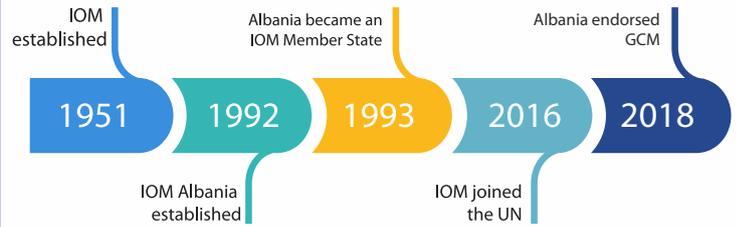


The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the UN Migration Agency and the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. IOM works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners to promote humane, safe, and orderly migration. It does so by providing services, policy advice and recommendations to governments and migrants. Over the years, IOM has grown into 173 Member States, over 400 field locations and almost 14,000 staff. IOM's structure is highly decentralized. Over 90 percent of IOM's staff is deployed in the field.



MIGRATION CONTEXT IN ALBANIA

EMIGRATION

Albania remains predominantly a country of emigration, with one third of the country's population living outside of its territory. The majority of the migrant communities are present in neighbouring countries, like Italy and Greece, which accounted for almost 75% of total emigrants in 2019*, although there is a growing trend of Albanians residing in other European countries as well as in North America. Emigration from Albania is primarily driven by economic reasons. Albanian citizens abroad include also persons whose asylum claims were rejected or who otherwise reside irregularly in EU countries. The number of rejected asylum seekers from Albania has been decreasing in the last couple of years. According to the Bank of Albania, in 2018-2020 (third quarter of 2020), remittances counted for 9.3 per cent of the GDP, mainly comprised of individual transfers.

IMMIGRATION

Albania is also increasingly becoming a country of destination for foreigners. This includes migrants in search of employment, students, asylum seekers and refugees. According to UNDESA data, the total number of international migrants in 2020 present in Albania was 49,160 comprising 1.7 % of the total population. While the numbers remain relatively small, the government has recognized the importance of migrants' rights and their integration. Therefore, the government has dedicated, for the first time, a chapter to immigrants and their rights in the National Strategy on Migration and its Action Plan (2019-2022). Relevant Action Plan measures aim to ensure that a comprehensive nondiscrimination framework protects migrants' rights, identify migrants as a vulnerable category, improve conditions for their integration and provide durable legal solutions.

MIXED MIGRATION

Like other Western Balkan countries, Albania has also been affected by mixed migration flows transiting through the country and the region, with drivers for these flows being a mix of various conflicts and hazards taking place around the world and socioeconomic reasons. The categories of foreigners arriving in the country include, inter alia, refugees and asylum seekers, migrants, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied and separated minors, as well as stateless persons. The flows have been steadily increasing since 2017 and reached more than 18 thousand in 2021. Efforts towards expanding capacities for their identification, registration and temporary accommodation have been constantly taking place, also to ensure COVID-19 compliance, along with addressing vulnerabilities, in close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders.

IN LINE WITH THE IOM GLOBAL STRATEGIC VISION AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES, IOM ALBANIA'S STRATEGIC APPROACH IS STRUCTURED AROUND THREE PILLARS

RESILIENCE



Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient

Diaspora engagement to the economic development of the country will be supported, including through fellowship and mentorship schemes, as well as twinning programs.

IOM will continue supporting the coordination and capacities of stakeholders, including on referral pathways for the identification and protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, access to protection assistance and services, as well as work closely with partners and national stakeholders, promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to return and reintegration.

IOM will continue to support the government in the development of gender- and child-sensitive policies for protection and assistance of those marginalized and/or vulnerable, as well as build the capacities of institutional stakeholders.

Respect for migrant workers' rights and ethical recruitment will be promoted with public and private sector entities, also in order to prevent exploitation and trafficking.

Support will continue in the Prevention of Violent Extremism, aimed at providing populations at-risk of engaging with violent groups with alternatives to address incentives for individuals to participate in violence.

