclusive education initiatives, vocational training and life skills programs, school-based health promotion, child-friendly learning spaces, climate action platforms, and emergency assistance.

Key results included improved school inclusion and attendance for vulnerable children; strengthened youth employability pathways; institutionalization of school health tools within the national system; establishment of the Child Advisory Body; groundbreaking research on EU return policies affecting children; stronger collaboration between community centres and municipalities; increased vocational training

access for vulnerable adolescents and youth; better support for Roma children at risk of exclusion; successful humanitarian support for Afghan families in Shengjin; and rapid emergency response to families affected by floods in two regions.

The programs contributed to advancing children's rights by promoting inclusive education as a fundamental right, enhancing meaningful child and youth participation, improving access to protection and health services, and influencing national policies and local practices.

Through strategic lobbying and evidence-based recommendations, we contributed to the development of the National Child Guarantee Plan, advocating for stronger measures to combat child poverty and social exclusion in Albania.

Despite remaining challenges — such as child poverty, violence, service gaps, environmental and climate risks — Save the Children in Albania made tangible progress toward more equitable, safe, and supportive environments for every child in Albania.



Our Target Reach



72,656

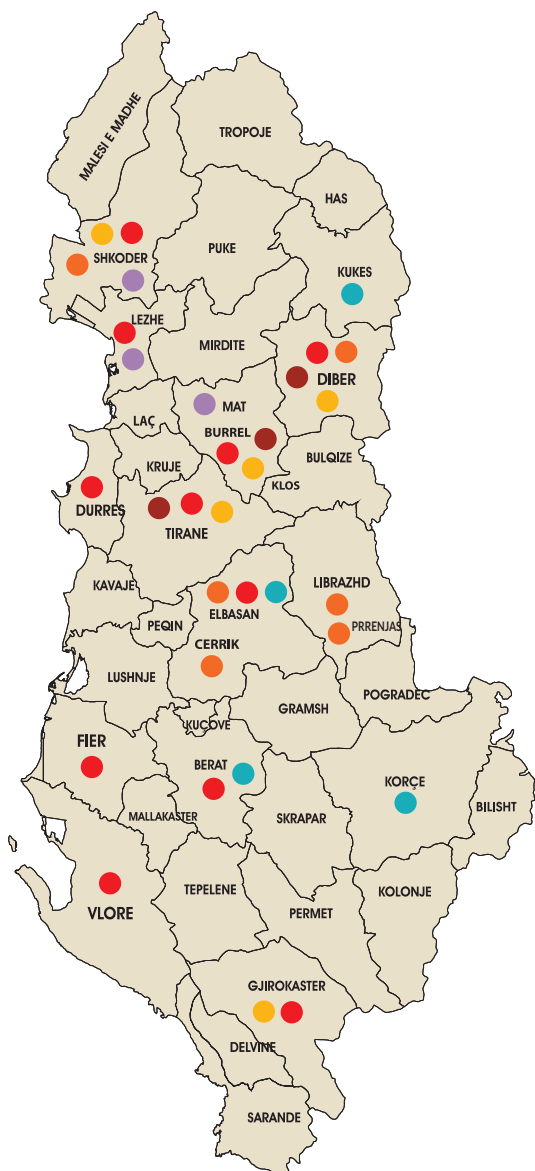
TOTAL REACH
IN 2025



60,301

TOTAL CHILDREN
REACH

Target areas



- **Education:** Diber, Tirane, Fier, Shkoder, Vlore, Berat, Durres, Lezhe, Gjirokastr, Burrel, Elbasan.
- **Child Protection:** Diber, Tirane, Burrel.
- **Child Rights Governance:** Burrel, Shkoder, Diber, Gjirokastr, Tirane
- **Reducing Child and Youth Poverty:** Shkoder, Diber, Elbasan, Librazhd, Prrenjas, and Cerrik
- **Health:** Berat, Korça, Elbasan, and Kukës
- **Humanitarian:** Shkoder, Lezhe, Mat,

Who We Are

Save the Children in Albania, National Office, has been working in Albania since 1999, reaching the most vulnerable children and families across 12 districts, in both urban and rural areas. We focus especially on those often left behind – children living in poverty, children with disabilities, those in geographically isolated areas, and children from Roma and Egyptian communities.

Our vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation. In Albania, we work to make this vision a reality by ensuring all children and adolescents fully enjoy their rights to inclusive education and early childhood development, protection from violence and exploitation, meaningful participation, youth empowerment

with life and professional skills, healthy behaviors, and support during humanitarian crises.

