



# STRONG MUNICIPALITIES

## Context

The Albanian Government seeks to improve local public services through decentralization. The recent territorial reform allows municipalities to take advantage of possible economies of scale. While improvements have occurred, the rhythm has been relatively slow, bringing very limited improvements at the national level.

One of the reasons for slow improvement is the overlapping of roles and responsibilities between private companies, multi-tasks municipal enterprises and municipal sectoral directorates. There are also encroachments and uncertainties between levels of government, with consequences on the vertical flow of funds.

## Scope and Objective of the project

The scope of the project was to carry out an assessment identifying opportunities to support municipal service delivery all over the national territory. The assessment contributed to identifying a limited number of solutions that can be implemented by a large number of municipalities

The project represents the initial phase of the program Strong Municipalities Albania. Its central objective is to improve public services, supporting municipal administrations, municipal councils and citizens committed to contribute to better service delivery.

## Beneficiaries of the project

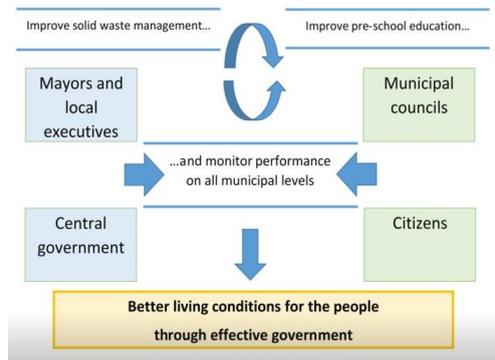
Main beneficiaries of the project are

municipalities and their communities.

## Results of the project

The following are the results of this project:

- A situation analysis of selected public services: waste management, pre-school education, public space lighting and public transport, as delivered in the municipalities of Shkodra Fier, Pogradec, Mirdita, Skrapar, Përmet, Shijak and Klos;
- An outline of needed legal improvements, both general and sector-specific for each of the selected public services;
- A description of good practices in public service delivery, which may be scaled up with the support of BF at the national level, in the following phases of the Program.



## Social inclusion Dimension

Social inclusion and gender equity were important components of the project, which were identified in each of the selected public services across the municipalities. In general, public

services sensitive to these components are limited, with tariff exemptions for vulnerable groups for the waste management service being the most common instrument applied currently from municipalities.

## MAIN FACTS

### PARTNERS

- HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
- Zürich University of Applied Sciences, Institute of Public Management (zhaw)

### MUNICIPALITIES

Shkodra Fier, Pogradec, Mirdita, Skrapar, Përmet, Shijak and Klos

### DURATION

- October 2017 – January 2018

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## About URI

Since 1999 Urban Research Institute (URI) is carrying out development projects and programs throughout Albania, investigating the social and economic problems confronting the country along with the central and local government policies designed to solve them. URI's mission in this undertaking is to raise awareness of the society and sharpen thinking about these problems and the impact of governmental policies, with the final purpose of improving the quality of decision-making and implementation at the central and local governmental level. URI cooperates with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, DLDP, Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society Foundation, etc.