GENDER SENSITIVE POST-EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis (GSVCA) in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë

DECEMBER 2021
GENDER SENSITIVE VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS (GSVCA) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RROGOZHINĖ

December 2021
The Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis (GSVCA) in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë was conducted by Smart ICT on behalf of the Gender Sensitive Post-Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Project, implemented by UN Women in Albania, with the financial support of the Government of Sweden.

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Smart ICT working group: Diamanta Vito, Alban Ibraliu, Liana Suleymanova, Genc Radovicka, Ana Thana

UN Women technical support: Grania Mackie – International senior expert on GSVCA
Erald Lamja – National senior expert on LED & WEE

Disclaimer:
This analysis is prepared in the framework of the Gender Sensitive Post-Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Project, implemented by UN Women in Albania, with the financial support of the Government of Sweden, through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Fund in Albania.
This document contains the views and opinions expressed by the authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of UN Women, the Swedish Government, the United Nations or its agencies.

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Tel: +355 4 450 2555/7575
Website: albania.unwomen.org/en
Facebook: unwomenalbania
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>Administrative Units</td>
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<tr>
<td>APP</td>
<td>Albanian-Austrian Partnership Foundation</td>
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<td>ARDA</td>
<td>Agricultural and Rural Development Agency</td>
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<td>ATTC</td>
<td>Agricultural Technology Transfer Centers</td>
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<td>CBT</td>
<td>Community-Based Tourism</td>
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<td>CEMR</td>
<td>Council of European Municipalities and Regions</td>
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<td>DCED</td>
<td>Donors Committee for Economic Development</td>
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<td>ETC</td>
<td>Etcetera</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>GLP</td>
<td>General Local Plan</td>
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<td>GSVCA</td>
<td>Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>HACCP</td>
<td>Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSTAT</td>
<td>Albanian National Institute of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPA</td>
<td>Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance</td>
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<td>IPARD</td>
<td>Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAP</td>
<td>Medicinal and Aromatic Plants</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFA</td>
<td>National Food Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>PDNA</td>
<td>Post-Disaster Needs Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDyV</td>
<td>Mandatory Local Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEA</td>
<td>Strategic Environmental Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWOT</td>
<td>Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats</td>
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<tr>
<td>TDP</td>
<td>Territorial Development Plan</td>
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<td>TS</td>
<td>Territorial Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC</td>
<td>Value Chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEE</td>
<td>Women’s Economic Empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>Administrative Units</td>
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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts of 2019, UN Women in Albania, with the financial support of the Swedish government, is implementing the “Gender Sensitive Recovery and Reconstruction Project” focusing on supporting and empowering women in 11 affected municipalities - Rrogozhinë, Durrës, Kruja, Tiranë, Kamza, Kavaja, Vora, Shijak, Kurbin, Mirdita and Lezha, both in rural and urban areas.

Past experiences have shown that girls and women are differently and often disproportionately affected by natural disasters and crises and have unequal levels of recovery. That was also the same with the deadly earthquake of November 2019 in Albania, which had a disproportional impact on girls and women. In particular the earthquake, followed by the COVID-19 health crisis, has affected women in rural areas who face the risk of losing vital agricultural production; single mothers or women who are head of the family, that are at risk of poverty and losing their homes; victims of domestic violence and/or intimate partner violence and other highly vulnerable groups, such as women and men with disabilities, the elderly, LGBTTI and women and men of the Roma and Egyptian communities.

The project focuses on three main areas:

1. Supporting national and local authorities in preparing and developing risk reduction plans, including the priorities of girls and women.
   - The objective of these plans is to increase the capacity of LGUs, by providing immediate relief to the disaster-affected population as well as by taking into account the specific needs of girls and women and providing support for their long-term economic and social recovery.

2. Supporting girls and women in affected areas to access and benefit from economic opportunities. Concrete activities include:
   - Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) through the development of Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis (GSVCA) to identify employment opportunities and market access for women;
   - Full implementation of activities for the post-earthquake sustainability through the development of the value chain, economic inclusion and empowerment of women by aiming to increase the family income;
   - Local Economic Development (LED) through gender equality approaches and women’s empowerment activities to bring sustainable local economic growth and improved livelihoods;
   - Providing legal support and legal assistance to women and men in affected communities for registering new homes and apartments, as well as reconstructed buildings on behalf of both spouses, based on the Albanian legislation;

3. Treating domestic violence and gender-based violence in earthquake-affected areas through:
- Creating capacities of referral mechanisms and other service providers for managing cases of violence towards women and their preparation to provide these services even during emergency situations.
- Providing direct legal and psychological assistance as well as other services to girls and women in the affected areas.

Gender sensitive analysis of the value chain analysis in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë was conducted within the framework of the area number 2. Supporting girls and women in the affected areas for accessing and benefiting from economic opportunities. Its primary objective was to identify the main sectors in this municipality which present opportunities for inclusive economic growth and development, as well as evaluating the involvement of women in the processes and their opportunities for empowerment; and secondly, focusing on value chains with the greatest potential for development, by providing recommendations for specific measures to enhance the role of women and eliminate gender-biased initiatives.

Inclusive development will be achieved by: (i) supporting creation of new job positions for women in those sectors where women can get involved; (ii) increasing the number of women (poor, marginalized and vulnerable) in employment, production, processing and marketing; and (iii) increasing the productivity and competitiveness of the products produced by these women.

This objective translates into specific intervention to increase the number of farmers/workers/producers - especially poor, earthquake-affected, vulnerable and marginalized women - who effectively and formally engage in employment or self-employment, take part in value chains and market systems, earn higher returns and enjoy economic security.