IOM will seek to address the assistance and protection needs of migrants and displaced persons, as well as address and reduce vulnerabilities of migrants in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards.

MOBILITY



Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility

Supporting actions for a comprehensive and efficient governance of migration in a way to maximize its development impact will be one of the main areas of work of IOM. Policy makers and stakeholders will be supported in having access to and using high-quality labour market research and evidence, in order to inform policy development.

IOM will continue to work towards assuring pre-decision, pre-departure, post-arrival, and/or return assistance is provided, including informing potential migrants on the regular pathways of migration and the risks of irregular migration. Support will be provided to develop policies for students and labour migrants, as well as expand the geographical scope of existing migration agreements.

IOM will be working to strengthen cooperation and dialogue in the area of combating trafficking and smuggling and strive to support the institutional capacities thereto. Prevention activities will be supported through raising awareness on the risks of trafficking in human beings and socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable people.

IOM will support the development and implementation of integrated border management policies and systems as well as capacity building.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration for migrants will continue to be provided by IOM, along with support to the government in strengthening capacities and improving bilateral and regional readmission cooperation.

IOM Albania will promote approaches that facilitate orderly, safe, responsible, and regular migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters due to natural hazards.

GOVERNANCE



Migration benefits from a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

IOM will support the implementation of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that will help government institutions and key stakeholders at the local and national level to have relevant skills, knowledge, resources, tools, and evidence to develop migration policies and frameworks contributing to good migration governance, in line with the GCM objectives.

IOM will also support the implementation of the Diaspora policy, including through strengthening inter-institutional cooperation, capacity building and sharing of know-how. The continuous approximation of legislation with the EU acquis and other international standards in fields relevant to migration will be supported as well.

IOM will work with the Government and relevant UN entities, including the UN Network on Migration and the UN Development System, providing effective, coordinated, and whole-of-system support to develop and implement migration policies and legislation mainstream migration into related public policy domains, including migration, environment and climate change nexus as relevant, in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the GCM, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant frameworks in humanitarian, environment, and related fields.

IOM is also contributing to strengthening the national capacities and systems for effective and comprehensive migration data collection, exchange and analysis of migration statistics.

*Source: European Training Foundation Study

IOM is one of the main international partners of the Government of Albania (GoA), supporting its continuous progress and efforts in migration governance, in line with Albania's priorities of European Union integration.

IOM is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Albania since 2007. It actively contributes to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, that guides the work of the GoA and the UNCT and their partnerships, and aligns the support, funds and programmes of 19 UN agencies to Albania's development priorities.

IOM Albania Vision:

IOM aims to support the Government of Albania in ensuring well governed migration. IOM will support the development and implementation of an effective migration governance system by advancing the implementation of migration policies aligned to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) as well as boosting the development impact of migration. In addition, in cooperation with strengthened institutions, IOM will aim to promote regular migration and to increase the sustainability of return and ensuring protection of migrants' rights, with a particular focus on those exposed to vulnerabilities.

Migration and the 2030 Agenda

Migration governance will be a success factor for the achievement of all SDGs. Migration affects and is affected by all areas of governance and is therefore relevant to ALL SDGs. Migration is a global phenomenon affecting all countries worldwide and its effective governance needs global partnerships and both a "bottom-up" and a "top-down" approach if we want to make the most of its benefits.

RESILIENCE: Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Migration is increasingly recognized as a significant factor for sustainable development. As the UN Migration Agency, IOM helps governments and the international community to harness the development potential of migration for both migrants and societies. The objective of IOM's migration and development programmes is multidimensional and multifaceted, requiring an in-depth consideration by Albanian government and other stakeholders mainly in three areas:

- diaspora remittances, trade, and investment
- capacity building (transfer of skills, knowledge and technology)
- advocacy and involvement in development policy making and implementation process, contributing to a better understanding of the links between international migration and development and to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The diaspora entails great potential for Albania's development and the challenge for the stakeholders is to create an environment that encourages and supports diaspora engagement to the development of the home country. IOM actions in this area aim to contribute to enhancing the engagement of Albanian diaspora to the social and economic development of Albania. Relevant actions include technical assistance and capacity building to diaspora institutions, facilitating the engagement of the Albanian diaspora through know-how, skills transfer, boosting investments and supporting Albanian Government to the EU approximation process through engagement of highly qualified Albanian Diaspora experts.



