

ALBANIA 2015 TRANSMONEE COUNTRY ANALYTICAL REPORT

Disaggregation of Data on Children by Ethnicity

May 2016

PREFACE

Supported by UNICEF in Albania, this report is developed in close collaboration with the Albanian National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) in response to the 2015 TransMonEE¹ Country Analytical Report (CAR) Guidance to portray the data related situation in Albania for children from minority ethnic groups².

The key data referred to across this report is taken from 2011 Census and other relevant INSTAT reports. This is supplemented by information from other official sources, such as key national legislative instruments, and the records of government ministries. Further information is sourced from UNICEF, other United Nations (UN) and European Union bodies, as well as relevant international and national agencies and organisations active in Albania.

This report presents each of the core TransMonEE CAR guidance questions in turn and attempts to answer them as clearly as possible using INSTAT data backed up by other authoritative information, as described above.

¹ The Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity (TransMonEE) Database captures a vast range of data relevant to social and economic issues relevant to the situation and well-being of children, young people and women in countries of Central Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States

² Each year's CAR focusses on a particular domain of data collection concerning children's rights. For 2015 this was on the experience of collecting and disaggregating data by ethnicity or proxy measures (e.g. nationality, language or religion) with a view to improving Governments capacity to monitor the results of national efforts to promote inclusion and reduce inequities (<http://www.transmonee.org/>).

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ABBREVIATIONS LIST

ADHS	Albanian Demographic Health Survey
CESS	Centre for Economic and Social Studies
DCM	Decision of Council of Ministers
ERRC	European Roma Rights Council
FCNM	Framework Convention for National Minorities
INSTAT	Albanian National Institute of Statistics
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MoES	Albanian Ministry of Education and Sports
MoFA	Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoSWY	Albanian Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
TransMonEE	Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity Database
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
WB	World Bank

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1. INTRODUCTION

Are you aware of any ethnic or linguistic minority population in your country or territory whose children are believed to be more vulnerable to any of the rights violations (e.g. education, health etc.)? If yes, do any official statistics exist about these children?

Ethnic minorities have historically constituted less than three per cent of the total Albanian population (Meta, 2013), much less than neighbouring Balkans countries. In 2011, INSTAT conducted a Census of Population and Housing, resulting in a total population of 2,800,138 of which 50,056 were classified as belonging to ethnic minorities (see *Statistical Annex and Table I*). The 2011 Census is the first survey in post-communist Albania to include questions on ethnicity³.

Table 1 Albanian ethnic groups' per cent of total population⁴ (INSTAT, 2012)

POPULATION GROUP ⁵	PER CENT
Albanian	82.58
Greek	0.87
Aromanian ⁶	0.30
Roma	0.30
Macedonian	0.20
(Balkan) Egyptian ⁷	0.12
Montenegrin	0.01
Other	0.09
Preferred not to answer ⁸	13.96
Invalid response	1.58
TOTAL	100.00⁹

Most of the available analysis and other documented official information on specific ethnic minority groups in Albania is for Roma and Egyptian people. Various Albanian studies define Roma and Egyptians, including their children, as vulnerable and marginalized (UNDP, 2012; CESS, 2011, INSTAT et al., 2015). Of Roma households, 36 per cent are 'very poor'¹⁰, twice as many as for ethnic Albanian households (Ivanov and Kagin, 2014). Egyptians participate more in the labour market than Roma but they also experience high poverty rates (UNDP, 2012).

³ 14 per cent of the population preferred not to answer and 1.6 per cent of the declarations were considered not relevant (INSTAT et al, 2012).

⁴ Child population data by minority groups are reported in *Statistical Annex*.

⁵ National ethnic minorities are officially defined in Albania under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM, see section 2.2) as those with their own motherlands and with which they share common characteristics (e.g. language, culture, customs and traditions or religious belief). Three national minorities, Greeks, Macedonians and Montenegrins, and two ethno-linguistic minorities, Roma/Egyptians and Aromanians, are recognised.

⁶ Translated Vlach in Albanian Language

⁷ The origins of both Roma and Egyptians living in Albania are unclear. De Sotto, Beddies & Gedeshi, (2005) argued that by some standards both minority groups reject the notion of being a single community. The 2011 Census permits separate identification of Roma and Egyptian individuals because data was collected through self-identification.