We combine proven approaches with innovative solutions to address the root causes of problems, creating lasting change for children and entire communities. By working hand-in-hand with families, schools, local authorities, and the government, we support Albania's journey toward a more child-friendly society and its path to European integration.

Whether in times of steady development or emergency, we are committed to delivering tailored, high-quality support that meets children's real needs today and builds a brighter future for tomorrow.

The Context for Children

In 2025, children in Albania continued to face major challenges linked to poverty, inequality, and unequal access to quality services. Around one in three children lived in poverty or at risk, especially those in large families, rural areas, and Roma and Egyptian communities. Many lacked adequate food, healthcare, and learning materials, increasing risks of school dropout, child labour, and exploitation. Rising living costs, energy insecurity, migration, and rural-urban disparities further affected family stability and children's opportunities.

Violence, discrimination, and protection gaps remained serious concerns, while children with disabilities, minority backgrounds, and those in remote areas faced additional barriers. Climate risks such as floods, poor air quality, and environmental hazards also disrupted children's health, education, and wellbeing.



Although progress was made through national child rights policies, shortages of school nurses and child protection workers, weak coordination, and underfunding continued to limit children's rights to safety, health, education, and participation.



SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD THROUGH INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In **Education and Early Childhood Development program**, we strengthened inclusive and equitable education by integrating early childhood development, basic education, sports for development, and environmental action. Our programs focused on reaching the most vulnerable children while improving the quality and inclusiveness of education systems.

We supported schools, families, and institutions to ensure that children—especially those from marginalized groups, can access, participate in, and benefit from safe and inclusive learning environments. Through innovative models and community engagement, we contributed to improved enrolment, attendance, and child participation across target areas.



Key Results



Children reached

1,945

children through education programs

700+

children from vulnerable groups, including Roma Children and Children with disabilities

31,454

children through sports and inclusion initiatives

1,801

students in environmental education

Adults engaged



230

teachers and education professionals



4,000+

parents and caregivers

Schools & institutions



99

schools reached through sports



9
9

schools and kindergartens supported



9

resource classrooms established



Key Achievements

- **Safe and inclusive sport for all:** More than 31,000 children across 99 schools gained access to safer, more inclusive sports environments, increasing participation, safety, and wellbeing.
- **No child left behind:** Thousands of children, particularly the most vulnerable including Roma children and children with disabilities, gained access to inclusive, quality education and improved learning outcomes.
- **Stronger schools, better learning:** Teachers and schools strengthened their capacity to deliver inclusive education, improving learning experiences and outcomes for all children.
- **Children's voices driving change:** Children actively contributed to creating safer and more inclusive schools while influencing decisions that affect their lives and wellbeing.
- **Communities mobilized for climate action:** Children led over 150 eco-initiatives involving more than 2,400 children and nearly 900 community members, promoting sustainable environmental practices and raising climate awareness at school and community level.
- **Children influencing national climate commitments:** More than 200 children actively participated in the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, contributing to advocacy efforts that informed national commitments on climate action, environmental protection, and education reform.
- **Hands-on environmental learning expanded:** Nine eco-laboratories were established and equipped across 9 schools, enabling thousands of children to access practical environmental education and strengthening science learning in underserved communities.
- **Stronger systems for child protection in sport:** Over 200 teachers and coaches were trained, and the first National Child Safety and Inclusion in Sport Policy was developed, establishing standards for safe and inclusive sport participation.

Primary enrolment
reached

99.76%

in target areas

78-86%

of schools/
kindergartens met
inclusion standards

Attendance among
vulnerable children
reached

95%

First national
policy on Child
Safety and
Inclusion in
Sport developed

6

Unified
Sports Clubs
established

2

toy and book
libraries created

140

educational kits
distributed

Innovations

- Inclusive School & Kindergarten Model
- Smooth Transition Model (ECCD --> Primary)
- Schools as Community Centres approach
- Child participation through student governments
- Eco-clubs and child-led environmental actions
- Digital tools for enrolment and case management
- Play-based learning through toy libraries

Key Challenges

- Economic hardship and migration affecting continuity
- Low parental awareness on early education
- Persistent inequities for Roma and rural children
- Limited infrastructure and assistant teachers
- School violence and bullying
- Climate and Environmental risks affecting children

Looking Ahead

We will continue promoting inclusive education models, increasing enrolment and retention of most vulnerable children, strengthening parental engagement, and expanding successful approaches nationwide.