Six young diaspora researchers and 13 students engaged in the field projects as part of Diaspora Programme.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

IOM Albania implements Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes for Albanian nationals returning mainly from the West European countries, such as the UK, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Italy, Hungary, Finland and Switzerland. IOM Tirana provides reception and reintegration assistance for the returnees in compliance with the above programmes' procedural requirements. Since 2015, IOM Albania has assisted around 4,100 Albanian nationals returning home.

PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM / COUNTERING OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM (PVE/CVE)

IOM contributes to the efforts of civil society, central and local authorities in the Western Balkans (WB) to prevent radicalization, recruitment and inspiration of individuals to violent extremist ideologies and groups, in coordination with relevant ministries and national coordinators for PVE/CVE, to reinforce and support the implementation of the broader strategies for PVE/CVE and to complement existing and planned actions in the WBs. In Albania, IOM coordinates and closely works with the Coordination Centre for Countering Violent Extremism.

IOM is an active player in the area of reintegration, resocialization and rehabilitation of Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (RFTF) and their families from conflict zones. The set of ongoing and planned interventions aim to support the host governments and institutions, receiving communities, and returnees in the complex issues surrounding RFTF returns. The provision of reception and humanitarian assistance to returnees in different countries is an important milestone in IOM's work in the area of reintegration of RFTF in WB. IOM has supported and participated in an interdisciplinary coordination group responsible for providing an organized reception and return to the communities of origin.

MOBILITY:

Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility

LABOUR AND MIGRATION

The Organization supports the government's efforts to manage labour mobility through technical assistance for the implementation of labour agreements, as well as assessing and advising on the role of labour market actors, with a view to enhancing recruitment standards and migrants' rights protection. In partnership with the relevant institutions, IOM facilitates the provision of advice, information and referral services to prospective migrants, immigrants and returnees on regular migration for labour and study purposes, on reintegration opportunities in Albania, as well as immigration issues. A national network of Migration Counters (Sportele Migracioni) has been established and strengthened with IOM support since 2005, to increase access to regular migration information, modalities and opportunities.

IOM support includes assessments and studies on the impact of COVID-19 to labour migration dynamics, impact of migration on the available labour resources and the volume and structure of the national labour force and consequent needs for labour force training.

In line with Albanian national priorities on migration, IOM contributes to improving good migration governance in Albania by strengthening the national labour migration policy framework with a focus on data collection and analysis, as well as guidance on ethical recruitment systems. Support is provided to develop and approve the national guidelines on ethical recruitment of migrant workers, for their further inclusion into the national labour migration policy framework and ethical recruitment practices for migrant workers promoted in cooperation with private sector.

PREVENTION OF UNSAFE MIGRATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

IOM Albania continuously supports the Government of Albania, in line with recommendations for EU accessions and implementation of the country's migration policy, to implement prevention activities for unsafe migration from Albania towards EU member states. The aim of these interventions is to support information dissemination and awareness-raising on visa-free regime movement, risks and consequences of unsafe migration, as well as encouraging youth to benefit from sustainable self-development opportunities, which increase their employability as a secure path for a better future and promote the use of regular migration channels. Through awareness raising campaigns, direct contribution is made to influencing the change of behavior of the groups with high potential to migrate irregularly as well as key "enablers" in Albania.



COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IOM promotes concerted efforts among government, civil society and other actors to build an effective integrated system of prevention of trafficking in persons, protection assistance and reintegration of victims of trafficking (VoTs) and unaccompanied minors in Albania. Direct assistance and transfer of know-how are key elements of IOM's contribution to the country's counter-trafficking efforts. IOM as a member of the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of VoT/PVOTs is committed to supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the National Referral Mechanism, the achievement of international standards and further improvement of national standards of assistance to VoTs and their protection. Capacity building aims to strengthen local service delivery to VoTs, as well as establish local protection mechanisms for vulnerable categories of migrants, such as unaccompanied children. Continuous contribution to strengthening effective counter-smuggling and counter-human trafficking practices, in line with protection sensitive approaches to assisting VoTs is provided in the Western Balkans. Enhanced regional strategic and operational cooperation, coordination, and technical capacities to identify, investigate and prosecute smuggling of migrants (SOM) and trafficking in human beings (THB), in line with EU and international practices and standards, is provided.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

Technical support is continuously provided to the border authorities for the implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategy as well as contingency planning and strengthening capacities on the management of mixed migration flows. IOM promotes cooperation with neighboring countries in preventing and fighting irregular migration of Albanian citizens and third country nationals in line with existing bilateral agreements and regional initiatives, in particular on information processing and exchange, AVR, Advance Passenger Information systems, country of origin analysis, readmission agreements, reception facilities for irregular third-country nationals, interpretation and language analysis. IOM contributes to the efforts in the WB to counter smuggling and trafficking of migrants along the route. A Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centre for irregular migrants was established in Gërhot, Gjirokastrë, in 2017, for 60 people. In 2019, another Centre was established in Kapshtica, Korçë, with the same capacity, later expanded with other 50 beds. Uninterrupted performance of border controls was facilitated by supporting COVID-19 response at Points of Entry (PoE) through provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and support in developing dedicated tools and procedures. Also, additional capacities for the registration and temporary accommodation of 18 migrants were established in the Kakavija BCP, in Gjirokastra.



IOM and partners provided accommodation and other necessary support for 22 migrants.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

IOM uses its extensive expertise and experience to provide support to States as well as the individuals and communities affected by crisis, and to actively contribute to the efforts to effectively address challenges. Albania has not been affected by the massive mix migration movements as its neighbor countries in the WB. However, it remains an alternative route with very high potential to be used by migrants trying to transit through the WB countries to reach the EU. IOM supported the Government of Albania for the development of a Contingency Plan on a possible massive influx of migrants and asylum-seekers at the Albanian border in 2015. As regards the response, the relevant structures are supported with infrastructure to improve processing of mixed migration flows as well as trainings on migration crisis management, in line with the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), developed by IOM in 2012, aiming to enhance the understanding of complex mobility patterns related to crises, increase preparedness and enable a more effective operational response. The contingency plan was updated in 2021 with the support of IOM. In response to the pandemic, IOM contributed to make the Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centres COVID-19 compliant and improved reception conditions for children, women and girls VoTs / PVoTs and migrants in vulnerable situation.

RESETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT

IOM facilitates movement operations and pre-departure services, in liaison with concerned authorities in resettlement countries. IOM carries out "fitness to travel" health assessments, when requested; facilitates and provides logistical support for visa processing; offers transportation and other services for refugee resettlement, in line with agreements signed with immigration services in the respective countries. In specific cases, IOM is responsible for Pre-departure orientation (PDO) sessions. IOM assists with voluntary returns of third country nationals to their countries of origin. This entails AVRR outreach conducted by field counselors in Korce, Gjirokastra, Shkoder and Tirana, followed by an initial pre-screening interview for the applicant and, in case of eligibility, flight arrangements for the irregularly stranded migrant.

In case of lack of travel documents, IOM helps the returning migrants with the facilitation of their issuance in coordination with diplomatic missions of their respective countries of origin. Since October 2021, IOM engaged in the relocation of Afghani evacuees to Canada, Norway, Sweden and USA.



Support for Migrants App raises awareness of human trafficking and enables migrants to access services and support in the Western Balkans.

GOVERNANCE:

Migration benefits from a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

IOM strongly supports migration management in Albania through actions in several areas, as well as promotes the link between migration and development of Albania.

