

Project Factsheet | March 2026

SOLIDAR – TOGETHER IN HEALTH EMERGENCIES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The SOLIDAR Project aims to improve access to quality emergency care in Albania, particularly for vulnerable populations. Albania is highly disaster-prone, facing recurring natural and man-made hazards such as floods, fires, droughts, extreme weather, earthquakes, and epidemics.

In 2019, a major earthquake affected 11 municipalities, impacting over 47,000 people directly and more than 155,000 indirectly, resulting in 51 deaths and 913 injuries. This was followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which placed severe strain on the healthcare system and caused significant loss of life. Together, these crises heavily affected the country's economy, livelihoods, and human development.

Disaster impacts are further exacerbated by poverty, infrastructure challenges, rapid urbanization in risk-prone areas, and environmental degradation. Limited medical emergency supplies and weak coordination between institutions also hinder effective response. In particular, primary healthcare services have insufficient capacity to manage emergencies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- ✓ Two national clinical guidelines on the management of chest pain and anaphylaxis have been developed
- ✓ A Methodology for integrating the health dimension into local emergency preparedness and response efforts has been established
- ✓ A standard template for Emergency Response Plans for healthcare facilities has been created
- ✓ More than 1,000 healthcare professionals have been trained in basic life support and first aid and 142 healthcare professionals have been trained in advanced medical emergency care procedures
- ✓ Five Community Resilience Networks (CRNs) have been established and strengthened
- ✓ A communication platform for CRN members has been maintained, small forums for community outreach have been implemented, capacity building for CRN members has been conducted, information materials for the communities have been produced

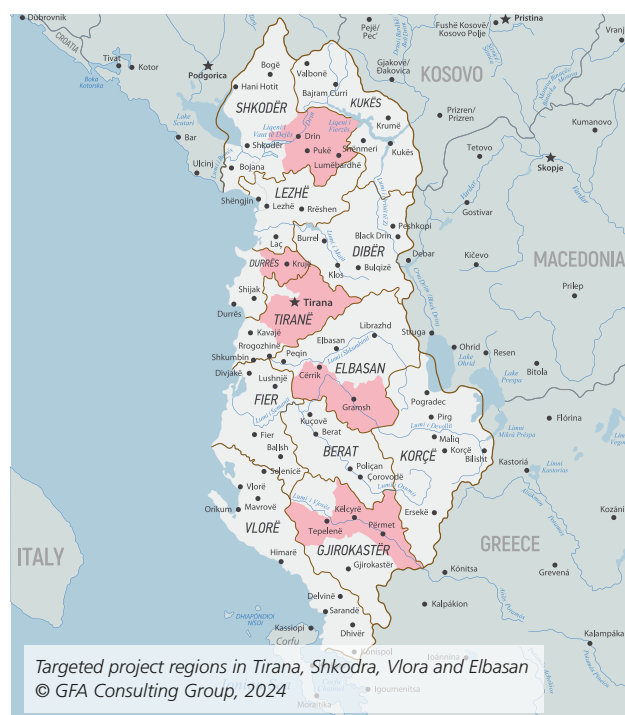
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project has three components:

Outcome 1: Strengthening the Health Emergency System

Outcome 2: Strengthening Emergency Medical Services

Outcome 3: Strengthening Community Engagement



The project operates at local, regional, and national levels, driving reform using a mix of bottom-up and centrally driven interventions. At the national level, it collaborates with key institutions, including the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Health Care Service Operator, and other central agencies, to strengthen governance, coordination, and the enabling legal framework.

In parallel, the project supports primary healthcare providers to enhance operational readiness, service quality, and resilience, while fostering cross-sectoral coordination at sub-national level. By linking practical, ground-level experience with national policymaking, the approach ensures both relevance and sustainability.

Complementing institutional support, the project provides targeted funding and capacity development to communities and civil society organizations to strengthen community-based interventions, and inclusive emergency response, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Outcome 1: Public health actors engage in an effective and efficient health emergency preparedness and response

- ✓ The regulatory framework, standards, and guidelines for health emergencies are updated/revised
- ✓ Roles and responsibilities of primary health care services in the health emergency system are defined
- ✓ The national training system for management of public health emergencies is strengthened
- ✓ The epidemiological surveillance system is strengthened
- ✓ The collaboration of primary healthcare stakeholders with local government and key stakeholders to better address gender equity and the needs of vulnerable people in public health emergencies is strengthened

Outcome 2: Emergency medical services of high quality are available to people in the entire country, in particular at primary healthcare level.

- ✓ The network of 24/7 health centers, municipality hospitals is strengthened in delivering emergency services
- ✓ Clinical guidelines and protocols for health emergencies at primary health care level are implemented
- ✓ The reporting of medical emergency data at primary healthcare level is modernized

Outcome 3: Citizens and Civil Society Organisations take an active role and contribute to a constructive dialogue with the Government of Albania to improve the country's resilience to public health emergencies.

- ✓ Institutional development and capacities of civil society organizations are strengthened to advocate for a community participatory approach in emergency preparedness and evidence-based health policy development
- ✓ Mechanisms for stronger and more effective collaboration between public, private and civil society sectors for a participatory approach in health emergency response and evidence-based health policy development are improved
- ✓ Inter-sectoral collaboration for addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population during emergencies is strengthened
- ✓ The awareness of the population about patients' rights and responsibilities is raised for emergency preparedness and response

PROJECT AT A GLANCE



TITLE

"SOLIDAR – Together in Health Emergencies"



GOAL

People, including the most vulnerable, have improved access to quality emergency care services managed by a more resilient health emergency system at all levels.



DIRECTORATE

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



TOPICS

Health
Health System Strengthening
Primary Health Care



COUNTRY

Albania



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

GFA Consulting Group GmbH



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Health Care Service Operator
National Emergency Medical Centre
Health and Social Care Quality Assurance Agency
Institute of Public Health
Health Insurance Fund
National Agency for Civil Protection



TARGET GROUPS / BENEFICIARIES

Population of Albania, particularly the most vulnerable
Targeted communities and civil society actors
Health care staff and primary healthcare providers
Local authorities and national health institutions



PHASE DURATION

01.11.2023 – 31.10.2027



BUDGET

4'145'000,00 CHF

For more information, please visit:

<https://solidar.org.al/>

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