“Education is the most powerful tool we have to prepare people and societies for the challenges caused by climate change and environmental pollution. When children learn and speak up, we are protecting not only our future, but the future of the planet.”

Laura from Burrel





Building Confidence and Inclusion in Early Childhood Education

Marsel, a 5-year-old boy from a marginalized community in Zenisht, Mat, initially struggled with low confidence and limited social interaction when he joined one of Save the Children in Albania supported kindergarten. Through inclusive teaching, structured play, and positive parenting support, he gradually became more engaged, confident, and socially active with his peers.

His teacher shared, *“One day, he raised his hand and said, ‘I want to tell the story!’ It was a proud moment for all of us.”*

Today, Marsel participates actively in class and enjoys learning and playing with other children, showing the impact of early inclusive education and family engagement.





SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In **Child Protection**, we strengthened child protection systems by addressing the needs of vulnerable children and youth, with a focus on those returning from abroad and those at risk of poverty and exclusion. Through community-based services and evidence-driven advocacy, we supported children and young people to access protection, education, and life opportunities.

Our work combined direct support through community centres with research to better understand how return and reintegration policies affect children's rights, particularly among Roma communities. This approach helped improve services while informing more child-sensitive policies and practices.



Key Results

Children & youth reached

229

children and youth supported

80

youth engaged in life-skills sessions



Skills & training

35

youth enrolled in vocational training

28

youth enrolled in vocational training

Family engagement

79

adults reached

39

parents actively engaged



Key Achievements

- First evidence-based research on the impact of EU return and readmission policies on children
- Strengthened collaboration between community centres and municipalities
- Increased access to vocational training and life skills for vulnerable youth
- Improved support for Roma children and youth at risk of exclusion

Innovations

- Evidence-based advocacy linking research with policy dialogue
- Community centre model combining protection, education, and skills
- Child- and gender-sensitive research methodologies
- Integrated support: vocational training, life skills, and parental engagement

Key Challenges

- Poverty and limited access to education and training
- Emotional stress and reintegration difficulties for returned children
- Weak coordination between institutions
- Discrimination, especially affecting Roma children and girls
- Limited family and community support systems

Looking Ahead

We will continue strengthening child-sensitive approaches and integration, improving access to vocational training and life skills, enhancing coordination between institutions, and address-

ing discrimination. We will also build on new evidence to support more effective advocacy and reinforce community-based protection systems.





STRENGTHENING CHILD PARTICIPATION, GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE ACTION

We advanced **Child Rights Governance** in Albania, by enabling meaningful participation of children and young people in decision-making at local, national, and European levels.

Through structured mechanisms and innovative approaches, children were empowered to influence policies, raise their voices, and

contribute to solutions on key issues such as poverty, protection, and climate change.

At the same time, we supported children and youth to actively engage in climate action and advocacy through EU-funded initiatives, while also ensuring that children's inputs informed the development of the National Child Guarantee Action Plan.



Key Results

○ Participation

25

children and youth members of the Child Advisory Body

489

participants in climate action initiatives

○ Capacity building

266

teachers trained from 14 schools

○ Engagement

92

participants in the national child-led conference

58

children directly engaged in policy dialogue



Key Achievements

- Child Advisory Body established as a national participation mechanism
- Children contributed to the National Child Guarantee Plan
- Participation in the European Child Participation Fair in Brussels
- National child-led conference “Born in the Climate Crisis” delivered
- Local climate action plans developed in four municipalities
- Advocacy campaigns led by children during key national moments

Innovations

- Hybrid participation model (online + in-person)
- Speaking Minds methodology for child engagement
- Competence Centre as a digital learning and advocacy platform
- Age-specific climate education tools
- Child-led digital advocacy approaches

Key Challenges

- Poverty and social exclusion affecting participation
- Climate change deepening inequalities
- Limited institutional responsiveness
- Unequal inclusion of children in policymaking
- Growing digital risks for children

Looking Ahead

We will continue strengthening child participation systems, enhancing digital and advocacy skills among children, and promoting safer online environments. We will reinforce climate action initiatives and partnerships, while ensuring children’s voices remain central in decision-making processes at all levels.