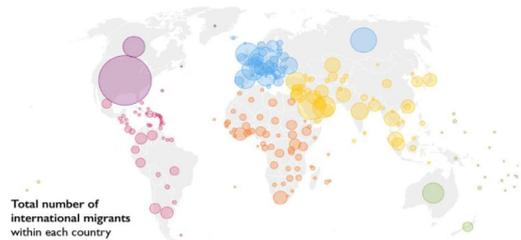
MIGRATION POLICY

IOM works with migrants and governments to respond to contemporary migration challenges. Having 70 years of worldwide operational experience, IOM is uniquely positioned to build on its grassroots experience and provide guidance on migration policy. IOM provides information, advice and support to further stakeholder's efforts to develop effective national, regional and global migration management policies and strategies.

In pursuit of its commitment to support the GoA efforts to develop and implement new migration governance policies, IOM supported the development of the National Strategy on Migration Governance and its Action Plan (2019-2022), in line with the Migration Governance Framework (MiGoF) - a strategic framework developed by IOM and endorsed by all IOM member states (including Albania) in 2015, as well as the development of National Diaspora Strategy and its Action Plan (2021 - 2025). The strategies address the specific objectives defined by the GoA in the National Strategy for Development and Integration as well as supports the efforts of the GoA to achieve the SDG Target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Support is being provided for the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration across several objectives, including the support for the establishment and strengthening of the coordination and monitoring mechanism of the Strategy and its mid-term review. In addition, capacity building is provided, through a Migration Governance training (including ToT) for government officials. Following the GoA pledge in the context of the IMRF, IOM will support the development of the new strategy rooted in the GCM.

In 2010, in fulfilment of the country's aspirations to attain visa liberalization, support has been extended to the GoA to formulate the National Strategy on the Reintegration of the Returned Albanian Citizens and its Action Plan (2010-2015). Before that, IOM supported the GoA to develop and implement the first National Strategy on Migration and its Action Plan (2005 - 2010), through financial support of the European Union. In line with the National Action Plan on Migration, assistance was provided in 2007 to develop and implement the National Action Plan on Remittances (2007-2010). Strategic support to the government is spread across various areas of engagement and sector strategies, such as counter trafficking, diaspora engagement, labour migration and integrated border management

One of IOM's strategic priorities in the area of migration policy is to contribute to increased dialogue between migration stakeholders at bilateral, regional and global levels.



CANADA VISA APPLICATION CENTRE

Under a public-private sector partnership, the new Canada Visa Application Centre (CVAC) for Residents of Albania (CVAC) opened and operated by the Mission in Tirana, since June 2013. VFS Global manages the (CVAC in Albania operated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tirana, Albania. CVAC is the exclusive service provider for the Government of Canada, authorized to accept applications in all temporary resident categories (visitor visas, study and work permits) and travel document applications from Canada's permanent residents in Albania.

Since the start of operations, the CVAC has assisted 44,228 visitors and processed 22,071 applications. Expedited support is provided to Ukrainian citizens.

MIGRATION RESEARCH

IOM conducts research designed to guide and inform migration policy and practice. The organization provides a unique space for consultation between researchers and policy makers. Research results are disseminated through numerous publications worldwide.

IOM's research activities encompass several migration management topics, including migration trends and data, international migration law, migration and development, health and migration, counter-trafficking, labour migration, remittances, irregular migration, migrant smuggling, integration, and return migration. In 2020, in cooperation with INSTAT and financial support of GIZ, was finalized the Household Migration Survey (HMS). The HMS is the first of this kind in Albania; it was conducted in the entire country, with the participation of more than 20 thousand households and more than 74 thousand respondents.

The work on migration data and statistics continues, focusing on data collection and analysis, assisting GoA officials at both central and local levels to improve their skills and increase their knowledge to collect and analyze comprehensive and consistent gender-sensitive datasets on labour migration. The assessment of the labour market needs in selected countries of destination and their impact on the Albanian labour force and how labour migration from and to Albania is affected by COVID-19 will be conducted, followed by the study "Predictive Modelling: Migration Impact on the Albanian Workforce and Skills Development Needs, from a gender perspective, in Albania".