⁸ Neither INSTAT nor other official sources provide further explanation on this group of undeclared nationality.

⁹ Numbers add up to 100.1% due to rounding.

¹⁰ Using absolute monetary poverty measures based on expenditure.

A recent analysis of Census 2011 data on Roma and Egyptian children and their families (INSTAT et al., 2015) offers insights on their vulnerability¹¹ (see Table 2). There is no similar in-depth analysis covering other groups of ethnic minority children.

Table 2 Analysis of key issues affecting Roma and Egyptian children

TOPIC	REPORT ANALYSIS SUMMARY
Demographic and family composition	34% of the Roma and 27% of the Egyptian population are below 15 years old, against 20% of the Albanian population. Roma families average 2.8 children against 2.3 for Albanians and Egyptians. This difference is explained by early marriage practices and fertility behaviour - 34% of Roma girls and women between 15-19 years old have had at least one live birth, compared to those from the Albanian majority who delay their births to later ages.
Housing	15% of Roma households live in non-conventional dwellings compared to 4% of Egyptians and 0.5% of the ethnic Albanian majority. Only 42% of Roma households have piped water, and 41% of them have toilets in their homes, against 66% and 77% respectively for ethnic Albanians. 74% of Roma and 79% of Egyptian families own their own house against 90.5% of ethnic Albanians. 18% of Roma households do not own a television, 35% had no refrigerator, and 63% no washing machine.
Education	Whilst 97% Albanian and 93% Egyptian children aged 6-9 years old attend primary school, only 45% of Roma children do. This low attendance rate relates to Roma children who never enrolled, rather than those who dropped-out, which is uncommon before 10 years old (under 3%). Roma drop-out rates increase from the start of lower secondary school; for children aged between 10-16 years old they reach respectively 44.6% for girls and 30% for boys.
Health	Alongside higher levels of poverty, Roma and Egyptians also experience poorer health conditions with higher infant mortality rates compared to the rest of the population in Albania. 19% of Roma and 10% of Egyptians declare to have lost a child (after giving birth). Malnutrition remains a concern with 17% of Roma households stating they could not afford enough food in the last month. Access to health care is hampered with 50% of individual Roma people lacking health insurance.

Another critical issue is that many Roma children are not registered at birth, increasing their risk of marginalisation. According to a 2011 UNDP/WB survey (Ivanov et al., 2011) eight per cent of under-10 year-olds were unregistered. The situation became less severe with age (e.g. less than two per cent of 10-15 year-olds were unregistered). The Children Roma Mapping Survey (CESS, 2011) identified 5.6 % of 0-18 year old children as unregistered.

¹¹ The report makes reference to other published data on Roma and Egyptian children, other than that from the 2011 Census.

The administrative records of the Ministries of Education and Sports (MoES) and of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY) contain some data on Roma and Egyptian children (*see section 4.1*). However, INSTAT is not aware if this data has been further analysed yet.

2. NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN ALBANIA

2.1 Laws on data protection

Is there a law on data protection in your country or territory? If yes, does it refer to “sensitive data” and, if so, how is this term defined? Does the law prohibit the collection of any data that could be interpreted as ethnic data? If the law prohibits data collection of any kind, does it provide any exceptions? If so, what are the conditions for applying an exception (e.g. do any safeguards have to be guaranteed)?

The lack of explicit prohibition of disaggregated ethnic-related information collection under Albanian law offers important opportunities to promote this aspect of data collection. This is crucial to developing the analytical understanding of the situation of Albania's ethnic minorities, including children.

Article 9 of the Law on Confidentiality (No. 9887, 10.3.2008)¹² provides relevant data protection legislation. It makes particular reference to data collected through a Census process which should be “held, processed and stored securely”, thus protecting all data, including that on ethnicity.

The Law on Official Statistics (No 9180, 5.2.2004)¹³ states that:

“All individual data collected from statistical units for the production of official statistics shall be used only for statistical purposes” (Article 5).

“The Institute of Statistics and other Statistical Agencies take all necessary technical, organizational measures for the security of the protection of the confidential data from every illegal entrance, discover or use of the confidential data” (Article 9).