This approach is based on the Market Systems Development methodology ("Making Markets Work for the Poor" - M4P) and follows the guidelines of the Donors Committee for Economic Development (DCED) for Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) in the context of private sector development. The activities will be coordinated and supervised by UN Women and implemented by professionals who provide NGOs/associations with a solid history of technical engagement in inclusive private sector development and gender responsive, as well as knowledge for communities.

The specific activities are fully in line with the short-term solutions suggested by the OECD for the Western Balkans1 and are based on the recent experience of gender-sensitive interventions in improving value chains in the country2.

The focus of this study is the practical analysis of the main value chains in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, from the perspective of the gender attribute. The main purpose of the gender-sensitive value chain analysis is to provide the municipality of Rrogozhinë with practical recommendations that affect the population of the municipality as a whole.

2 Gender sensitive approach to the value chain development: Summary document. Prepared and published by TETRA TECH for the USAID project of Planning and Local Governance in Albania 2020.
(with a special focus on women in rural areas), that will create employment or self-employment of women, strengthen their role in selected VCs, their grouping and cooperation to increase their influence as main actors in VCs and as the result improving the living conditions of women (and families) and their role in community.

This analysis was made possible due to the excellent cooperation with the staff of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë.

This study is directly related to these objectives by supporting the women economic empowerment and promoting gender equality, at the same time improving the selected value chains (VC) in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë. This activity supports capacity building of local value chain actors and supporting functions, as a better way to support value chain development by taking into account the gender aspect.

1.2 NATIONAL CONTEXT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality describes the concept according to which all human beings, both women and men, are free to develop their personality skills and make their choices without restrictions set by stereotypes, rigid gender roles or prejudices. Gender equality means that the different behaviors, aspirations and needs of women and men are considered, valued and favored equally. It does not mean that women and men should be made equal, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born female or male. (UN Women, 2011)

Over the years, Albania has developed a sustainable legal and institutional framework to promote gender equality and the protection of women’s rights. The legal framework for promoting gender equality has been significantly improved by the ratification of a large number of important international instruments and other amendments. Below are some of the most important documents:

- The Constitution of Albania adopted in 1998 provides and guarantees equality between men and women and provides policies for equal opportunities and prevention of discrimination, among other causes, based on gender (Article 18).

- The Law on Gender Equality was adopted in 2008. This law regulates the basic principles of gender equality, requiring equal participation of women and men in all areas of life, equal status between women and men, equal opportunities and to enjoy rights and fulfill their obligations in society and to receive equal benefits from their achievements. The law defines "gender-based discrimination" (Article 11).

- The Law on Protection from Discrimination was adopted in 2010. Under this law, no one can discriminate on any grounds such as gender, race, color, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, political, religious or philosophical beliefs, economic, educational or social status, pregnancy, family background, parental responsibility, age, family or marital status, civil status, place of residence, health status, genetic predisposition, disability, belonging to a particular group or based on some other cause.

- National Strategy for Gender Equality, 2021-2030, approved by decision of the Council of Ministers no. 400, dated 30.6.2021, is a guide to a society where all individuals women, men, youngsters, girls and boys, regardless of age, gender, place of birth and residence, ethnic or social group, disability, affiliation of religious belief, expression of gender identity and sexual orientation, as well as other individual characteristics, are
given equal opportunities to develop their potentials; to participate equally in political and public decision-making; to elect and be elected; to be educated and trained throughout life; to be employed and employ by advancing towards new professions, challenging stereotypes and gender division of labor; to influence the social and economic development of the country and to be supported of their socially and economically development; create healthy families, where parents share responsibilities equally and where communication is the key to problem solving; to live free from harmful practices and violence; and where vulnerable groups are treated with priority until they are empowered and enjoy equal rights and opportunities in all walks of life - a society where equality is not confused with uniformity and where no one should be left behind.

**Strategic goal I - Fulfillment of economic and social rights for women, youngsters, girls and men, young people, boys in society and empowerment of women, youngsters from all groups, aiming at the growth and sustainability of the (green) environmental economy, as well as their equal participation in digitalization.**

- Application of the legal framework and improved policies that provide equal sharing of work and unpaid family care between women and men, youngsters, girls and boys.

- Increasing the access of women, youngsters from all groups (to financial services and products, as well as to productive resources.

- Reducing barriers that keep women and girls away from the job market, as well as increasing the access of women and girls from all groups, to decent work even in non-traditional sectors of employment (in particular in science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

At the local level, the promotion of inclusion and equality is a component of legal frameworks and policies, which highlights the obligations of local government units in the aspect of gender equality (UN Women, 2019). For example, the Law on “Gender Equality” addresses the need to promote gender equality in local government and the specific units that are responsible for presenting, overseeing and monitoring performance and service, including gender equality. Efforts have been made by several municipalities to meet the regulation of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and EU standards, adopting a clear structure, priorities, responsibilities and budgets that respond equally to the needs of women, men, youth (UN Women, 2018).

As a result of such proactive laws, policies and principles, Albania has made improvements in many aspects of gender equality, for example, at the role that women play in private sector development. Compared to 2016, the percentage of enterprises owned or run by women has increased in all regions of Albania in 2017. However, decentralization and successful implementation of legal and development frameworks is still challenging, and the pace of change in terms of women’s economic empowerment through private sector is slow, especially for women in rural areas. Gender norms, roles, responsibilities and prejudices in women’s ability to access productive resources (such as land, finance, networks, technology and equipment) and business services show that women and men still do not have an equal level in the economic and social aspect.

