

# **Albania**

## **Improvement Plan**

**Thematic window: Children, Food Security & Nutrition**

**Programme Title: Reducing malnutrition in children**

**Evaluation Recommendation No. 1**

The JP should consider establishing and developing capacity of a Nutrition Unit (or Section) in the MOH to provide secretariat function to the high-level cross-sector coordination mechanism for Nutrition.

**Response from the Joint Programme Management**

**The importance of establishing an intersectoral coordinating mechanism for Nutrition is well recognized and the JP has been advocating for this since the beginning and will continue to do so. However the level and composition of such coordination structure will be decided during the operationalization of the new Food and Nutrition Action Plan (FNAP).**

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up	
			Comments	Status
1.1 Continue to advocate with DSDC ( Department of Strategy and Donor coordination at Council of Ministers) and line ministers on the intersectoral coordination structure	On going	General Director of Health Policy and Planning ( chair of PMC) at Ministry of Health (MOH) ;Deputy Minister of Agriculture (MOA), Heads of participating UN agencies		
1.2 Identify gaps related to intersectoral coordination in the current FNAP	April 2012	Intersectoral TWG on critical review of current FNAP (MOH, MOA)		
1.3 Agree on level and structure of the intersectoral coordination mechanisms for nutrition as one of the actions of the new FNAP	On going	Council of Ministers, DSDC, Line ministries (MOH, MOA),		

**Evaluation Recommendation No. 2**

The JP should establish cross-sector coordination mechanisms at regional level.

**Response from the Joint Programme Management**

**It is clear that the good intersectoral collaboration and coordination at the central level needs to be replicated at the regional and local level. It is expected that the primary means of ensuring this will be through cross-sectoral involvement and participation in the design and implementation of community-based interventions.**

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up	
			Comments	Status
2.1 Coordination	April 2012	MOH, MOA, District Public		

structures at local level these will be strengthened through participation in background training for nutrition and food security.		Health Departments, Regional Food and Agriculture Departments		
2.2 Coordination structures at local level will be strengthened through periodical reporting and participation at PMC meetings.	On going	MOH, MOA		
2.3 Include MTE report and improvement plan in the agenda of regional meetings	April 2012	MOH and MOA focal points		
2.4 Conduct joint monitoring visits to follow up closely implementation and draw lessons for improvements in current interventions and scaling up	On going	District Public health directory, regional food and agriculture directory		
2.5 Periodical meetings of focal points at region and commune level with experts from health, agriculture, education and social protection to plan and implement specific activities in target areas.	On bimonthly basis	District Public health directory, regional food and agriculture directory, local government, Implementing NGOs		

### Evaluation Recommendation No. 3

The JP should monitor and follow-up implementation of its outputs at regional level, such as use of Growth Charts by trained health care workers.

**Response from the Joint Programme Management**  
**The importance of follow up and supportive supervision of trained health personnel in nutrition counselling, including the growth charts, is well recognized. The Ministry of Health will take the necessary steps to institutionalize the use of growth charts.**

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up	
			Comments	Status
3.1 Agreement on supportive supervision structure and modalities achieved in health sector	March 2012	MOH ( including the following departments :family health, statistics, M&E) , national coordinator		
3.2 Training of the M&E section at district level for the supportive supervision of PHC staff trained in growth monitoring and nutrition counselling	May 2012	MOH, District Public health directory		
3.3 Conduct supportive supervision of the trained PHC staff	On going	District Public health directory, M&E sectors at district level		
3.4 Institutionalize and distribute to all health centers in target areas the new growth charts	April 2012	MOH, District Public health directory, Health Insurance Institute		

**Evaluation recommendation N4**

The JP should establish specific coordination with the Mother and Child Care programme to harmonize training of health professionals.

**Response from the joint programme management**

Coordination with the MCH Spanish supported programme currently exists. This is ensured from the MOH, where the same department coordinates both programmes, and frequent contacts and info sharing between technical teams of both programmes.

4.1 Continue exchange of information on important activities, key achievements and documents elaborated under both programmes	On going	Public Health Department at MOH, national coordinator, national officer WHO		
4.2 Institute formal meetings between MCH and Nutrition	March 2012 June 2012	Public Health Department at MOH, national coordinator,		

programmes		national officer WHO		
<b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 5</b>				
The JP should request a no-cost extension for an additional period of one year.				
<b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b> There is a full agreement and commitment by all stakeholders and partners to extending the time-frame of the JP in order to fully implement the planned activities and achieve the anticipated objectives and outcomes.				
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Follow-up</b>	
5.1 Complete necessary documentation to submit request for extension	February 2012	Nation programme coordinator, focal points at MOH and MOA, UN participating agencies	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
5.2 Identify activities to carry-over in 2013 and re-schedule the time-frame for their implementation and associated costs.	February 2012	Focal points at MOH, MOA, UN participating agencies		
5.3 Conduct PMC meeting to discuss request for extension and improvement plan	March 2012	PMC Chairs, National coordinator, UN coordinator		
5.4 Submit request for extension	March 2012	UNRC office		
<b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 6</b>				
The JP should review its Results and M&E framework.				
<b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b> The Results and M&E framework will be carefully reviewed and modified as deemed appropriate and to the extent possible, keeping in mind the need to avoid radical changes in the programme at this point.				
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Follow-up</b>	
6.1 Review meeting with national and local focal points to discuss any possible changes in the M&E framework	January – February 2012	National coordinator, MOH and MOA focal points, technical officers UNICEF, WHO, FAO	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
6.2 Reflect any	End of February	MOH coordinator,		

necessary and agreed upon changes in the results matrix	2012	UN coordinator		
6.3				
<b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 7</b>				
The JP should develop a programme exit strategy.				
<b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b>				
<p>National ownership and sustainability are cornerstones of the approach of this JP and have been and inherent and integral part of its design and implementation. Therefore, a separate exit strategy for sustaining activities and mechanisms is considered unnecessary. Sustainability after the end of the JP is expected to be achieved principally through the following means: signing of an MOU by 5 line ministries committing for intersectoral action in nutrition and food security; accreditation of all training activities; preparation of pre and in- service training curricula, officially recognized; establishing mandatory flour fortification; elaboration, approval and implementation of a National Food and Nutrition Action Plan that will include activities that require continuity. In addition, the exit will be prepared with the actions listed below.</p>				
Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up	
7.1 Elaboration of the new FNAP with budget, timeline and responsibilities	December 2012	MOH, MOA	Comments	Status
7.2 Adoption of the revised nutrition curricula for the pre and in service training of health personnel, and compulsory education	2012 for nursing faculty and 2013 for compulsory education and school of medicine	National Center for continuing medical education , Faculty of Medicine and Nursing, M of Education and Science,		
7.3 Flour fortification legislative framework developed	2013	MOH, MOA, National Food Control Authority		
7.4 Food and nutrition surveillance system in place to monitor nutrition and food security situation and take necessary actions	2013	MOH, MOA, IPH, INSTAT		
7.5 Establishment of a nutrition unit at MOH/IPH in support of the national coordination mechanism	2013	MOH		