Mapping and profiling of Albanian Diaspora in Italy, France, and Belgium

MIGRATION LAW

Dissemination and understanding both within IOM and amongst IOM counterparts of the international legal standards that govern migration and provide protection of the rights of individuals involved in migration are key objectives of the organization.

Recognition of the rights of migrants and the need for promotion and protection of these rights in the exercise of state sovereignty has been present in IOM's constituent documents since the Organization's foundation.

IOM in Albania continuously supports the improvement of national legislation on migration in several areas. In 2020 IOM supported the inter-institutional working group for the development of the new law "On aliens". Before this, support was provided in 2018 for the review of the Law "On aliens" and the Law "On Emigration of Albanian Citizens for Employment Purposes".

In order to create a common understanding of migration terms, IOM has prepared a "Glossary on Migration, designed for all those dealing with migration issues at international level. As a "living document" the glossary is continuously being updated and can be accessed at <https://www.iom.int/glossary-migration-2019>.



March 2022

Supported the Government Voluntary Review Reporting to the IMRF.

Capacity building workshop with the implementing partners on the Mid-Term Review of the National Strategy on Migration and Action Plan (2019-2022).

March 2022

December 2021

20 members of the Albanian Diaspora certified as Development Agents as part of Connect Albania investment boosting mechanism; One Development Agent rewarded for the new investment.

IOM published "Together for Albania", a photo-book highlighting the Diaspora programme best practices and positive stories of Albanian Diaspora members.

December 2021

November 2021

Launching of the nationwide awareness raising campaign "Albania is YOU!", aiming to influence the change of behavior of Albanians for the regular and safe migration

IOM supports the "Colours of Albanians" initiative, organized by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, which for the first time has a dedicated prize for the Albanian Diaspora.

November 2021

November 2021

IOM supports the Mid-Term Review of the National Strategy on Migration with involvement of migration stakeholders.

IOM develops the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on detection, screening, and management of all ill travelers for Points of Entry (PoEs).

August 2021

June – July 2021

IOM supports the GoA in building institutional capacities in migration governance through a Training of Trainers approach.

IOM partners with 8 associations/NGOs engaging Albanian Diaspora to implement local projects in Albania focused on tourism, agritourism and agriculture.

May – November 2021

March – December 2021

IOM supports the GoA in the EU approximation process through the engagement of 38 Albanian Diaspora experts and a Team Leader as part of EU Fellowship Scheme.

IOM assists the GoA to implement the National Diaspora Strategy and its Action Plan (2021 – 2025).

March – October 2021

March 2021

IOM supports the State Minister for Diaspora to develop the Communications Strategy and its Action Plan (2021-2025).

IOM provides technical support to the GoA for reviewing and costing of the Contingency Plan on a possible massive influx of migrants and asylum-seekers at the Albanian border.

February 2021

January 2021

IOM supports GoA in strengthening labour migration framework in Albania.

IOM supports the the establishment and strengthening of the coordination and monitoring mechanism of the National Strategy on Migration and Action Plan (2019-2022).

December 2020



December 2020

IOM Albania launches Connect Albania Programme, a new investment boosting mechanism that engages Albanian Diaspora as Development Agents to attract the foreign investments in Albania.

IOM supports the GoA to revise the National Diaspora Strategy and to develop its Action Plan (2021 – 2025).

October –
December 2020

September –
December 2020

IOM supports the working group for the development of the new law "On aliens".

IOM, in partnership with Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA), certifies 17 public officials of Diaspora institutions on Project Cycle Management and Fundraising (including ToT).

October 2020

September 2020

IOM installs fully equipped medical ambulatory/Covid-19 isolation ward containers in Migrants Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centres (Kapshtica, Gërhot, Kakavija).

IOM, in collaboration with University of Florence, analyzes the guidelines for Albania's cultural monuments in five villages of Albania: three villages of Përmet - Bënja, Leusë, Kosinë, the village of Razëm (Shkodra) and the village of Zvërnec (Vlorë).