To avoid any political sensitivity, the Albanian parliament passed an amendment to the Law on Census¹⁴ (no. 10 442, 7.7.2011), which ensures that ethnic data would only be used for Census purposes. Article 8 of the Census Law stipulates that, “Data collected from the census could not be used for any voters’ register, updating of any civil status register or any other administrative register.” Thus, the 2011 Census provided information on ethnic affiliation, but only to be used for statistical purposes.

¹² http://www.aspa.gov.al/images/ligji_9887_per_mbrojtjen_e_te_dhenave_personale.pdf

¹³ https://darvlore.wikispaces.com/file/view/Ligj_9180-dt_5.02.2004-Statistikat_Zyrtare.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.qbz.gov.al/doc.jsp?doc=docs/Ligj%20Nr%2010%20442%20Dat%C3%AB%2007-07-2011.htm>

2.2. National legislation eliminating discrimination against minorities

Is there any national legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination against any particular groups, such as minorities? If yes, does it allow the collection of disaggregated data with the aim of fighting discrimination?

The national legal framework does not provide a definition of a ‘national minority’. National minorities are recognised under the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)¹⁵, which entered into force in Albania in 2000.

The Albanian Constitution¹⁶ (Law no. 8417, 21.10.1998, amended), drafted to meet European standards, defines national minorities as an integral part of Albanian society. It guarantees minorities’ full equality before the law and in the exercise of their freedoms. The following key articles acknowledge their rights:

“All are equal before the law. No one shall be unjustly discriminated against on grounds of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, political, religious or philosophical beliefs, economic condition, education, social status, or ancestry. No one shall be discriminated against for above-mentioned reasons, if reasonable and objective legal grounds do not exist” (Article 18).

“To freely express, without prohibition or compulsion, their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic belonging” and “to preserve and develop them, to study and be taught in their mother tongue, and to unite in organizations and associations for the protection of their interests and identity” (Article 20).

The below table summarises the national regulatory framework to promote rights and prevent discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Table 3 Albanian legislation to eliminate discrimination against minority groups

LAW/OFFICIAL INSTRUMENT	RELEVANT SECTIONS/EFFECT
Law “On Protection from Discrimination” ¹⁷ (no. 10221, 4.2.2010)	Bases Albanian legislation in this area on European standards and established the Office of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination.
Criminal Code amendment ¹⁸ (Law 114/2013)	Makes discrimination on grounds of gender, race, religion, nationality, language, or political, religious or social belief an aggravating circumstance of any offence. The distribution of

¹⁵ The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) is the Council of Europe’s most comprehensive text for protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and is the first legally binding multilateral instrument devoted to the protection of national minorities worldwide. Adopted on 10 November 1994 by the Committee of Ministers (entered into force 1 February 1998) it has 39 member state signatories to date.

¹⁶ <http://www.infocip.org/al/?p=4129>

¹⁷ http://www.uart.edu.al/media/150329-Ligji%2010221_%202010%20per%20mbrojtjen%20nga%20diskriminimi.pdf

¹⁸ http://www1.fint.gov.al/images/Ligji_nr_144_2013_date_Per_disa_shtesa_dhe_ndryshime_ne_Kodin_Penal.pdf

	racist or xenophobic materials through computer systems, and insults of racist or xenophobic motivation are criminalised.
Law “On Civil Status” ¹⁹ (no. 10129, 11.05.2009)	Defines the civil status of every Albanian citizen, foreign national, and any person without citizenship, with temporary/permanent residence in the Republic of Albania.
State Committee on Minorities ²⁰ (Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) no. 127, 11.03.2004)	A special institution established by the Council of Ministers and accountable to the Prime Minister. Its main role is to promote the participation of minority groups in public life. Much of its work focuses on improving standards in respect of minority rights.
People’s Advocate ²¹ (Law no. 8454, 4.2.1999)	Guarantees protection of rights of persons belonging to minority groups, especially by defending the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of individuals from unlawful and improper action and failure to act of the organs of public administration ²² .
National Action Plan for the integration of Roma and Egyptians in the Republic of Albania 2016-2020 ²³	Envisages increased access to public services by breaking down barriers for Roma and Egyptians during the coming five-year period; resulting in better health conditions, a more complete education, increased welfare through formal employment and subsequent full integration of these communities.