Some obvious impacts of gender prejudices in Albania in terms of economic empowerment through enterprises, are for example:
• The employment rate for the population aged 15-64 is 77.1% for men and 61.2% for women of this age group. About 22.8% of women are unpaid workers in the family business, while for men this percentage is only 13.1%. A significant proportion of men are self-employed 33.3%, while the share of self-employed women goes up to 21.5%.³

• Women and men aged 15-64 are mostly employed in the agricultural sector. In 2020, 41.4% of female employees were employed in the agricultural sector. The second sector that occupies the largest share in the employment of women and men after the agricultural sector is trade, transport, hotels, business and administrative services, respectively with 21.6% employed women and 31.7% men. The gender pay gap is 6.6%. So, men have an average gross monthly salary 6.6% higher than women. Compared to 2019, in 2020 there is a reduction of the gender pay gap by 3.5 percentage point.

• Women own or manage 25.5% of all enterprises. ⁴ Divided by business size, it turns out:
  o Business up to 4 employees 25.8%
  o Business with 05-09 employees 23.9%
  o Business with 10-49 employees 22%
  o Business with +50 employees 22.8%

• In Albania, more than 80 percent of land titles are under the name of “head of household” or former head of household (father-in-law, father or grandfather). Women in rural areas have limited access to land information, limited access to support services, and perceive high levels of inequality in family decision-making and land rights compared to male family members (Zhlima, Edvin et al., 2016).

Women in agricultural farm management represent only 7% of the total number of farms in Albania (INSTAT 2020). Although the number of female and male farm workers is at comparable levels in rural areas (224,639 males and 267,098 females), there is a large difference between them in terms of non-farm work (UNDP, 2016).

In most cases, on family farms there is a noticeable division by gender of farm work processes. Men’s roles are work-related that include control over decision-making, agricultural assets, commodity mobility, and the market; while women’s roles are related to manual labor in agriculture and livestock, including activities related to the cultivation or feeding of animals, harvesting, milking, processing of agricultural and livestock products and food, also household chores. This distribution of labor has resulted in women having limited opportunities and control over agricultural assets, decision-making processes, and commercial transactions. Although rural women have been a priority of support programs offered to the agricultural sector, only 64 of them have benefited from IPARD funds, approximately 10.1 million Euros. Of the support schemes implemented during 2020, only 15% of the beneficiary farmers were women (MARD 2021).
1.3 UN WOMEN IN ALBANIA

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, also known as UN Women, is a United Nations entity working for the empowerment of women. UN Women is a member of the United Nations Development Group. UN Women was created to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls, worldwide. UN Women supports the United Nations Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design the laws, policies, programs and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and to really benefit women and girls all over the world. It works globally to make the vision of the Goal for Sustainable Development a reality for women and girls in all aspects of life.

UN Women, based on the vision for equality embodied in the United Nations Charter, aims to eliminate discrimination against women and girls; women's empowerment; and achieving equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action, peace and security. By putting women's rights at the heart of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates the efforts of the United Nations system to ensure that commitments to gender equality and gender integration go into action around the world.

Active in Albania since establishing the Country Program in 2007, UN Women works closely with government and civil society to design and implement laws, policies, programs and services needed to improve the status of women and achieve global standards for gender equality. Within the “One UN” Program in Albania, UN Women Albania leads in gender equality issues and provides coordination and support for related activities by focusing on initiatives in four priority areas that are fundamental to women’s equality and that can pave the way for all in Albania:

❖ Leadership and political participation
❖ Economic empowerment
❖ Ending of violence against women
❖ National planning and budgeting

To address some of these post-earthquake needs of November 26, 2019, and as part of post-earthquake reconstruction efforts in 2019, UN Women in Albania, with financial support from the Swedish government, is implementing a project focusing on supporting and strengthening women in the 11 affected municipalities - Rrogozhinë, Durrës, Kruja, Tiranë, Kamza, Kavaja, Vora, Rrogo, Shijak, Kurbin, Mirdita and Lezha, both in rural and urban areas.

The "Gender Sensitive for Post-Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction" project, which is implemented in close cooperation with the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, provides support to local authorities in preparing and developing risk reduction plans, which include the priorities of girls and women; supporting women and girls in affected areas to access and benefit from economic opportunities.

The overall purpose of this report, prepared by Smart ICT Services ltd, in the framework of the above-mentioned project, is the analysis and identification of key sectors in the Rrogozhinë Municipality, which present opportunities for economic growth and
development, assessing the involvement of women in processes and their chances for empowerment.

An important part of this report is also the in-depth analysis of 1-2 value chains with more potential for development, as well as the preparation of specific recommendations and development plans, which aim to increase the role of women and eliminate actions with gender prejudice.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The selected method for evaluation has been adapted from the methodologies successfully applied in several other countries, and is particularly suitable for countries which are in the initial stages of local government reform and have limited statistical data. This methodology combines information collected and processed in the field (primary sources) with those administered by the Municipality and various government institutions (secondary sources).

This report developed by Smart ICT Services has as its primary objective the identification of key sectors in the municipality of Rrogozhinë, presenting opportunities for growth and economic development, as well as assessing the involvement of women in the processes and their opportunities for empowerment, and secondly, focusing on value chains with the greatest potential for development, providing recommendations for specific measures to enhance the role of women and eliminate gender-biased initiatives.