July 2020

June 2020

IOM, in collaboration with INSTAT, finalizes the Household Migration Survey.

IOM, in collaboration with Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale (CESPI), finalizes the research "Mapping and Profile for Albanian Diaspora in Italy and an overview for France and Belgium".

April 2020

October 2019

IOM supports the Government for the establishment of the Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centre for irregular migrants, located in Kapshtica, Korçë and Kakavija, Gjirokastër.

IOM supports the GoA for development of the National Strategy on Migration and its Action Plan (2019-2022).

December 2018

September 2018

Migration Governance Snapshot for the Republic of Albania is published.

IOM supports the GoA for the costing of the Action plan for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (2018-2020).

September 2018

April-
August 2018

Migration Governance Indicators assessment is carried out in Albania.

IOM supports the Government for the establishment of the Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centre for irregular migrants, located in Gërhot, Gjirokastër.

June 2017

October 2016

IOM is a signatory of the GoA-United Nations Programme of Cooperation (2017-2022).

IOM supports the GoA for drafting the "Policy Document on Engaging with Albanian Communities Abroad".

October 2016

July 2014
September 2015

IOM undertakes an in-depth assessment of the protection system for minors in Albania.

IOM provides technical support to the GoA for elaborating the Contingency Plan on a possible massive influx of migrants and asylum-seekers at the Albanian border.

September 2015

May 2015

IOM enhances capacities of the Albanian public institutions to collect and analyze data on migration.



IOM, in collaboration with INSTAT, launches the 1st National Report on Return and Reintegration in Albania.

October 2014

June 2013

Under a public-private sector partnership, the new Canada Visa Application Centre for Residents of Albania (CVAC) is opened and operated by the IOM Mission in Tirana.

IOM signs the new Cooperation Agreement for the Functioning of the National Referral Mechanism for Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Persons.

June 2012

October 2011

IOM is a signatory of the GoA-United Nations Programme of Cooperation (2012-2016).

IOM supports the implementation of the bilateral labour agreement with Italy.

2011

2010

IOM supports the elaboration of the National Strategy for the Reintegration of Returned Albanian Citizens (2010-2015).

IOM supports the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to establish Standard Operating Procedures for Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking and Potential Victims of Trafficking.

2009-2011

2008

IOM consolidates the approach established earlier to facilitate potential Albanian migrants' access to informed migration within a national network of Migration Counters (Sportele Migracioni).

IOM supports the elaboration and implementation of the National Action Plan on Remittances (2007-2010).

June 2007-
July 2009

February 2007-
July 2009

IOM supports the implementation of the National Action Plan on Migration (2005-2010).

IOM, in close co-operation with the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and UNODC, establishes the first toll-free National Helpline offering services on safe migration and counter-trafficking.

November 2006

March 2006

IOM signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the GoA and stakeholders on the Handover of Pre-screening System of Irregular Foreigners and Asylum Seekers in Albania.

The Albanian government approves the Cooperation Agreement on the National Referral Mechanism for Enhancing Identification of, and rendering assistance to, Victims of Trafficking initiated by IOM and the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator.

July 2005

May 2005

The Albanian Council of Ministers approves the National Strategy on Migration and National Action Plan on Migration (2005-2010) drafted with IOM's support.

IOM provides support at policy level with drafting National Strategies to Combat Trafficking of Human Beings and its action plans.

2001-2013

1999-2004

IOM supports the opening of Reception and Reintegration Centres for Albanian VoTs, irregular migrants stranded in Albania and third-country national VoTs.

Albania becomes a Member State of the International Organization for Migration.

1993

1992

IOM opens its Mission in Albania.



IOM ALBANIA

STRATEGIC APPROACH (2022-2025)



The Strategy aims to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.



THE UNSDCF FOR ALBANIA IS BUILT AROUND THREE PRIORITY AREAS



Priority area A

Human capital development & social inclusion



Priority area B

Sustainable, resilient and green economic growth and resource management



Priority area C

Effective, people-centered governance, rule of law, human rights and gender equality