However, the legal, policy and institutional framework for addressing minority issues in Albania still needs to be improved (European Commission, 2015). In 2014 the State Committee on Minorities presented arguments on the need for amendments to the Law on Civil Status, so that Roma families – in particular - could be granted civil registration more easily (and thus obtain access to essential services). To date, the law has not been changed.

The overall effect of the existing legal framework in Albania is that, while it does not specifically permit the collection of disaggregated data, it does not prevent such activity either.

2.3. Legislation on the protection of children and the promotion of child rights

Is there any legislation focused on the protection of children or the promotion of child rights? If yes, does it mention children from vulnerable groups, such as minorities? Does it mention the collection of data on children?

¹⁹ <http://shtetiweb.org/2013/01/15/ligji-per-gjendjen-civile/>

²⁰ <http://mobile.ikub.al/LIGJE/Per-disa-ndryshime-ne-vendimin-nr-127-date-11-03-2004-te-Keshillit-te-Ministrave-Per-krijimin-e-Komitetit-Shteteror-te-Minoriteteve--512280002.aspx>

²¹ <http://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/sq/ligji-p%C3%ABr-avokatin-e-popullit>

²² Article 12 of the law “On the People’s Advocate” provides for a complaints procedure for any individual, group of individuals or NGOs to address a claim to the Ombudsman for alleged violation of their rights, freedoms or legitimate interests from the unlawful and improper action and failure to act of the organs of public administration.

²³ The previous 2010-2015 strategy did not specifically address Egyptian issues.

In line with the Constitution, the Assembly of the Republic of Albania ratified the Law on the Protection of Child Rights²⁴ (no. 10347, 4.11.2010). This law determines the rights of the child, including child protection requirements, structures, mechanisms, and the special care every child is entitled to. It specifically mentions children from ethnic minorities, but does not make any reference to specific minority groups:

“Child belonging to ethnic minorities. [...] is entitled to every right under this law, in full and free expression of his ethnic, cultural, religious and language heritage” (Article 31).

“Alternative Care. [A] child temporarily or permanently deprived of his/her family environment [...], shall be entitled to alternative care [...] involving [...] special traits of the child’s character and personality in connection with his ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic background.” (Article 29).

Article 5 of the same law guarantees non-discrimination for all children, in line with the universal principles of the Albanian legislative framework: *“Equality and non-discriminations irrespective of the child’s or his/her parents’ or legal representative’s race, colour, sex, language, religion, political belief, for any other belief, ethnicity, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.”*

As a direct result of Article 37 of the same law, which requires the collection of statistical data on children, a 2012 DCM²⁵ explicitly defined types and sources of data to be collected on children, but without specifically addressing data on children from ethnic minorities.

3. DEFINITIONS AND PROXIES

3.1 Terminology used and data on ethnicity or related categories

If your country or territory is collecting data on ethnicity or related categories, are any of the above terms used to collect statistical data? If so, which ones? If other terms are used, please indicate them and explain why they are considered more appropriate.

The below table defines relevant terms in the Albanian language with their sources and English translations.

²⁴ http://www.kqk.gov.al/sites/default/files/publikime/ligji_nr.10_347_date_04.11.2010.pdf

²⁵ On Types and Methods of Sharing Information and Statistical Data (DCM 267, 12.04.2012)

Table 4 Definition matrix (terms listed alphabetically)