Data and information regarding the general description of the municipality of Rrogozhinë, its economic development and the main sectors of economic potential are taken from the main reports prepared in the framework of the "General Local Plan of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë (GLP)", respectively "Territorial Development Plan (TDP)", and "Territorial Strategy" (TS), approved by the Decision of the National Council of the Territory no. 7 dated 16.10.2017; as well as the report "Strategic Environmental Assessment of Rrogozhinë (SEA)". The information was also supplemented with data from the official website of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë and official publications and statistical information from the Institute of Statistics in Albania. The information was updated and the data were obtained and processed from the statistical database of the Institute of Statistics in Albania (Instat) in 2021, for the period 2018-2020.

During the subsequent evaluation of value chains in the agricultural sector, the methodologies considered were "Market and value chain analysis of selected sectors in Albania for rural economic diversification and women's economic empowerment" (FAO 2018), "Chapter 4: Value Chain Sketching Tool" and "Module II: Sustainable Value Chains" (GIZ), which served as a reference during the construction of the value chain map (sketch).

Regarding the information from the earthquake analysis and the effects it had on the affected municipalities, and specifically the municipality of Rrogozhinë, the information was obtained from the "Volume A Report of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment of Albania (PDNA)", developed in the February Report "Situation Assessment of the Earthquake of Families with Children Living in Temporary Shelters in Albania", developed by the UNICEF Office in Albania & IDRA Research and Consulting.
**Sector Selection.** Primary resources, such as field research, including group consultations and discussion sessions with municipal representatives, producers and experts were used to select sectors. This step was divided into two phases. In the first phase, a preliminary evaluation of value chains was conducted, through discussions and meetings with representatives of the municipality, producers, representatives of supporting organizations and field coordinators of the project, as a way to identify value chain opportunities. This phase ended with the organization of groups of interest meeting, during which participants had the opportunity to present and discuss additional details, share the opportunities and constraints and get a clear picture and understanding of the value chains which helped them to select value chains of honey production as the main areas where to focus.

In the second phase, field visits, observations of activities, surveys and semi-structured interviews with questionnaires adapted for different actors in the value chain were conducted.

![Figure 1. Methodological approach](image)

The main steps of the process are described below:

1. **Objectives and Target Group:** Defining objectives based on national and municipal goals (improving living and promoting gender equality) and defining the target group and selection criteria:
   a. Target group: Women and men with low-income at the municipal level.
   b. Criteria: the importance of the sector in creating living conditions for women and men.

2. **Study of Municipal Plans:** Initial study of municipal plans and research work, based on plans, strategies, previous studies, etc.

3. **Main Sectors:** Identification of main sectors using various reports, data and publications.
4. **Evaluation of VCs:** Evaluation of the main value chains belonging to the selected sectors through the brain storming, discussions, focus groups.

5. **Selection of VCs:** Selection of one or two main value chains and evaluation of opportunities, constraints and areas of intervention, through field research.

6. **Recommendations:** Prepare recommendations for improving the value chain for the municipality and the possibilities of intervention.

**Limitats of Research Work.** The focus of this report is the practical analysis of the main value chains in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, seen from the gender perspective. One of the biggest challenges faced during this study is the lack of secondary resources. Currently, in Albania, do not exist reliable statistical data, due to two factors: i) high level of informality, ii) differences in methodologies used by the local authorities and INSTAT for statistical analysis utilized. Therefore, the results of research work (for main sectors/value chains) often did not match the results obtained during the group work sessions and groups of interest interviews. Moreover, most public data are often not disaggregated by gender and a large part of the statistical data published by INSTAT are not disaggregated by municipalities. The biggest problem with this data is that, with the exception of CENSUS 2011 data, there is no data on the resident population. The most recent data on the resident population is that of the 2011 CENSUS, making it quite difficult to obtain reliable statistical data.

Conceptually, implementing gender-sensitive value chain analysis can often be problematic. Findings of research work are often general and depending on the purpose (improving women's lives or in other words, empowering women), can lead to the provision of intervention scenarios that aim more at economic development and not at specifically improving the situation of women themselves. The purpose of this study is to provide the municipality of Rrogozhinë with practical recommendations that affect the population of the municipality and that consequently lead to the improvement of the women' living conditions in the municipality. It is important to mention, that in Albania and in those specific municipalities analyzed, the situation in the value chains is often so difficult (and poverty is so high) that any overall improvement and sustainable development regarding value chains would lead to higher incomes for the family, which would automatically mean betterment of the conditions of women and other actors in it. It’s also necessary to remain attentive to the local context, including the diverse notions of masculinity.

Meeting sessions of the groups of interest, as well as the interviews conducted, are representative of the size of the study sample, which can be considered as very small (duration of the study - about 1 month). However, the use of municipal strategic plans, as well as field research, supported the hypotheses that the observed trends can be considered as representative of the groups of people, the results of which will be generalized or further transferred.
2. PROFILE OF RROGOZHINË MUNICIPALITY

Based on Law No. 139/2015 on Territorial Division in the Republic of Albania, for Statistical Purposes NUTSII, the Municipality of Rrogozhinë is part of the Central Region. It is bordered on the north-east by the municipality of Tiranë, on the south by the municipality of Lushnjë, on the east by the Municipality of Peqin and on the west by the Adriatic Sea. The capital of the Municipality is the city of Rrogozhinë. This municipality consists of 5 administrative units, which are: Rrogozhinë, Kryevidh, Sinaballaj, Lekaj, and Gosë. All administrative units are currently part of the Kavajë district and the Tiranë County. The new municipality has under its administration a town and 36 villages.

