



1688

children and youth attended our activities or received assistance in 2022

1019

parents were supported in 2022 to improve their families' living conditions

421

professionals were trained in child protection in 2022

Context

Thirty years from the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Government of Albania, Terre des hommes has been one of the major contributors to the adaptation and alignment of a legal framework to the international and alternative protocols for child protection. There have been important advances in children's rights and protection in Albania. However, children and young people still suffer from violence, abuse, exploitation and radicalisation, and further efforts are needed.

General overview

Terre des hommes (Tdh) works in Albania since 1993 in the field of child rights, child protection, migration, and access to justice. The year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of Tdh's active presence in Albania.

Tdh areas of expertise range from psychosocial interventions to empowerment of local, regional, and national level governmental institutions and key stakeholders. We strengthen the child protection and justice systems in Albania, as well as the system for the socio-economic integration of migrants.

Our aim is to ensure that children in Albania are effectively protected, and their rights are being always respected. To achieve this, we focus on three main areas of work. In the last four years, we have responded to humanitarian crises as well.

Intervention map



Child protection: To support child victims of abuse and violence, we advocate for better integration of policies and strategies into the existing legal framework and strengthen the child protection system.



Children and young people on the move: To prevent unsafe migration and ensure reintegration of families returned to Albania, we provide support for sustainable socio-economic empowerment of children, youth and their families.



Access to justice for children and young people: To counter the phenomenon of children in conflict with the law in Albania, we support system strengthening and youth resilience building through a restorative justice approach.



Humanitarian aid: In emergency situations, such as earthquakes and the Covid-19 pandemic, we have support local actors in ensuring that vulnerable children and families meet their basic needs and have access to a protective environment.

Results in 2022

Child protection

- In support of the Afghan community hosted in Shëngjin and Durrës in Albania, Tdh has provided psychosocial services for 201 parents/caregivers, youth, and children. We assisted 64 parents and adults from the Afghan community in Shengjin with more than 50 parent classes.
- In 2022, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection approved the standards for Child Treatment Centers for victims or witnesses of sexual abuse and severe forms of violence, finalised with the technical support from Terre des hommes.

Children and young people on the move

- We have improved the socio-economic situation of the vulnerable returnees in their homeland, through economic empowerment opportunities like internships (117 supported people), income generation activities (115 supported people) and vocational educational training (42 supported people).
- We have successfully completed the 5-year support of building a transactional case management system for (potential) victims of trafficking and people at risk of trafficking between Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia.

Access to justice for children and young people

- Within the "Prevention and Safe Reintegration of Returned Children and Mothers from Conflict Zones" project, we have:
 - trained 64 frontline workers on trauma intervention, art therapy, movement, games, and sport, and other topics,
 - assisted 37 cases with services in rehabilitation and reintegration, through comprehensive case management, multidisciplinary services, and community-based approach.
- In collaboration with the Albanian Probation Service, we have conducted the first study on "Perception of children in conflict with the law about the effectiveness and impact of the probation service on their rehabilitation in Albania".

YouCreate: youth-led art initiatives

Tea, a 15-year-old girl, who is part of a youth group that we support in the city of Elbasan, shared her experience:

"During the activities we have carried out along with other peers from Elbasan, we have managed to finalise two youth initiatives. The first was starting up a public library in Shushica village. We have taken care to enrich it with different titles of books. The second initiative is a mural in the Park of Rinia. I am very happy about the good work we have all done together. We are very thankful to Tdh for the opportunity given to us."

[Learn more](#)



Outlook

After 30 years of Tdh presence in Albania, our aim is now to expand the activities toward issues related to innovation, climate change and gender as a way to increase sustainability of local processes.

Advocacy

The Albanian Football Association (AFA) and Tdh signed a cooperation agreement to improve child protection in football, in line with UEFA's initiative to develop national child protection policies for each of its 55 members. Tdh will provide its consultancy and 'know how' through training programmes to create a safer environment for children and youth in football.

We are as well supporting locally-led humanitarian and development actions by strengthening the capacities and engagement of local organisations.

Main partners and donors

Partners: Albania's Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Ministry of Justice, the Albanian Agency for Child's Rights and Child Protection, the National Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism.

Donors: UNICEF, Austrian Development Agency (ADA), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), U.S. Department of State: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCRF), Refugee Trauma Initiative, Porticus Vienna GmbH, Permanent Mission of France to the UN, European Union.



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As the leading Swiss organisation for children's aid, created in 1960, the Terre des hommes foundation is committed to protecting children's lives and their rights, and improving their well-being. We aim to do so through innovative programmes focused on health, migration and access to justice, specially designed to have both short- and long-term impacts.



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