Term	Definition in Albanian language	Definition source	English language translation
Citizenship	Shtetësia përdoret për të identifikuar popullsinë e huaj rezidente, personat të cilët nuk posedojnë shtetësinë shqiptare. Ky informacion së bashku me përgjigjet e pyetjes 5, jep një pamje të numrit të njerëzve të cilët kanë ardhur në Shqipëri nga vendet e tjera.	2011 Albanian Census Field Manual	Citizenship is a specific legal bond between the individual and his/her country, gained through birth, naturalisation, declaration, choice, marriage or in other ways permitted by national legislation.
Ethnicity	Etniciteti është bazuar në një kuptim të përbashkët të origjinës historike dhe territoriale (rajonale, kombëtare) të një grupi etnik ose komuniteti si dhe karakteristikave të veçanta kulturore: gjuha dhe/ose feja dhe/ose zakone specifike dhe mënyra e jetës.	Albanian 2011 Census Field Manual	Ethnicity is based on a common understanding of a person's ethnic group or community's historic and territorial origin as well as of particular cultural characteristics encompassing language and/or religion and/or other specific customs and ways of life.
Ethnic group		Commonly used in everyday speech	
Ethnic nationality		Not commonly used in everyday speech	
Ethno-cultural group (see Figure 1, section 4.3)		Equivalent to 'ethnicity' in the 2011 Albanian Census Field Manual	
Mother tongue	Gjuha amtare është përcaktuar si gjuha e parë e folur në fëmijëri në shtëpi. Pyetja lejon përgjigjet "Shqipe" (alternativa 1) apo "Tjetër" (alternativa 2), ku në	2011 Albanian Census Field Manual	Mother tongue is the first or main language spoken at home in childhood.

	këtë rast personi duhet të specifikojë gjuhën amtare të personit.		
Nationality	Kombesia ne gjuhen statistikore konsiderohet nje karakteristike demografike e individit e vete-deklaruar ne baze te deshires se lire.	INSTAT documents	Nationality is obtained by birth. In statistics it is considered a demographic characteristic of the individual who self declares through his/her free will ²⁶ .
Native language		Not commonly used in everyday speech	
Race		Used in everyday speech and legislation	
Religion	Fesë i referohemi si një bashkësi besimesh ose praktikash, të cilat shpesh përfshijnë njohjen e një qënieje madhore ose hyjnore, fuqie ose principi, sipas të cilës njerëzit urdhërojnë sjelljen gjatë jetës si në anën praktike dhe atë morale.	2011 Albanian Census Field Manual	Refers to a community of faiths or practices, which often include the recognition of a greater or divine being, power or principle according to which people order their behaviour during their course of life, in practice and from a moral perspective.
Religious denomination		Not commonly used in everyday speech	

Other terms, or their proxies mentioned in the 2015 TransMonEE guidance (e.g. ‘black’, ‘colour’, and ‘surname’) have not officially been used in relation to ethnicity in Albania.

The definitions provided in Table 4 above, referring to the terms: *Ethnicity*, *Citizenship*, *Religion and Mother tongue*, have been those used to collect statistical data. The source of information is the Field Manual used during the 2011 Census²⁷. No other terms have been used to collect statistical data.

²⁶ The official advice to enumerators was to avoid the use of this term when collecting Census 2011 data (Field Manual, Census 2011, INSTAT)

²⁷ The Field Manual was designed by the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) in line with EU/UN recommendations for population censuses.

3.2 Terms or proxies combined with age/birthday

Which terms or proxies related to ethnicity are currently being collected in combination with age/birthday so that they would allow data collection of children from minorities? Who collects this data (e.g. schools, residences, ministries etc.)?

- The terms: *Ethnicity, Citizenship, Religion, and Mother tongue*, were collected through the 2011 Census in combination with age/birthday. This means that data on children from minorities are available (see *Statistical Annex*).
- Schools collect information on Roma and Egyptian children enrolled in the national education system. State Social Service collects fragmented information on their access to services (see section 4.1 *Administrative Sources*).

4. DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES

4.1 Statistical sources

Are any of the statistical sources (i.e. census, administrative registers or surveys) used to collect data on ethnicity or related categories in your country? If yes, which one(s), by who and what for? If no, do you think it would be feasible to use any of these sources in your country to collect ethnic data?

Population censuses

The 2011 Census included questions on the linguistic and ethnic affiliation of respondents, enabling all those who wished to do so to declare their ethnicity. The question on ethnicity was not compulsory (i.e. ‘non-core’, in line with UN and EU census recommendations), whilst responding to the one on language was compulsory. The ethnic question was open-ended so that respondents could state, for example, if they were part of an ethnic group, spoke a certain language, or if they did not want to be identified in any such ways²⁸.

2011 Census data has been further examined (INSTAT et al., 2015) to provide an analysis of the situation of Roma and Egyptian communities to support Albanian government initiatives aimed at promoting the social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups (see section 1 *Introduction*).