![Figure 2: Location of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë](image1)

![Figure 3: Administrative Map of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë](image2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>National Ranking</th>
<th>Ratio to national values</th>
<th>Average national value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region according to NUTSII</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>230Km²</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.81%</td>
<td>464.72 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population by Civil Status</td>
<td>42,186</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.94%</td>
<td>73,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population according to the 2011 Census</td>
<td>22,148</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
<td>45,908.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density by Civil Status</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density according to the 2011 Census</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Administrative Units (including Neighborhoods)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Cities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Villages</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Main Administrative-Demographic. Source of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë
The new municipality of Rrogozhinë lies on a partly hilly and partly plain terrain up to the sea shore. The new municipality will be located on the town of Rrogozhinë, which was established during the communist era around the agro-industry, such as the oil and soap factory or the cotton strip factory, as well as a line for food processing and canning. This industry has long been closed. The constituent rural administrative units of the new municipality have limited connections with its center. The city of Rrogozhinë occupies about one third of the entire resident population of the new municipality.

2.1 VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF RROGOZHINË MUNICIPALITY

The vision of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë is defined in the General Local Plan of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, as follows:

"Rrogozhinë, with national and international strategic nodes, natural and coastal landscape areas with strong agricultural character, will strengthen the economic, cultural, and social connection with the coast, structured and green town and villages, which offer hospitable structures of quality tourism, natural, and ecological, based on unique values and indigenous traditions."

In fulfillment of the vision of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, several Strategic Objectives have been defined which specify the focus of the development of the municipality during the coming years.

- **Strategic Objective 1**: Strengthen the primary sector of the economy (agriculture, livestock) and support farmers.
- **Strategic Objective 2**: Development of regional economy.
- **Strategic Objective 3**: Improving the quality of life through urban projects and infrastructure interventions to support the economy and tourism development.
- **Strategic Objective 4**: Preservation and promotion of natural resources and cultural heritage.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

According to the 2011 Census, the new municipality has 22,148 inhabitants, while according to the Civil Registry, it has a population of 40,684 inhabitants. The new municipality has an area of 223.5 km2. According to the civil registry, the population density is 182 inhabitants/km2, while according to the census, the density is 99 inhabitants/km2.

Based on the CENSUS 2011 data, approximately 50% of the population (11,085 inhabitants) are female. The age group 15-64 years constitutes the largest number of the population, almost 67% of the population, both female and male. Table 2 provides the general population data divided by each Administrative Unit and by age group, while Table 3 provides this data disaggregated by gender.
Table 2: Population data for the Municipality of Rrogozhinë divided by age group. (Source CENSUS 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Unit</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>0-14</th>
<th>15-64</th>
<th>Over 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rrogozhinë</td>
<td>7049</td>
<td>1474</td>
<td>4866</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kryevidh</td>
<td>4662</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>3041</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinaballaj</td>
<td>1191</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosë</td>
<td>4120</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>2713</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekaj</td>
<td>5126</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>3433</td>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Rrogozhinë Municipality</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,148</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,612</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,884</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,652</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Population data for the Municipality of Rrogozhinë disaggregated by gender. (Source CENSUS 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Unit</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
<th>No. Of Families</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rrogozhinë</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4350</td>
<td>7049</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kryevidh</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>4662</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinaballaj</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>1191</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosë</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>4120</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekaj</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2320</td>
<td>5126</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Rrogozhinë Municipality</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td><strong>10933</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,148</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,063</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures 4 and 5 show the composition of the population divided by gender and age group for the Municipality of Rrogozhinë in total and disaggregated by gender for each Administrative Unit.

Figure 4: Population in % of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë divided by gender and age group. (Source CENSUS 2011)
Based on official data obtained from the statistical database of INSTAT, 1090 active enterprises operated in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë at the end of 2021. The number of these businesses, as noted in Figure 6, in the last 5 years is almost constant with a variation of 2.8%.

Based on the legal form, these businesses are divided into: i) 649 Agricultural Farms; ii) 371 Legal Persons; iii) 70 Legal Entities. As can be seen from the figure, the variation of legal forms has a growing trend of agricultural enterprises and a gradual decrease of other businesses, mainly legal entities.
The predominance of the Business Form as a Legal Person and Farmer is also reflected in the small number of employees in the private sector in this Municipality. Looking at the business structure from this point of view, only 147 businesses, or about 13.51% of them, have over 10 employees, while about 76.65% of businesses have less than 4 employees.

Today about 18% of businesses registered in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë are managed by women. Even in this regard, there is a downward trend that can be observed when it comes to the number of women-run businesses, as shown in Figures 9 and 10 below:
According to the data of the local revenue office, in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë 1090 active enterprises at the end of 2020 are divided by main sectors as shown in Figure 11, in: i) 649 Agricultural Farms; ii) 83 Goods Manufacturing Enterprises; iii) 358 Service Providers.

**Agriculture.** The agricultural sector is dominated by small businesses, which face many difficulties in obtaining financing, integrating modern, and contemporary technologies and agro-techniques. Lack of infrastructure and facilities for the processes of supply, processing, collection, marketing, and sanitary and quality control serves as the main factor contributing to the failure to achieve production efficiency and direct contact with the market of those businesses. Despite these difficulties, the municipality of Rrogozhinë has the right environment for business development in this sector, taking into account the climatic advantages, terrain, and proximity to local markets. Fruit growing is very developed, mainly in the administrative units of Lekaj and Rrogozhinë, as well as the development of olive groves and viticulture has seen an increase in their area and productivity in recent years accompanied by processing units established within the territory of administrative units Rrogozhinë.