Enhancing Change Through Youth Empowerment

WORLD
URBAN
FORUM
TWELFTH SESSION



WORLD
URBAN
FORUM
TWELFTH SESSION



It all starts at home
Local actions for sustainable
cities and communities

Runja, an 18-year-old from Dibra, Albania, joined a Save the Children Child-Led Group at age 12, where she learned about children's rights and developed confidence to advocate for change. She later represented youth at the World Urban Forum in Cairo, speaking on education, equality, and safe communities.

She says: *"Children and youth have extraordinary potential to change the world. We are the leaders of tomorrow, but we can also lead today."*

Despite challenges like limited resources and being heard by adults, Runja continues to advocate for stronger opportunities for children and youth in her community, promoting education, participation, and inclusion.



EMPOWERING VULNERABLE YOUTH THROUGH SKILLS, INCLUSION AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

In **Child and Youth Poverty program**, we supported vulnerable adolescents and young people to successfully transition into adulthood through skills development, employment pathways, and social inclusion.

Through Child and Youth Poverty program interventions we focused on those most at risk of exclusion, including girls, rural youth, Roma and

Egyptian communities, persons with disabilities, young mothers, and NEET youth.

Working closely with vocational education institutions, municipalities, employment offices, and community centres, we strengthened systems that connect young people with education, skills, and labour market opportunities, while improving their confidence, resilience, and participation.



Key Results

○ Youth reached

492

adolescents and youth supported through Power for Adolescents and Youth project. (POWER for AYS)

207

vulnerable youth and adults supported through Skills Ups project (SCUL / Skills Up)

○ Support ecosystem



243

parents and teachers

○ Skills & training



140

participants completed continuous learning and employability training sessions

○ Employment & entrepreneurship



85

employment opportunities created



9

direct job placements



24+

youth-led businesses supported

○ Service delivery in:



3

VET schools

and

3

VET centres



4

community centres

Key Achievements

- Strengthened collaboration between VET schools, municipalities, and employment offices
- Improved life skills (up to 75% improvement) and basic skills (78% improvement)
- Career counselling services established, including a dedicated space in Dibër
- Internships, apprenticeships, and self-employment pathways supported
- Youth-led businesses established and sustained over time
- Stronger labour market integration through partnerships with institutions and UNDP

Innovations

- Supported Continuous Unemployed Learning (SCUL) model combining literacy, numeracy, digital, and life skills
- Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for tailored support
- Green Mindset approach linking employability with sustainability
- Integrated employment model connecting institutions and employers
- Embedded staff in community centres to improve access and trust
- Structured career guidance for upper secondary students

Key Challenges

- High youth unemployment and NEET rates
- Limited economic opportunities, especially in rural areas
- Gender inequality affecting girls and young women
- Barriers for persons with disabilities in accessing jobs
- Weak social protection and service gaps
- Migration and demographic decline

Looking Ahead

We will continue strengthening employment pathways for vulnerable youth, improving skills development and career guidance, enhancing partnerships with institutions and the private sector, and aligning programs with labour market needs, including green economy opportunities. We will also increase outreach to the most vulnerable groups and reinforce mentoring and tailored support systems.

Building Hope and Livelihoods for Youth in Albania



Young people in rural Albania often face unemployment, limited training opportunities, and social exclusion. The **Power4AY project** supported vulnerable youth by building skills, confidence, and pathways to employment and entrepreneurship.

Mehmet, 21, from Mjekës, Elbasan, experienced deep personal loss and early school challenges. Through Power4AY at vocational school, he gained practical skills, mentorship, and renewed motivation.

After completing training, he received a youth entrepreneurship grant and started a sheep farming business with just seven sheep. Today, he manages nearly 100 sheep and runs the farm with his family while continuing his studies in Zootechnics. *“Power4AY was not just about learning. It gave me courage. It made me believe that I could dream again.”* Mehmet

His story shows how targeted support can turn hardship into opportunity, helping rural youth build livelihoods and futures in their own communities.

Overcoming Barriers and Pursuing Dreams

Labe, a kind and determined 15-year-old girl from the Roma community in Elbasan, has overcome poverty, homelessness, migration, and school dropout to rebuild her future through the Power4AY project. After leaving school during her family’s move to Greece and later returning to Albania, Labe was supported to re-enroll, catch up with her studies, and gain life skills that strengthened her confidence and resilience. Despite pressures of early marriage, common in her community, she remains committed to education and dreams of becoming a nurse. *“The project helped me realize that my life doesn’t have to follow the same path as my mother’s. I want to help myself and my community when I grow up,”* says Labe.





PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

Under **Health program**, we strengthened school health systems by bringing practical health promotion directly into schools and communities through the Schools for Health, Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SCD) project implemented by Save the Children in Albania. Working across four regions and nationally through digital platforms and media, we support-

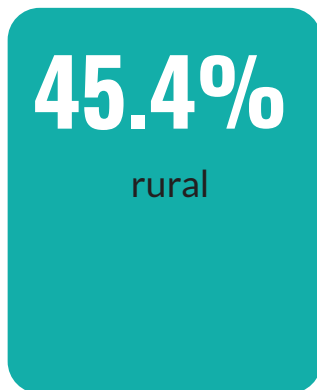
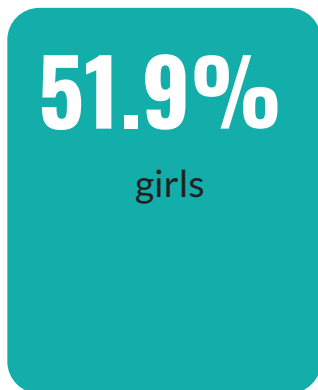
ed children to develop healthy behaviors and access reliable health information.

Through strong collaboration with schools, health professionals, and institutions, we contributed to embedding health promotion into national systems, ensuring sustainability and inclusion of the most vulnerable children.



Key Results

Children reached



Adults engaged



Wider outreach



Systems strengthening



Key Achievements

- Children's health knowledge increased by **21.2%**
- School Health Coordinator Manual developed and approved
- Knowledge Portal institutionalized within the national health system
- Accredited training modules introduced on Sexual Reproductive Health and violence prevention
- Nationwide digital health competitions engaged thousands of children

20.8%

increase
knowledge
in health
promotion
specialists

27%

increase
knowledge in
teachers and
school health
coordinators
(school nurses)

Innovations

- Use of AI tools in health promotion
- National TV campaign with celebrities involvement
- Health Caravan reaching communities directly
- Digital tools integrated into national systems
- Sustainable Development Goals training for teachers

Key Challenges

- Shortage of school nurses
- Limited capacity for full implementation of school health roles
- Need for stronger system-level investment

Looking Ahead

We will continue strengthening school health systems by implementing improvement plans, reinforcing coordination roles, and advancing integration of health education into the national curriculum. We will also further institutionalize digital tools and strengthen collaboration with national authorities.



RESPONDING WITH CARE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

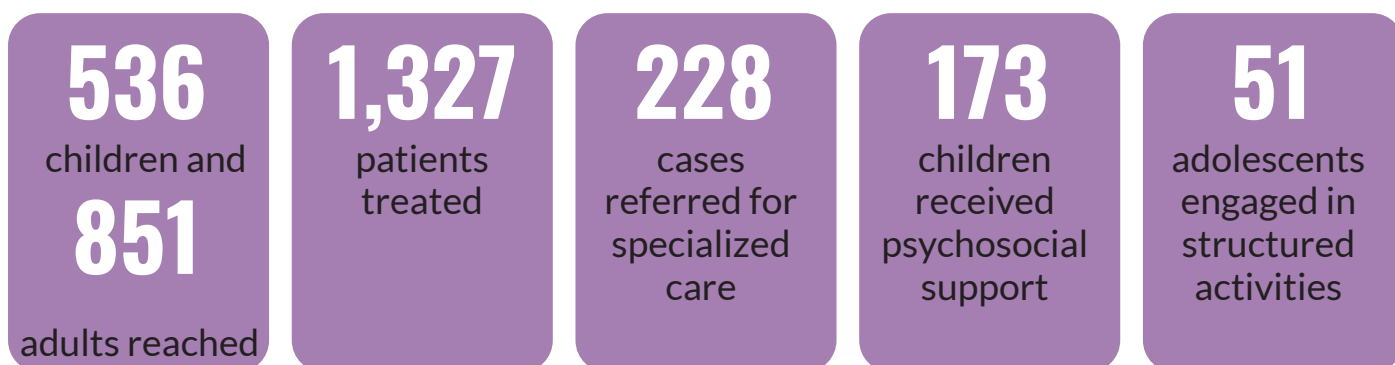
In **Humanitarian Response**, we provided rapid, child-sensitive humanitarian support to families affected by crises, including Afghan families under temporary protection and communities impacted by severe flooding. Our response ensured access to essential health, protection, nutrition, and psychosocial services, helping children and families cope, recover, and regain stability.

Working closely with local authorities and emergency structures, we delivered timely and inclusive support tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable.