National household surveys

Cross-cutting national household surveys were conducted by INSTAT. Different surveys, including the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) 2003, 2008, 2012, the Labour Force Survey (LFS)²⁹, and the Albanian Demographic Health Survey (ADHS) 2008-09, have collected data on ethnicity. These surveys were designed using a two stage sampling strategy

²⁸ This open-ended question has the advantage of offering freedom to respondents to define their ethnicity and to mention a language, ethnicity or religion that a pre-coded question may not collect. One drawback is that such questions can be a source of misunderstandings and other errors both by respondents and enumerators.

²⁹ The LSMS and LFS surveys contained only small samples of self-identified Roma individuals, preventing reliable analysis of this minority group.

with the primary sampling units being the enumeration areas of the 2001 Census, and the secondary sampling units the households. They allowed disaggregation by ethnicity as a background characteristic, but were unable to provide a quantitative analysis of non-Albanian ethnic populations.

Roma/Egyptian targeted studies

In 2011, UNICEF in Albania commissioned a mapping study on Roma children (CESS, 2011) to gather quantitative data, using house-to-house survey methods and a 25-point questionnaire. Altogether, 3,139 households were contacted across all Roma settlements. Locations of communities and families, their size and structure, the number of children and their ages, civil registration status, education level, and information on access to and gaps in community and social services³⁰ and their distance from the community were recorded.

A socio-economic household survey of Roma and Egyptians, using door-to-door methods was conducted in 2011 (UNDP, 2012) collecting information from 1,200 Roma households in all Roma settlements, and 1,200 Egyptian households.

A 2014 Roma household survey visited 4,828 economic family units and households in 115 areas (across 11 of 12 Albanian counties) with Roma population (Open Society Foundation for Albania, 2014).

Other surveys. A national study on children in street situations in Albania included Roma and Egyptian street children. Using head-counting methods 4,541 street children were recorded, 70 per cent of whom self-declared as Roma and Egyptian (Arsis et al., 2014).

Administrative sources

Civil Registry: This contained information on ethnicity until 2011. Data on national minorities (Greek, Macedonian, Serb and Montenegrin) were available, but not for ethno-linguistic minorities (Roma/Egyptians and Aromanians – *see Section 1*). Albanian authorities used civil registry ethnic data to grant certain rights to persons belonging to national minorities (e.g. decisions on whether classroom teaching could be in a minority language). After 2011, following a Constitutional Court Decision (no. 52, 12.01.2011)³¹, this information is no longer recorded.

Child education/child protection statistics: Selective data are collected only for Roma and Egyptian children are collected and reported only by MoES, and MoSWY (*see Statistical Annex*).

³⁰ Including availability of health centres, crèches, kindergartens, schools, economic assistance, unemployment and disabilities benefits, pension for elderly and orphans, food assistance, and so on.

³¹ Constitutional Court Decision no 52, dated 12.01.2011 available at:

http://www.google.al/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwi48KHt45PNAhWK7RQKHV2KB1oQFggIMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gjk.gov.al%2Finclude_php%2Fpreviewdoc.php%3Fid_kerkesa_vendimi%3D1080%26nr_vendim%3D1&usq=AFQjCNFc y7V5Iq5qtaOAdw2lylsNf1jq5A&sig2=ZU4GZTE0SLSgnE-qyPukMg

Official Statistics National Programme 2012-2016

INSTAT has included the question on ethnicity in its national household surveys (*see section 4.1*). Nonetheless, in the past, ethnic data collection, including for children from ethnic minorities, has been a delicate/sensitive issue in Albania (Citsee.EU, 2015)³².

The current Official Statistics National Programme (2012-2016) does not make specific comments on data on ethnicity or on the availability of statistical data disaggregated by population groups³³.

4.2 Data collection methods

If your country or territory is collecting data on ethnicity or related categories, which methods (e.g. self-identification, third-party identification) are applied?

The questionnaire used in the 2011 Census included a question on ethnic affiliation, enabling all respondents to declare (in a non-mandatory way) their ethnicity. It is worth emphasising that, in line with UN and EU recommendations, Albania formulated an open question that allowed people to self-declare ethnicity (self-identification), or to state that they did not want to declare belonging to any group.