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**Figure 10:** Change in the Number of Businesses Administered by Women Over the Years. (Source INSTAT)

**Figure 11:** Ratio to the number of Businesses by main sectors. (Source INSTAT and the Municipality of Rrogozhinë)

**Figure 12:** Structure of Agricultural Crop Groups (Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Municipality of Rrogozhinë)
As we have pointed out above, 59% of the total number of active enterprises is classified as 'Farmers'. According to the data of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, women represent about 49% of the labor force in the agricultural sector.

**Industry.** Today, there is a slight development in the light industry in terms of processing livestock products. These developments are still in their early stages and, in most cases, are family-run businesses. This industry is not yet formalized and fails to provide the proper certifications regarding the standards required for their sale in the local, national market or to ensure their export.

During the last 5 years, the industrial sector has had a contraction at the level of 16%, which illustrates the difficulties this municipality is going through in terms of economic growth and development. This decline has been observed since 2018. This indicator shows that the industry has not had a decline due to the two major factors, such as the earthquake of November 26, 2019, and the pandemic during 2020. Instead this has been a trend that started earlier. The largest declining sub-sector is the manufacturing industry. As shown in Figure 14, the construction industry has been at constant levels over the last 5 years, while the wood industry and the fishing industry had a double-digit increase in 2020. The specific weight of each class during the year 2020 is shown in Figure 14. Although with a contraction of about 10%, the manufacturing industry is still the leading sub-sector in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, with over 62% of the entire industrial sector.
Services. The services sector accounts for 32% of the local economic structure in terms of the number of economic operators.

This sector has seen a contraction of 25.57% over the last 5 years. It is different from the industrial sector because shrinkage is almost proportionally divided into all 5 of its sub-sectors. This trend makes us think that the main factor is the reduction of the services market due to the migration of the population of this municipality to the most economically developed areas within the country as well as emigration abroad.

Making a more detailed classification of this sector for 2020, as can be seen from Graph 15, it results that in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, out of 358 registered businesses, 189 or 53% operate in the trade sub-sector; 13 or 3% operate in the transport and storage sub-sector; 93 or 26% in accommodation and food and 57 or 16% operate in other services sector.

2.4 SOCIAL PROFILE

Employment. There are a total of 528 unemployed jobseekers in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë. Unemployment has a completely urban profile because residents who own land cannot be considered unemployed. It is also found that unemployment is the main factor that pushes families towards Economic Assistance because, as confirmed by the data, unemployed jobseekers are all beneficiaries of economic assistance.
Individuals in need of at least one form of social care service, identified at the end of 2020 in the territory of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, are about 2462 individuals, which constitute 5.78% of the population registered according to the civil status (requiring social care services). As can be seen from the above data, all Administrative Units have a high percentage of individuals in need of services referring to the number of population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Unit</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Individuals in Need of Social Care Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rrogozhinë</td>
<td>12208</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kryevidh</td>
<td>9725</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinaballaj</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosë</td>
<td>8870</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekaj</td>
<td>9635</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>42,588</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,462</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Data on the number of individuals in need of social care services in the Municipality of Rrogozhina divided by Administrative Units. (Source: Municipality of Rrogozhinë year 2020)

The city of Rrogozhinë has the largest population with 12208 inhabitants where in total for the municipality 242 are families in economic assistance, of which 23 are women heads of households, 188 are families with children, and 82 are families without children.

According to the Social Plan of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, 1% of the population in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë benefits from the disability benefits program funded by the national budget. Out of 465 people with disabilities, 109 people (23%) have a very severe form of disability and consequently have an assistant (caregiver) who takes care of them. Among the three disability groups, the largest group are people with physical/mental health problems. They make up 76% of people with disabilities in this Municipality.

23% of individuals with disabilities need a caregiver. 27% of people with disabilities live in Rrogozhinë, 24% of them live in the administrative unit Lekaj, 23% live in Gosa, 21% in Kryevidh, while only 5% live in the Sinaballaj administrative unit. Disability is one of the most critical factors of social exclusion. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, people with disabilities
experience multiple types of exclusion because, in addition to disability, they are excluded from the labor market and the opportunity to ensure an acceptable standard of living.

The Needs Assessment Report for Social Services proves that the highest number of applicants for economic assistance in the two years analyzed is in the administrative units of Rrogozhinë and Gosa. From the data analysis it results:

- 30% of beneficiary families are families with 4 members;
- The percentages of households with 3 and 5 members are also significant, respectively 17 and 29%;
- 16.5% of beneficiary families are composed of members with disabilities;
- In 9% of beneficiary families, the breadwinner is a woman;
- 4.5% of beneficiary families have children with disabilities.
- 34% of EA beneficiaries are children.

Gosë and Sinaballaj units are characterized by the highest share of beneficiary families in relation to the population, more than two to three times higher than the weight in percentage of beneficiaries of economic assistance in other units. This conclusion applies to both 2018 and 2019.

The analysis showed that the beneficiary families of Economic Assistance are almost entirely rural, although the entire territory of the Municipality is considered a rural settlement. Children account for a significant share of the total number of family members benefiting from EA, which should be considered in drafting local EA support policies or other forms of social services.

EA beneficiary families are composed of individuals with disabilities, which complicates the social and economic situation of the family, especially in relation to the labor market, reducing employment opportunities, inclusion, and family integration. EA beneficiary households, in which the breadwinner is a woman, also occupy a significant share.

The chart below shows the budget used by the Municipality of Rrogozhinë in the last 10 years for the payments of Individuals in Need. The municipality fund was mainly used to support poor families who did not receive assistance from the national program. In 2020 the budget was about 135 million ALL.

