

# Our work in Education

## Our Goal

Inclusive, child-friendly education for all children between the ages of 6 and 16 in Albania, especially the most vulnerable.

## Our priorities

Albania has huge educational problems. Children that go to school may not receive a decent standard of education. Too often, children don't go to school or drop out due to poverty or discrimination. Too often, the most vulnerable are excluded, leaving children with disabilities or Roma children even more marginalised.

Hundreds of schools across the country are unable to provide quality education and the monitoring structures aren't in place at either a local or a national level that would enable and ensure the participation in education of Albania's most vulnerable children. World Vision Albania is actively working with local and national authorities to change this.

## The problem?

Approximately

**64 %**

of children with disabilities remain excluded from mainstream education<sup>1</sup>

**61 %**

of Roma and 57 per cent of Egyptian households face difficulties providing educational opportunities to their children and their children were more likely to drop out of school in Albania<sup>2</sup>

**30,7%**

of children report that have experienced violence at school and as this has affected their desire to go to school<sup>3</sup>

**15-year old**

Albanians score low in the PISA results in reading math and science<sup>4</sup>

Only **2,8%** of GDP is dedicated to Education in Albania<sup>5</sup> compared to

**5,4%** of GDP in the European Union<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ADRF, 2014

<sup>2</sup> UNDP, 2012

<sup>3</sup> [http://childhub.org/system/tdf/news/attachments/combi\\_report\\_unicef\\_gfk\\_alb\\_wave\\_5\\_final.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=12370](http://childhub.org/system/tdf/news/attachments/combi_report_unicef_gfk_alb_wave_5_final.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=12370)

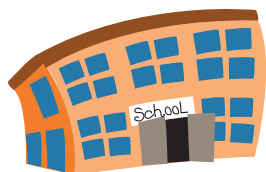
<sup>4</sup> OECD, 2012

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Education and Sports, November 2014

<sup>6</sup> Eurostat, October 2013

## The solution?

### *School as a Community Centre*



School should be a focus in a young person's life and as such it is also the most appropriate place to act as a centre for their place in the community. World Vision Albania is working with **50** schools throughout the country to remake their schools into Community Centres.

The model of School as a Community Centre is a joint WV and Ministry of Education and Sports designed model. It has been adopted by the ministry an index approach which was later adopted and turned into an interactive portal for all schools in Albania (shqk.edu.al). The idea is to give to schools in Albania an interactive platform where they can self-evaluate standards in their schools, plan solutions and act by involving the school's community, local authorities, businesses and organizations, to improve quality standards in their school.

### *Better skills to teachers and students*

We support inclusive practices of teaching and promote an inclusive culture in schools. To achieve this, the programme invests significantly in building the competencies of teachers. Unless the school itself, teachers, children and adults collaborate, a safe environment for children is impossible. All parties need to work together to create a warm and welcoming environment where children are listened to and respected by adults. That is why our work begins with Student Governments so that children get life skills and capacity-building activities. We also work with School Boards on the themes of governance and safety. Finally, we prepare students, teachers and communities to respond to natural disasters.

### *Advocating for policy change for the most vulnerable*

At the national level and based on its footprint in over 200 communities, World Vision conducts research, produces case studies and documents best practices in order to promote adherence to policy and, where necessary, advocates for change in approaches and legislation. We do this in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports as well as other governmental and civil society partners.

**Here is an example:** a national qualitative and quantitative prevalence study on the situation of Children with Disabilities has never been undertaken in Albania. In order to tackle this lack of accurate data and promote inclusive education, World Vision is in the process of conducting such a national study, focussing on preschool and primary education, together with relevant Ministries and other partners. We trust the findings of this study will increase opportunities for advocacy and also support informed policy choices.