For a child of mixed ethnical groups' affiliation, his/her belonging was recorded based on a declaration by both parents. Usually, this meant the ethnical group affiliation/belonging of the father.

The interviewing techniques have been briefly described in section 4.1. Two examples of questions formulations are presented below.

4.3. Question formulation

What does the answer format look like (e.g. multiple-choice, open response, mix etc.)? How is the question formulated (please indicate in national language and English translation)?

³² During the 2011 Census the implications of including ethnic affiliation questions in the Census questionnaire were much debated by individuals and organisations in Albania because of concerns over both data collection approaches and foreign affairs implications (particularly with Greece which offered pensions and travel benefits to Albanian citizens who declared themselves Greek). The issue of possible undercount among ethnic minorities due to various reasons was also raised.

³³ Official Statistics National Programme 2012-2016 available at: http://www.instat.gov.al/media/191898/psz_2012-2016__2_.pdf

Figure 1 Questions used in the 2011 Census Questionnaire (INSTAT, 2012)

38 What is your mother tongue?

1 Albanian

2 Other

Specify

39 To which ethno-cultural group do you belong?

Self-declaration, not obligatory

1 I belong to ethno-cultural group:

Specify

2 Prefer not to answer

The question used in the 2008-2009 ADHS household survey (see 4.1 above) was multiple-choice:

Figure 2 ADHS Household survey question

- Question: *To what ethnic group do you belong?*
- ALBANIAN 1
 - GREEK 2
 - ROMA 3
 - MACEDONIAN 4
 - MONTENEGRIN 5
 - AROMANIAN 6
 - OTHER 7

4.4 Ethnic minority groups' responses

Are you aware of any minority groups in your country that may be reluctant to self-identify their ethnic background in a census or survey? If your country or territory is collecting data on ethnicity or related categories, do you think that the collected data is accurate? Have any measures been undertaken to raise awareness about the purpose of a planned census or survey? Have there been any actions that aimed at building confidence with a certain minority group who might be reluctant to self-identify in a census/survey?

The 2015 Roma and Egyptian analysis report by INSTAT et al., addressed the issue of Roma population undercount, highlighting how the estimates of the size of the Roma population in Albania varies from more than 100,000 (according to Roma organizations) to 13,702 persons reported by the 2011 UNICEF supported study of CESS.

The same report brings to attention how an unknown proportion of Roma and Egyptians did not declare their ethnicity in the 2011 Census because they chose not to report it or could not be reached by enumerators³⁴. More specific reasons why this may have occurred could be that:

- Many Roma people were living in settlements on city outskirts, where it may have been difficult for enumerators to clearly identify particular streets and buildings. In some cases they may have felt insecure and avoided these areas. Although INSTAT trained Roma census interviewers, there could have been settlements that were incompletely covered;
- Roma people may have refused to answer the census or made it complicated to collect the forms through fear of stigmatization, distrust towards institutions state, or skepticism about any benefit they would receive from participation;
- A selection bias may also have occurred if those who did not consider themselves to be Roma were perceived as such by enumerators because of possessing specific socio-demographic characteristics (e.g. poor living conditions).

It is important to note that no other published report mentions any other minority groups (i.e. except for Roma and Egyptians) that could have been reluctant to self-identify their ethnic backgrounds.

The 2011 Census followed the UN recommendations for censuses and household surveys, and those of international human rights bodies (e.g. UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance) in treating ethnicity as subjective and dependent on self-identification (*see Section 4.1*). The decision to declare ethnicity, or not, was first and foremost up to the respondent.

As part of the 2011 Census preparation, an awareness campaign was conducted by INSTAT to encourage broad participation of the population. The campaign included specific activities to raise awareness among ethnic minorities, such as round tables with representatives of associations defending the rights of minorities, including Roma and Egyptians.

UNDP ran a special project focused on the participation and registration of Roma population in the CENSUS. INSTAT then selected and trained Roma interviewers as enumerators for Roma people. A number of Chairpersons of Roma associations participated in the census operation across the country, in the roles of either census controller or facilitator. INSTAT distributed promotional materials (e.g. shirts, and hats) with the Census logo to Roma families.