Key Results

○ Afghan response



○ Flood response



400

families supported



570

children

and

877

adults reached

Key Achievements

- Child- and Adolescent-Friendly Spaces established and operational
- Continuous health, nutrition, and psychosocial services provided
- Emergency assistance delivered rapidly to affected families
- Strong coordination with municipalities and emergency services
- Improved access to quality primary health care for Afghan families through strengthened medical staff capacity and coordination with local health authorities.
- Improved psychosocial well-being, resilience, and social integration of Afghan children, youth, and families through inclusive Child and Youth Friendly Spaces programme.

Innovations

- Integrated health and protection services
- Safe spaces for children’s wellbeing and development
- Door-to-door delivery ensuring access for vulnerable families
- Culturally adapted communication and support

Key Challenges

- Psychological distress and uncertainty among families
- Risks related to health, nutrition, and access to care
- Logistical challenges in hard-to-reach areas

Looking Ahead

We will continue strengthening emergency preparedness by improving coordination, logistics, and access to essential services. We will prioritize the most vulnerable children and reinforce community resilience to better respond to future crises.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

In 2025, we advanced children's rights through evidence-based advocacy, strategic partnerships, and meaningful child participation. Our efforts focused on influencing policies and strengthening systems across education, health, protection, and youth development.

Key Results

Policy influence

Contributions to National Child Guarantee Plan

Inputs to national curriculum reform

Systems change

National tools and standards approved and institutionalized

Training modules accredited for professionals

Child participation

Children engaged in national and international advocacy processes

Key Achievements

- Children's voices integrated into national policymaking processes
- School Health Coordinator Manual approved as a national standard
- Knowledge Portal embedded in the national health system
- Advocacy strengthened for child-sensitive return procedures
- Youth employment and skills policies supported

Innovations

- Linking child participation with policy influence
- Evidence-based advocacy approaches
- Strong institutional partnerships
- Integration of digital tools into public systems

Key Challenges

- Gaps in implementation of policy
- Need for stronger institutional coordination
- Limited resources for scaling systemic reforms

Looking Ahead

We will continue strengthening policy influence, supporting system-level reforms, and ensuring children's voices remain central in decision-making. We will deepen partnerships with institutions and expand evidence-based advocacy to promote sustainable change for children.

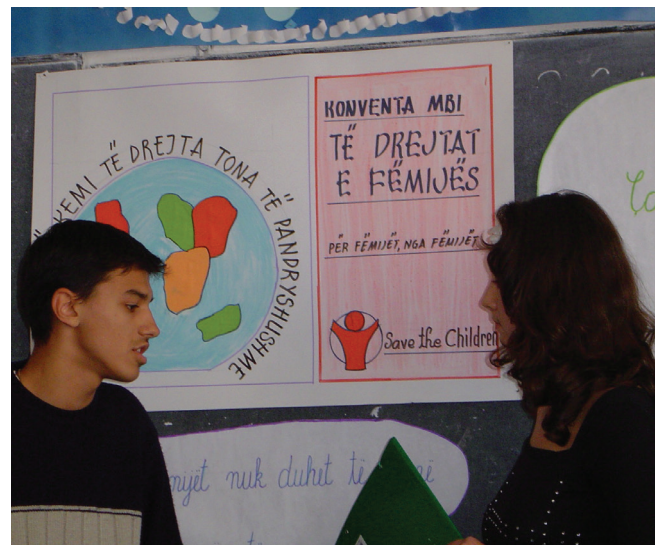
Making History in Child Rights in Albania: 25 Years of the First-Ever Child-Friendly Child Rights Convention (CRC) in Albania



Twenty-five years ago, children in Albania made history. Children's Group 'Voice 16+' in Elbasan, supported by Save the Children in Albania, took an extraordinary step by adapting the Convention on the Rights of the Child into child-friendly Albanian language – making it easier for children across the country to understand their rights, their voices, and their power.

This unique initiative became a symbol of children's participation and a turning point in the journey toward protecting and promoting child rights in Albania.

For generations of children, this child-friendly CRC opened the door to learning, speaking up, and becoming active change-makers in their communities. Even today, it remains an irreplaceable contribution to the historic progress of implementing children's rights and strengthening child participation throughout the country.



PARTNERSHIP THAT MATTERS

Our achievements were powered by strong collaborations with government institutions, local authorities, civil society, and a growing network of committed private sector partners. We worked hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, local municipalities, and schools across the country.

