



# Children and Youth on the Move in Albania



**7**

active projects in 2024

**2,837**

beneficiaries in 2024  
64% child  
36% adult

**927,000**<sup>CHF</sup>

multi-annual financial volume for the 7 active projects in 2024

## Until 2024...

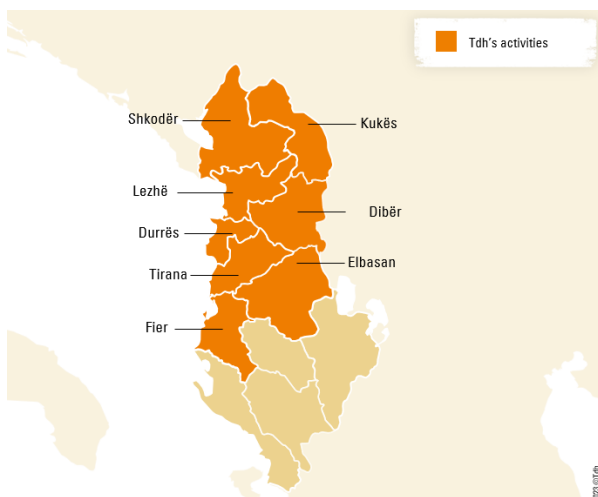
- **26,145** asylum seekers abroad
- **4,500** apprehended crossing borders
- **6,592** refugees and **104** asylum seekers in Albania
- **2,098** stateless persons in Albania
- Only **5%** of Ukrainian refugees applied for temporary protection (of approx. 2,700 registered)

## Context

Since the end of the totalitarian regime in the early 1990s, Albania has experienced **massive emigration flows**, with an estimated **1.4-1.6 million Albanians** living abroad, primarily in Western Europe. This represents roughly **half of the population currently residing in the country**. Persistent socio-economic challenges, limited opportunities in rural areas, and the appeal of better prospects abroad continue to drive migration.

- **Youth unemployment** remains high at **25.06% in 2024**, and nearly one in four young people (15–29 years old) are **not in employment, education, or training (NEET)**. These factors contribute significantly to the ongoing emigration of young Albanians.
- A **significant number of unaccompanied Albanian minors** continue to seek asylum abroad – particularly in **Italy, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom** – often driven by poverty, lack of opportunities, and family reunification motives. While not the majority of asylum seekers, their share remains notably high among Albanian applicants in these countries.
- Rural areas are experiencing **declines in school attendance and high drop-out rates**, partly linked to emigration intentions. In several northern and remote regions, schools have reported decreasing enrolment as families or youth migrate abroad. Teachers and doctors are increasingly leaving rural posts for urban centres or foreign employment, reducing access to **education and health services** for children and youth in under-served communities.
- **Albania is both a transit and destination country** for mixed migration movements. In **2024**, UNHCR reported **6,592 refugees, 4 asylum seekers, and 2,098 stateless persons** residing in the country. Top nationalities of asylum seekers and migrants arriving in Albania include **Ukrainian, Syrian, Kosovan, and Serbian** nationals.
- In **November 2023**, Albania and Italy signed an agreement allowing **migrants arriving irregularly in Italy** to be transferred to **Italian-run processing centres in Albania** while their asylum claims are assessed. Implementation began in 2024 and could temporarily increase the number of migrants hosted on Albanian territory.
- Albania has begun attracting **foreign workers from South and Southeast Asia** (notably Bangladesh, India, and the Philippines) to fill **labour shortages** in construction, agriculture, and services. This marks a gradual shift from a country of emigration to one also experiencing **labour immigration**.

## Map of CYM intervention



Albania remains a **country of origin, transit, and destination** for human trafficking. Women, girls, and boys from marginalised **Roma, Balkan-Egyptian, and rural poor communities** are particularly vulnerable. According to the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and international partners, dozens of **potential and identified child victims** are registered annually – mainly for **sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging, and criminal activities**. While the number of identified cases has declined compared to previous years, **child trafficking and exploitation risks remain a major protection concern**.

# Tdh CYM Projects in Albania

In 2024, the **4 CYM projects** active in Albania focused on:

- **Sustainable socio-economic reintegration of returnees** through improved access to social care services; economic empowerment (concrete employment opportunities and development of professional skills); and collaboration with duty-bearers and key stakeholders for more sustainable policies.
- Improving the identification of **children victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) or at risk to be trafficked** abroad in order to increase effectiveness of information sharing with relevant foreign authorities and strengthen capacities to conduct social investigations in Albania.
- Strengthen the capacities of front-line professionals in the two newly established One Stop Centres for children affected by **sexual abuse and severe forms of violence**.
- Specifically supporting **Afghan refugee communities** through the establishment of transnational referral mechanisms and access to prevention and response services against abuse, violence, and neglect.

## Local partners

Initiative for Social Change (ARSIS); Qendra Sociale Murialdo; Nisma ARSIS

## Alignment with Theory of Change

**Target groups:** Focus on children and youth in pre-mobility, on the move, and fixed in the migration process

**Information (Pathway 1):** Learning and mainstreamed within and beyond the actors involved

**Protection (Pathway 2):** CYM are better protected and accompanied along migratory routes and in crisis contexts

**(Re)integration (Pathway 3):** CYM are better integrated in their society

**Advocacy (Pathway 4):** Multi-stakeholder coordination is established to strengthen community level safety nets and resilience

**Differentiation approach:** Protective accompaniment

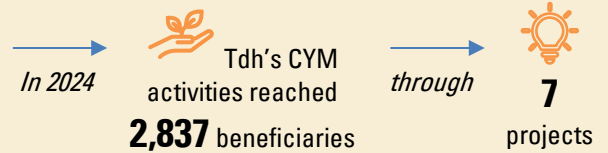
### Priority areas of intervention:

1. Strengthening systems and services;
2. Enabling CYM and their families as actors in their protection, development, and advocacy;
3. Case Management service to victims of abuse and exploitation.

**Integration with PrEx:** Child Protection, Access to Justice

**Institutional priorities:** Gender and Diversity, Trafficking in Persons

# CYM 2023 Key Data in Albania



## Age



## Gender



**2,707** children, youth, families, and communities' members affected by migration have benefited from training, counseling, or awareness-raising sessions



**1,240** children, youth, families and community members affected by migration understand the risks and opportunities associated to migration through innovative solutions



## Contact

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**Sources:** Terre des hommes, IOM, instat.gov.al, US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons



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