The National Official Statistics Programme 2017-2021 will include preparatory actions for the upcoming Census (expected in 2021). Communication activities will be planned to prepare the ground and to build the confidence of respondents, including ethnic minority populations, in

³⁴ The 2015 INSTAT report is not clear on whether the undercounting refers to both Roma and Egyptians or only to Roma people.

census participation. Capacity development activities targeting data collectors will ensure that sensitive questions, such as those related to ethnic minorities, are formulated according to internationally approved standards.

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STATISTICAL ANNEX

Possible disaggregation of TransMonEE indicators by ethnicity

Historical data availability per indicator

Indicator	2011*	2014**
POPULATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		
BY GENDER and ETHNICITY		
Total male population at the beginning of the year (as in line 16 of the template)	1,403,059	
Male population from <i>ethnic group 1 (Greek)</i>	12,131	
Male population from <i>ethnic group 2 (Macedonian)</i>	2,847	
Male population from <i>ethnic group 3 (Montenegrin)</i>	201	
Male population from <i>ethno - cultural group 4 (Aromanian)</i>	4,339	
Male population from <i>ethno - cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>	5,941	
Total female population at the beginning of the year (as in line 53 of the template)	1,397,079	
Female population from <i>ethnic group 1</i>	12,112	
Female population from <i>ethnic group 2</i>	2,665	
Female population from <i>ethnic group 3</i>	165	
Female population from <i>ethno - cultural group 4 (Aromanian)</i>	3,927	
Female population from <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>	5,728	
BY AGE		
Population 0-2 years old (below 3 years) <i>ethnic group 1 (Greek)</i>	214	
Population 3-6 years old <i>ethnic group 1</i>	365	
Population 7-17 years old <i>ethnic group 1</i>	1,221	
Population 0-2 years old (below 3 years) <i>ethnic group 2 (Macedonian)</i>	84	
Population 3-6 years old <i>ethnic group 2</i>	108	
Population 7-17 years old <i>ethnic group 2</i>	399	
Population 0-2 years old (below 3 years) <i>ethnic group 3 (Montenegrin)</i>	1	
Population 3-6 years old <i>ethnic group 3</i>	3	
Population 7-17 years old <i>ethnic group 3</i>	26	
Population 0-2 years old (below 3 years) <i>ethno - cultural group 4 (Aromanian)</i>	78	
Population 3-6 years old <i>ethnic group 4</i>	122	
Population 7-17 years old <i>ethnic group 4</i>	501	
Population 0-2 years old (below 3 years) <i>ethno - cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>	439	
Population 3-6 years old <i>ethnic group 5</i>	503	
Population 7-17 years old <i>ethnic group 5</i>	1,383	
ENROLMENT IN EDUCATION		

Total basic education (ISCED 1 and 2) enrolments (absolute number) (total of lines 352 and 375 in the template)		
Number of enrolments of children <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		4433
BY GENDER		
Number of enrolments of boys <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		2479
Number of enrolments of girls <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		1954
Total upper-secondary education (ISCED 3, all programmes) enrolments (absolute number) (as in line 397 of the template)		
Number of enrolments of children <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		413
BY GENDER		
Number of enrolments of boys <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		229
Number of enrolments of girls <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		184
CHILD PROTECTION		
Total number of children who were left without parental care, during the year (as in line 525 of the template)		
Number of children who were left without parental care <i>ethnic group 1</i>		
Number of children who were left without parental care <i>ethnic group 2</i>		
Number of children who were left without parental care <i>ethnic group 3</i>		
Total number of children in residential care, at the end of the year (as in line 558 of the template)		
Number of children in residential care <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		143
BY GENDER		
Number of boys in residential care <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		
Number of girls in residential care <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		
Average age of mothers at time of first birth (as in line 119 of the template)		
Average age of mothers <i>ethnic group 1</i>		
Average age of mothers <i>ethnic group 2</i>		
Average age of mothers <i>ethnic group 3</i>		
Total number of children receiving monthly family allowances (as in line 1004 of the template)		
Number of families with children receiving monthly family allowances from <i>cultural group 5 (Roma/Egyptian)</i>		1164

* Data from 2011 Census

**Data reported from the Management Information Systems of MoES and MoSWY