**Protection and care for children.** Groups of children excluded or at risk of exclusion are:

- Children with disabilities (67 children with disabilities, i.e., 14% of PWDs in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë are in the age group 0-18 years);
- Children with disabilities, especially children from EA beneficiary families (4.5% of EA beneficiary families have children with disabilities);
Children of EA families (540) of EA beneficiaries are children;
Children of single-family households, especially in cases where the sole breadwinner is a woman (in 9% of EA beneficiary families, the breadwinner is a woman).

The Municipality of Rrogozhinë for 2019 reports 27 managed cases of children in need and care. The number of cases of children in need of care will likely be higher, so it is necessary to increase the capacity to handle cases of children in need, which is not only conditioned by the establishment of the CPU, but more essentially, community-based services need to be established and operational, as well as investment in increasing the professional capacity of local government.

Victims of domestic violence. 9 domestic violence cases were registered in 2019 in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, and 20 cases until September 2020. Domestic violence mostly affects women and children as witnesses of violence against their mothers.

In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, domestic violence issues are handled by CPUs. Although a multidisciplinary case handling team has been established, the heads of institutions do not meet periodically to discuss the situation of violence or the measures taken. Technical groups meet at the request of the Social Welfare and Social Care Sector in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, but there are frequent changes of staff from other institutions, who are often not trained in domestic violence issues.

Homeless. According to the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, in the territory of this municipality, there are 270 homeless. Still, housing issues are not addressed by any of the current directorates or sectors of the Municipality. None of the forms of social housing, such as rent bonus, social housing, etc., are applied in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë. The issue of social housing is completely unaddressed. Even informing about housing demand is also untreated. In the social policy program of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the issue of housing should be addressed, firstly to recognize the real need, secondly to assess the treatment options, and finally, to include it in the local social policy program.

Education. In Rrogozhinë, there are 34 educational institutions that are distributed in all five administrative units. Preschool services are provided in 21 facilities, which are usually within 9-year schools. 9 offers 9-year cycle services, and 2 facilities offer secondary education. The data show that 4.49% is the illiteracy rate. 19.23% of the population has completed only primary education, and only 3.6% have graduated. Thus, the low level of education is an obstacle to economic development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Unit</th>
<th>Nurseries</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Childs</td>
<td>Childs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rrogozhinë</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinaballaj</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosë</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekaj</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kryevidh</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5. Number of students and teachers by educational structures Nurseries and Kindergartens (Source: Municipality of Rrogozhinë)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Unit</th>
<th>Nine-year school</th>
<th>High school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rrogozhinë</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinaballaj</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosë</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekaj</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kryevitdh</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>1601</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6. Number of students and teachers by educational structures 9-year school and high school (Source: Municipality of Rrogozhinë)
3. EARTHQUAKE IMPACT

On November 26, 2019, at 03:54, Albania was hit by an earthquake, which was considered by national authorities to be the strongest to hit the country in the last 30 years. According to the Albanian Institute of Geophysics, Water and Energy, based on the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Report in Albania (PDNA)\(^5\), the earthquake’s magnitude was 6.3 on the Richter scale at a depth of 38 kilometers. Its epicenter was 22 kilometers from Durres and 30 kilometers from Tiranë, and the main damage was caused in 11 municipalities of Albania, where Tiranë and Durrës were the most affected municipalities, followed by the municipalities of Shijak, Mirditë, Lezhë, Kurbin, Kamëz, Vorë, Kavajë and Rrogozhinë. The tremors were felt nearly 370 kilometers from the quake’s epicenter. Between November 26 and 29, 17 more earthquakes with magnitudes above 4 on the Richter scale were recorded.

Based on the PDNA report, after the assessment, it is estimated that the total impact of the disaster in all affected municipalities amounts to 985.1 million Euros, of which, 843.9 million Euros represent the value of destroyed physical assets and 141.2 million Euros the value of losses. These data are summarized in table 7 and figure 19 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Damages</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>63.59</td>
<td>8.76</td>
<td>72.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>8.02</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>9.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing (Buildings)</td>
<td>662.30</td>
<td>34.00</td>
<td>696.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>30.41</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>33.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>70.82</td>
<td>79.66</td>
<td>150.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Protection</td>
<td>8.75</td>
<td>13.22</td>
<td>21.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>843.89</strong></td>
<td><strong>141.18</strong></td>
<td><strong>985.07</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Damages and Losses in Million Euros by sectors at Republic level. Source PDNA

![Figure 19: Specific Weight of Injuries and Losses by sectors at Republic level. Source PDNA](https://albania.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/no.4-Albania_Post-Disaster_Needs_Assessment_(PDNA)_Volume_A_Report_20_February_2020.pdf)
As can be seen from the data presented above, the **Housing Sector** accounts for the majority of claims, with 78.5%, followed by the **Manufacturing Sector** with 8.4% and the **Education Sector** with 7.5%. Meanwhile, in terms of losses, the Manufacturing sector occupies the largest share of the amount (56.4%), followed by the Housing sector (24.1%) and the Civil Protection Sector, and the Disaster Risk Reduction sector (9.4%). Based on the same report, “Damage is defined as the cost of repairing or rebuilding infrastructure or physical assets that are partially or completely destroyed. Losses are changes in economic flows, expressed as the value of the output of goods and services (income or losses in kind), as well as changes in production costs (such as output decline and higher than normal cost of production)) as well as unexpected additional costs.”