The strategic partnerships with the private sector played a vital role in expanding our impact. We are especially grateful to Raiffeisen Bank, Tirana Bank, and the MANE Foundation for their generous support, which enabled us to strengthen inclusive education, establish child-friendly resource classrooms, improve air quality monitoring in schools, and create better opportunities for children with disabilities and other vulnerable children and youth. These partnerships reflect a shared commitment to building a more equitable and child-friendly Albania.



A Heartfelt Thank You from Save the Children in Albania

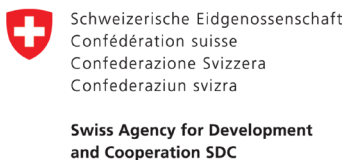
We are deeply grateful to our donors, members, and partners whose generous support helped us achieve our goals in 2025.

A special thank you goes to the local private sector in Albania for their valuable collaboration and contributions.

The progress we've made this year would not have been possible without the ongoing support of our Save the Children members. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of children across Albania.



Funded by
the European Union



BVLGARI

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



MANE
FOUNDATION

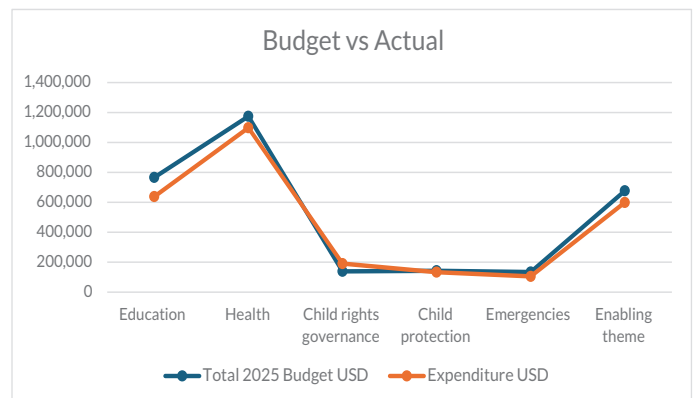
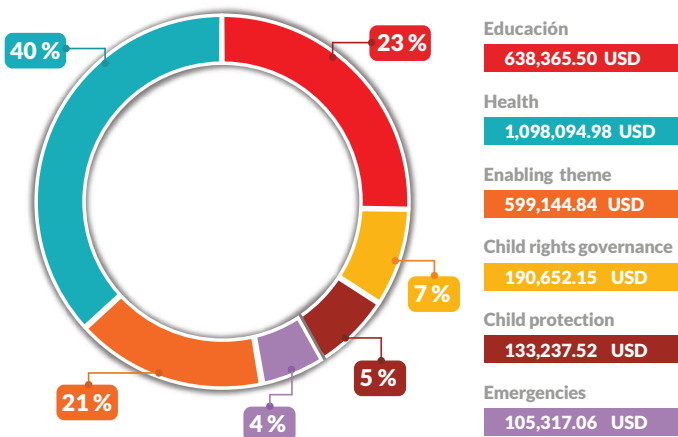
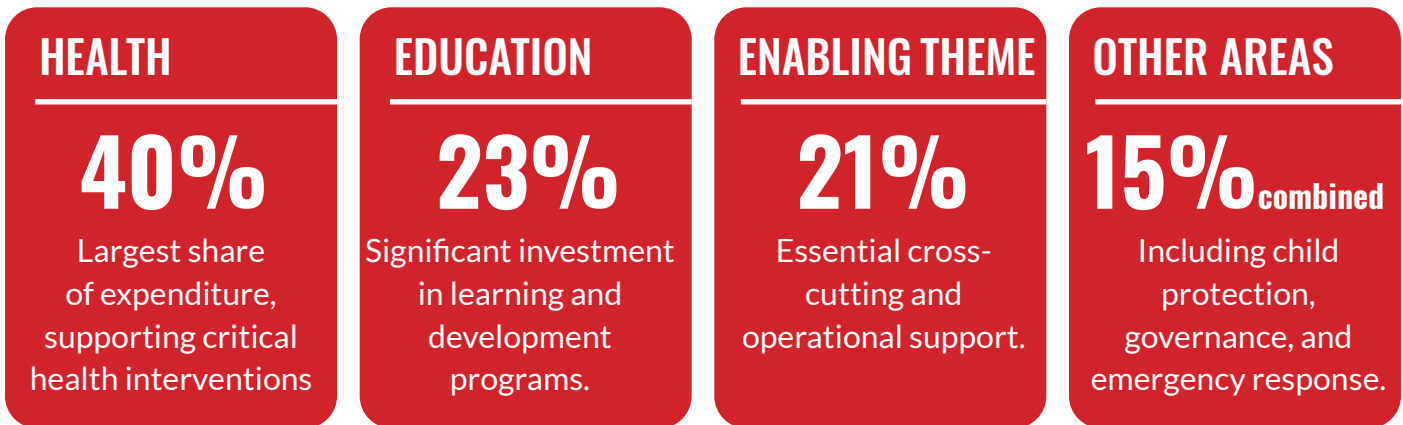
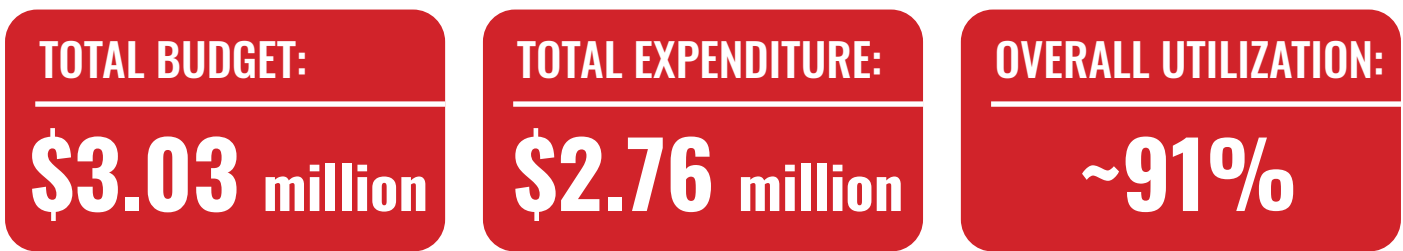


