



## COUNTRY PROFILE

APRIL 2008



*Sixty percent of Albania's labor force works in the agriculture sector, and the sector accounts for 23 percent of Albania's GDP. USAID is helping Albanian farmers and agribusinesses increase productivity and competitiveness.*

### ALBANIA SNAPSHOT

Capital: Tirana  
Population: 3.6 million  
GDP per capita: \$2,580 (yr)

For more information, see [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)  
Keyword: Albania

### OVERVIEW

Albania has played a positive, moderating role in the Balkans and has made strides towards NATO membership and European Union integration. Still, significant challenges remain in Albania's consolidation as a multiparty democracy and market economy.



**Tirana**

Millennium Challenge Albania Threshold Agreement.

Under the U.S. Government's Foreign Assistance framework, USAID's development program assists Albania in three main areas: Economic Growth, Governing Justly and Democratically, and Investing in People, with one program contributing to Peace and Security. USAID projects strengthen governmental accountability and transparency, reduce corruption, increase the competitiveness of Albania's private sector, improve the delivery of quality healthcare, help ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply, and reduce trafficking in persons. Additionally, USAID implements the

### PROGRAMS

#### INCREASING PRIVATE SECTOR PRODUCTIVITY, COMPETITIVENESS

Since 2001, Albania has maintained an impressive growth rate, averaging roughly five percent each year, and poverty levels continue to decline. By helping Albanian businesses learn how to be competitive at home and abroad, USAID tackles some of the country's most crippling economic statistics, namely its high levels of unemployment, low foreign direct investment, poor infrastructure, and rising trade deficits. USAID strengthens the competitive capacity and productivity of private enterprises, particularly in the agricultural sector, by promoting innovations in technology, the adoption of internationally-recognized quality standards, management practices, and marketing techniques, and greater access to credit. USAID lending activities continue to broaden outreach to remote communities and vulnerable populations throughout Albania.

#### PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Albania has made important advances in terms of government stability and efficiency, the establishment of an independent media, greater decentralization and accountability of local governments, and a sound legal framework. USAID assists government bodies, nongovernmental organizations, and civil

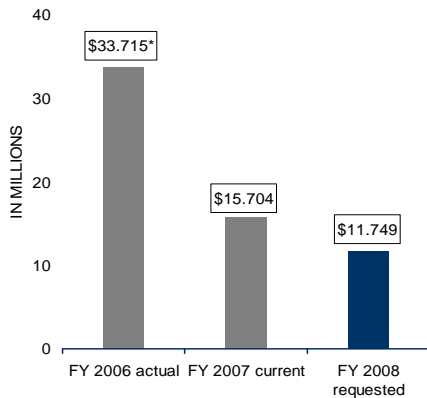


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**ALBANIA**

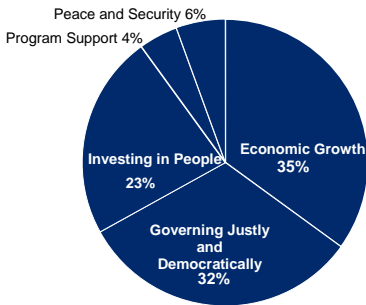
COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO ALBANIA**



\*Includes \$13.85 million for Millennium Challenge Albania Threshold Agreement  
(Source: FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification)

FY 2007 Funding by Program Area



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society leaders to strengthen institutional reforms, reduce corruption, and improve transparency, accountability, and performance of government offices. To improve judicial transparency and adherence to laws and judicial decision, USAID supports audit institutions and civil society watchdogs.

**STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CITIZENS**

Better, more accessible health systems contribute to improved health of both adults and children—helping to achieve sustainable development and improve the well-being and productivity of Albania’s citizens. To reduce the incidence of disease, promote primary healthcare, and improve how scarce resources are managed, USAID is working with the Ministry of Health to change the way primary health care in Albania is organized, financed, and delivered. USAID programs improve the efficiency in the financing and delivery of services, citizen access to primary health care, the quality and availability of reproductive and maternal services, and the capacity of the government to respond to public health threats.

**PREVENTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND PROTECTING VICTIMS**

Albania is a source country for women and children trafficked for sexual and economic exploitation internally, in the region, and to other parts of Europe. In order to reduce trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers, USAID reaches out to at-risk populations and educates the general public about trafficking; addresses the root causes of poverty and social stigmatization; enhances services and witness protection to ensure successful reintegration for victims; and, builds the capacity of the Government of Albania and non-governmental organizations to respond to trafficking in persons.

**IMPROVING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY**

To limit the opportunity for corrupt practices and improve the delivery of services and investment in its people, the Government of Albania entered into a two-year, \$13.85 million program with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The Albania Threshold Agreement will improve the transparency and effectiveness of tax administration; build the capacity of the Public Procurement Agency to conduct transparent procurements; and create a national business registration center to help reduce the time and costs of doing business in Albania. Progress in these three components will assist Albania in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and help qualify for MCC compact status.