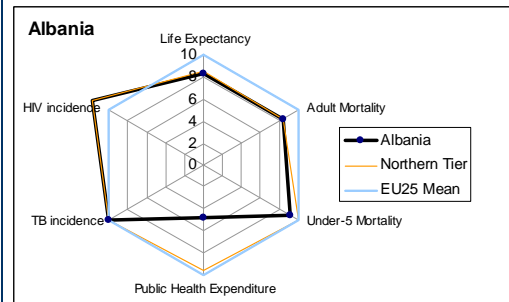


**Overview:** USAID seeks to help reform the primary health care system for it to respond to the public health needs in Albania. The program aims to improve the management of the limited available resources, develop a set of quality services offered and delivered at the primary care level, and increase the use of health facilities in rural and urban areas. Within the program on primary health care, USAID/Albania implements program activities targeted for family planning and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and mother and child health policies and programs.

### Health Statistics

**Population:** 3.60 million (2007)  
**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** \$5,700 (2006)  
**Population below poverty line:** 25% (2004)  
**Life Expectancy:** 71 (2005)  
**Adult Mortality Rate (15-59):** 132.5 per 1,000 (2005)  
**Under-5 Mortality Rate:** 18 per 1000 live births (2005)  
**Total Per Capita Health Expenditure:** \$157.1 (2004)  
**Public Health Expenditures:** 3.0% of GDP (2004)  
**Reported HIV Incidence:** 9.9 per 1 million (2005)  
**Estimated TB Incidence:** 20 per 100,000 (2005)



Northern Tier refers to the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

### Health Vulnerability Highlights

One-quarter of all Albanians live in **poverty**. Despite relatively high overall life expectancy, Albanian **health indices are among the worst** in Europe.

**Public health expenditures** are among the lowest in the region, with only 3.0% of the GDP being spent on health. As a result of inadequate allocation of resources to health, the system is ill prepared to face growing public health risks including the growing incidence of **non-communicable diseases**.

Albania faces significant challenges in the area of **reproductive health**, including high abortion rates, extremely low modern contraceptive prevalence rates (approximately 15 percent or less) and very limited access to clinic-based, long-term family planning methods (such as IUDs, implants and sterilization).

Reported **tuberculosis** (TB) rates (16 per 100,000 in 2005) are close to those reported in Western Europe (18.4 in 2005). However, Albania is one of only a few countries in the E&E region that falls dramatically short of the WHO recommended 100% DOTS population coverage, at just 33% coverage. Case detection rates are very low at only 25% and treatment success rates fail to reach the global target of 85%, at only 78%.

*\*This graph compares the country's health status against EU and E&E regional averages. For each indicator, a score of 10 corresponds with the EU average, suggesting ideal performance. A score of 1 indicates the poorest performance in that indicator in the E&E region. The country's performance is then plotted against this scale. A score of 10 is ideal performance for all indicators and all countries.*



## USAID Health Programs

### **Family Planning**

Family Planning Initiative: (8/2007 – 8/2008) – USAID, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, is funding a follow-up program to expand family planning services in Albania. The initiative serves to strengthen the Contraceptive Logistics Information Management system, and implement the Contraceptive Security Policy. At the end of this activity, Albania will ensure uninterrupted contraceptive supply and move towards contraceptive independence. *Implementer: JSI*

ACCESS Family Planning: (8/2007 – 3/2009) – This program gives particular focus to postpartum and post-abortion women—i.e., women who are very highly motivated to adopt a reliable, long term method of family planning. It also recognizes that the current contraceptive mix in Albania is skewed towards short-acting methods that require re-supply (pills, condoms, injectables) and promotes knowledge of and access to long acting and permanent methods, which national level survey findings suggest many families would like to use. Public awareness campaigns aim to increase the use of family planning methods. *Implementer: JHPIEGO*

### **Primary Health Care**

Pro-Shëndetit: (9/2006 – 9/2009) – Pro-Shëndetit works with the Ministry of Health, Institute of Public Health, the Health Insurance Institute, Faculty of Medicine, Order of Physicians and local government health authorities to improve primary health care in Albania. In the short term, success is being measured by improvements in the quality of service, the financial management of health facilities, the training of doctors and nurses, and the utilization of services resulting from increased demand and awareness. In the longer term, success will be measured by the reduction of infant mortality rates, the decrease in the maternal mortality, abortion rates, and the occurrence of communicable diseases. *Implementer: University Research Corporation, LLC*

Primary Health Care Initiative (PHCI): (12/2006 – 6/2008) – The program seeks to improve the health of people living in villages throughout the Vlora region of southern Albania through an assistance program that will contribute to a higher quality and greater access to primary health care services. The project conducts trainings with local primary health care practitioners, specifically related to prevention for children and adults, disease control and emergency care. A Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) consisting of an internist, pediatrician, lab doctor, and nurse, visits villages throughout the region to increase access and utilization of primary health care services. Through volunteer Community Health Workers (CHWs) and village leaders the project advocates for greater awareness and education of public health issues. *Implementer: Hellenicare*

### **Avian Influenza**

Avian Influenza Prevention: (5/2006 – 10/2008) – In order to prevent the spread of the H5N1 virus in domestic poultry populations, limit its economic impact in Albania, and decrease the risk of its spread to humans, USAID, awarded a grant to United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). USAID also awarded lab equipment, detection and diagnostic supplies, protective clothing, and disinfectant materials to the Albanian Avian Influenza Task Force to help detect and combat future outbreaks of the virus.

### **Data Collection**

Albania Demographic and Health Survey: (9/2007 – 2/2009) – In collaboration with the Government of Albania, UN, World Bank, and the Swiss SDC, USAID is supporting a Demographic Health Survey to provide a critically important overview of health indices in Albania, as well as information regarding the sources of health care available to the population. Importantly, the survey will provide an accurate view of changes and trends in health status, family planning practice and other measures since the last DHS was carried out in 2002. *Implementer: MACRO DHS*