

EARTHQUAKE IN ALBANIA

6.4 Richter

KEY FINDINGS OF WORLD VISION RAPID ASSESSMENT

An earthquake with 6.4-magnitude hit Albania on 26 November 2019, with a death toll of 51 people, about 1,000 injured and about 14,000 people temporarily displaced. The epicentre was around 20 miles west of the heavily populated capital city of Tirana, between the coastal town of Durrës and the city of Thumana, both of which suffered severe damage. Durrës, Thumanë, Tirana, Lezha and Kurbin are the most affected areas in the country, with severe damage to houses, schools and other buildings.

Within hours from the earthquake, World Vision Albania mobilized its resources and started responding to the needs of the affected population in Durrës, Thumana, Kurbin, Lezha and Kamza in coordination with national and local government. Rapid Assessments aims to provide WV programme and operations team with information so that they can plan and implement relevant and effective programs aligned with community-identified needs on the ground. This report provides a snapshot of the situation in the areas affected by the earthquake where World Vision Albania (WVA) is present with its long-term programmes Durrës, Kamza, Kurbin and Lezha municipalities.

Overall, shelter/damaged house is the most commonly named problem, followed by health issues traumatized adults & traumatized children, livelihood and income, children's education, water and food; protection and information.

Shelter



Shelter is the top concern of the affected population (85% of families) in all sites, with Kurbin municipality (94%) having the highest reports.

75% of affected population living in tents do not meet basic heating needs.

Households currently Not At All able to meet basic needs for the following items:

- 25.4% heating equipment (mainly in tents)
- 23.1% soap, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, other personal care items
- 20.9% clothing and footwear
- 20.4% sleeping mats or mattresses
- 19.2% blankets
- 17.8% buckets, jerry cans or other water storage containers

Livelihood & Income



Even though the earthquake did not significantly damage livelihoods in rural contexts, affected families report living in poverty. Sources of income for the affected families:

- 32.1% Formal salary/wages
- 31.9% Pension
- 18.2% Casual (daily) labor
- 17.6% Economic aid
- 9.4% Loans, debts
- 7.6% Disability aid
- 7.2% Subsistence farming
- 6.7% Small business
- 5.7% Remittances

2460 511

The final sample consisted of 2460 individuals, with N=511 households, in 4 affected areas Durrës, Kamza, Kurbin and Lezha. Sixty percent (N = 291) of surveyed households were living in homes/apartments owned by households, about 22% were living in hotels (disaster shelter with services) and the remaining households were living in tents /informal settings at the time of the survey.

The survey instruments used in this rapid assessment are validated for use for assessing natural disaster situations. The instruments include: (i) the Basic Rapid Assessment Tool (BRAT) containing eight sections exploring the damages and needs of affected population from the disaster; and (ii) the Community Leader/ Key Stakeholders Rapid Assessment Interview. The BRAT survey was translated and adapted in the Albanian language. The survey was administered through android tablets using ODK-based KoBo collect platform.

Who we are

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Every year, World Vision Albania and Kosovo works with about 50 thousand children through programs in 25 municipalities.

World Vision is recognized in communities as their mobilizer and liaison with institutions and organizations on issues that affect children's lives. Together we have supported families, informed, raised awareness and advocated for the most vulnerable children. During 20 years of work, we have cooperated with 56 organizations 18 churches and faith-based organizations.

* This assessment aims to voice the needs of the affected population as prioritized by them. Furthermore, the interviews households suggested the most appropriate solutions to their needs.

** The audiences of this report are free to consider and explore recommendations for action beyond the ones listed below.

Health



81% of adults and 74% of children

reported high levels of symptoms (among children and adults) such as fear, anxiety, sleep deprivation and loss of appetite.

Distress and trauma symptoms are more prevalent in population living in:

- 88.4% in tents,
- 85.2% in damaged houses,
- 61.1% accommodated in hotels.

59% Physical illness symptoms are more prevalent in tents and damaged houses (fever, cough, headache, etc.) compared to those accommodated in hotels.

Education



41% Almost half of surveyed households described unsafe and damaged school buildings as the main obstacle for children to access schools. Insecurity, transportation/ distance and loss of school kits and books are among the other issues experienced by respondents.

Food/Water



Food is the seventh problem prioritized by households respondents who primarily described three key problems:

- 37% not working, cannot pay for food
- 30% people are hungry
- 28% insufficient food distributions

Insufficient water for all household needs was reported by 38% of households as one of the problems they face.

Information/Protection



44.2% of affected population from the rural remote areas have not received sufficient information or support on earthquake response. Kamza is the municipality who reports lower access to information (58%).

51% of children are identified as the most vulnerable group within the affected population, 74% of them show signs of distress after trauma as reported by parents.

Map

