

## Oxfam GB Project Effectiveness Review Management Response

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**Country Director:** Anila Vendresha

**Name of Project reviewed:** Local Partnership for Rural Development in Albania

**Date:** 05/07/2013

**Participants in the Management Response:** Geron Kamberi, Project Manager, Ollga Cipa Finance & Human Resource Officer

### Summary of contribution scores

Targeted Outcome	Score	Comments / Contribution of other evidenced explanations (high, medium, low)
LOG decisions address LAG priorities and initiatives	 <p>Outcome realised in part &amp; evidence that intervention made a crucial contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the project 6 local government units provided co-financing for local investments of LAG. This is important considering the budgetary constraints they face.</li> <li>Having established LAGs the project equipped them well to participate in local decision making and to advocate for women's and community priorities.</li> <li>With little evidence to suggest that other factors had played any significant role in affecting LOG decisions, the projects contribution to achieving influence on LOG decisions is considered high.</li> <li>Program impacts have not further progressed however, as LAG-LOG cooperation is predicated on ability of LAGs to co-fund, which has not been secured.</li> </ul>
LAGs have established a viable model for promotion of women	 <p>Outcome realised in part &amp; evidence that intervention made a crucial contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LAGs have established a viable model for promotion of women in Albania.</li> <li>Program impact has been aided by the willingness of the community to embrace LAGs, legacy of Oxfam work with the community, the quality of the training, and seeing real material gains that have addressed community needs. Crucially women have seen that that they can influence policy making.</li> <li>Impacts were attenuated by constraints on fulfilling the planned media and lobbying strategies, and the lack of progress in establishing LAGs in law and policy as a result of delays to Albania's EU candidate status.</li> </ul>

<p><b>1. What follow-up to the review have you undertaken or planned (if any) e.g. discussion, analysis, workshop?</b></p>
<p>QuoDev has undertaken a series of meetings with its local partners regarding follow-up to the review. At the framework of follow-up activities QuoDev (Former Oxfam GB programs-Albania) held the Info Day Workshop "LAG s perspective on the new financial framework 2014-2020 and Albanian LAG Network – ALN". A presentation "LAG s perspective against the new EU financial framework 2014-2020." was given to the LAG members. Through the presentation, participants were introduced to the evolution that has undergone the LEADER approach within the EU from 1990 onwards and the changes that are provided to the EU Rural Development Strategy of the EU (2014-2020) and its financial framework for the same period. On the other hand during the workshop were discussed the steps followed by the Albanian government so far to include LEADER approach and LAG within the rural development strategic framework (2007-2013) and perspectives to include it at the Draft National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2014-2020).</p> <p>Also QuoDev supported the establishment of the Albanian Network of LAG –ALN acting as a coordination unit between LAGs as well as an advocacy tool to influence public policies that support the LEADER approach in national and local level. Three LAG –s which are established along the project are active network member and agreed to draft and approved a Regulation on the Functioning of the Albanian LAG Network – ALNET. This network has submitted a request for ELARD membership (ELARD, -European LEADER Association for Rural Development).</p>
<p><b>2. Overall, do the findings concur with your own expectations or assessment of the project/programme’s effectiveness?</b></p>
<p>LAG approach is a new model and firstly introduced by Oxfam G/QuoDev in rural area of Albania. It was a challenged experience and in this context we are satisfied with the overall findings of effectiveness review which fit our own expectations and assessment of the project.</p>
<p><b>3. Did the final results of the Effectiveness Review identify areas that were particularly strong in the project (ie large impact)?</b></p>
<p>LAGs as a viable model for promotion of rural women can be considered a strong area of the Effectiveness Review. It had a large impact on the efforts to change the local mentality on the capability of rural women as local change agent.</p>
<p><b>4. Did the final results of the Effectiveness Review identify areas that were weak or very weak (ie no or very little impact)?</b></p>
<p>As overall final evaluation is ranked as G/A we don't perceive any weak or very weak areas.</p>
<p><b>5. a) Is the reviewed project continuing? If yes, what actions are being taken in response to the weak areas identified in question 4?</b></p>
<p>This is a three year completed project. Also Oxfam GB program in Albania is phased out and transformed to QuoDev (Quality of Development) a national social enterprise taking over the experience in development and poverty alleviation in the country. Quodev 's mission includes continuing</p>

the development of rural economy, empowerment of people through innovative collaborating project and services with special focus on addressing rural women in economic empowerment and entrepreneurship bringing them to economy and labour market.

**b) What actions are you planning in response to the Programme Learning Considerations?**

*Programme Learning Considerations:*

- More complete project risk assessment at inception
- Intentionally widening the pool of potential beneficiaries (LAG members)
- Further disaggregating of project demographic by subcategories such as level of education, profession etc. to better understand composition model dynamics
- Tighter communication and monitoring procedures between Oxfam GB and the local office
- Greater adherence to guidelines and investing in further trainings, e.g. on funding or budgets

Quodev is continuing to support the strengthening the capacity of LAG seeking the attention of other donors which are presented in the country. Currently a new project “*Strengthening LAG gender capacity at the LAG Drini-Diber, LAG Adrijon-Vlore and LAG Maranaj- Vlore*” is under way. QuoDev has provided its support to update the LAG home page which is recently established. ([www.lag-net](http://www.lag-net)). We have considered it a very important issue since it gives a range of information on LAG activities and uses an innovative information tool to share their experiences and challenges with other stakeholders and partners.

**6. If the project/humanitarian response is ending or has already ended, what learning from the review will you apply to relevant new projects in the future? How can the Regional Centre and Oxford support these plans?**

Yes, the project has ended and QuoDev is continuing to promote LAG-s model at national level by widening the pool of potential beneficiaries as well as increasing partnership by raising donor’s attention and funds at national and regional level.

**The reports will be published by Oxfam. If you have objections to this, please say so and explain why.**

No Objection.