Italy
Switzerland
Denmark

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2025, project expenditure remained closely aligned with planned budgets, reflecting strong financial stewardship and effective program implementation. The majority of resources were directed toward Health (40%) and Education (23%), demonstrating continued prioritization of essential services. Overall, expenditure levels across thematic areas indicate efficient utilization of funds, with most programs achieving high implementation rates.

Some variations between planned and actual expenditure occurred due to evolving program needs and operational adjustments, particularly in child rights governance as a cross-cutting thematic area. These adjustments enabled a timely response to emerging priorities while maintaining overall budget discipline.



Overall Challenges We Faced

- Persistent child poverty and rising living costs affecting access to education, nutrition, and basic services
- High levels of violence, bullying, and psychosocial distress in schools and communities
- Shortage of specialized professionals (school nurses, support teachers, child protection workers)
- Limited access to quality services for children with disabilities, Roma/Egyptian children, and rural communities
- Increasing climate-related risks and environmental hazards impacting children's health and learning

What We Learned

- Meaningful child participation leads to more relevant and sustainable solutions
- Strong local partnerships and institutional collaboration are essential for lasting impact
- Integrating innovation (such as digital tools and AI) significantly increases reach and engagement
- Early investment in prevention and resilience-building reduces long-term vulnerabilities
- Flexible, child-centred approaches work best in both development and emergency contexts
- Evidence-based advocacy combined with community-level action drives real policy change



WHAT'S NEXT: 2026 PRIORITIES, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES

Priorities:

- Consolidate and improve the quality of inclusive education and early childhood development models to reach the most vulnerable children
- Strengthen child protection systems and expand youth employability and entrepreneurship programs
- Institutionalize school health promotion and climate education across more schools and municipalities
- Deepen meaningful child and youth participation in policy dialogue and decision-making
- Enhance emergency preparedness and humanitarian response capacity for future crises

Risks:

- Continued child poverty, migration, and socio-economic pressures on families
- Shortage of specialized staff (school nurses, support teachers, protection workers)
- Increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters and environmental risks
- Limited institutional coordination and potential delays in policy implementation
- Funding uncertainty and sustainability challenges for key programs

Opportunities:

- Growing national focus on European integration and child rights reforms
- Expanding partnerships with private sector and new donors
- Increased government openness to institutionalizing successful models (school health, child participation, VET)
- Rising youth engagement and digital innovation for wider reach and impact
- Stronger collaboration across sectors to build resilient, child-friendly communities
- Expand EU donor engagement on the National Child Guarantee, ECCD, child rights, climate and environmental action, online violence prevention, and the provision of model social services.



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