Based on the sectoral assessments, reflected in the PDNA report and with their accuracy validated by the information provided by the municipalities, the two basic sectors of the economy, after the houses which occupy 70% of the earthquake damages, are infrastructure and production, including buildings. Figures present the losses and damages in these sectors in % according to subsectors.

![Figure 20: Specific Weight of Injuries and Losses by production subsector. Source PDNA](image1)

![Figure 21: Specific Weight of Damages and Losses by Infrastructure subsector. Source PDNA](image2)

Finally, the total number of people who have lost or their homes were severely damaged is estimated to be around 204,000 people in the eleven municipalities. The chart below shows the distribution of the affected population by municipalities:

As it appears from the data of figure 22 in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, there is a number of 1,710 inhabitants of the total population of Albania affected by the earthquake, approximately 0.8%. In relation to the resident population, the number of
affected persons is about 4% which is considerable for this municipality and ranks it as the eleventh most affected municipality among the 11 affected municipalities.

As we mentioned above, financial losses in losses and damages are estimated at 985.07 million Euros. From this point of view, the Municipality of Rrogozhinë with 0.96 million losses and damages is classified as the 11th damaged municipality. Figure 23 presents the absolute values of losses and damages for each municipality.

While calculating the losses per capita of the resident population, it ranks 11th, well below the national average. Figure 24 presents the values of losses and damages for each municipality as well as the national average per capita of the resident population.
In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë from the total effect of damages and losses of 0.96 million Euros, the Civil Protection and GDR sector is the most affected with 0.75 million Euros or 78%, followed by the production sector and Infrastructure with approximately 0.14 and 0.05 million Euros or 15% and 5%. Fortunately, the health sector in this municipality did not suffer any losses or damages. The Social Protection Sector has suffered losses or damages in the amount of 0.02 million Euros or 2%.

Regarding the Housing sector, damages include damaged buildings as well as losses in interior equipment. The total earthquake damage in Albania in this sector amounts to 662.3 million Euros, while for the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, there is no damage. Figures show the distribution by type of damage.

Information on affected families by the earthquake of 26.11.2019 in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë was obtained by consulting all decisions and lists approved by the municipal council from April 2020 - July 2021 (total 9 - decisions), which are presented summarized in the following table:
We emphasize that this process has not yet been finalized for the municipality, as many other families are waiting for validation and approval by the municipal council. Also, in cases of irregularities or dual ownership, or other legal reasons, these lists by decision of the council may change at any time, which would bring a change in the data presented in the table above.

**Earthquake damage analysis and accommodation need analysis.**

In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the great tremors of the earthquake of November 26, 2019, caused damage to apartments, service units, and administrative buildings. After determining and assessing the damages, the Municipality of Rrogozhinë went through the reconstruction process; for this purpose, a Compulsory Local Plan (PDyV) was realized, which was approved by the National Council of Territorial Adjustment, respectively decision no. 151 dated 02.06.2021. Based on this PDyV which enables:

a) Development and/or re-development of an area damaged by a natural disaster;
b) Development of a new area to meet the housing needs of families affected by the disaster;
c) Construction of public infrastructures

Work has begun on residences construction, as follows:

- Collective Residences 56

In the table below are the applications made by each administrative unit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Administrative Unit</th>
<th>Number of applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Administrative Unit Rrogozhinë</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Administrative Unit Kryevidh</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Administrative Unit Lekaj</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Administrative Unit Gosë</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8: Number of families according to the level of damage from the period April 2020 - July 2021. Source: Municipality of Rrogozhinë
4. VALUE CHAINS ANALYSIS IN RROGOZHINĖ MUNICIPALITY

Economic growth and the markets that enable it are among the best-proven drivers in reducing poverty. Markets are the main means through which women and men participate in economic activities. However, the assumption that markets and economic growth work in everyone’s favor does not mean that all types of economic growth lead to equal results. Gender discrimination may mean that the benefits of economic growth are concentrated in the hands of experienced participants in market systems rather than in the hands of those who need them the most.

Where markets operate inclusively, they serve both women and men by providing the tools, jobs, opportunities, skills, financial resources, services to increase their income. The roles of women in value chains are essential for the development of market systems, especially rural and agricultural value chains, but are also increasing in the manufacturing sector, in which women occupy the highest number in “production base”. Women and men can be involved in different stages of a value chain. In general, women’s roles are less visible in the development process, although they often serve as the key link in which change and improvement must take place in order for it to lead the chain development.

Value Chain Development and Market System. The gender-sensitive value chain and market system development can be used as effective frameworks to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the sector, at the same time reducing gender-based barriers that hinder women’s full economic participation. Initiatives for the development of the market system should take into account the multiple roles women play and the systematic disadvantage and utilize the possibilities of using remedial measures that actively promote the transformation of gender norms and equal opportunities for women.

Developing the value chain and market system means performing actions that improve productivity, include value chains, and changing the way market support functions and rules operate to support the development of the value chain in the future. Approaches to market system development, such as value chain development, have been used to improve sector productivity and competitiveness and promote economic development. Markets serve as the main means by which women and men participate in economic activity. The analysis and development of the value chain and the market system are increasingly being used as a way to identify effective strategies to support the poor. They aim to identify:

- Appropriate intervention points to improve industries so that they compete in domestic, regional, and international markets; and
- Opportunities to improve the situation of disadvantaged persons in the value chain

Despite the role that women have together with men in the realization of economic development, they are often excluded from the development, direction, decision-making of value chains, as well as the benefits that come as a result of the development of market systems. This is partly due to the socio-economic status of women in their families and the community, but also due to the direct (and sometimes even indirect) discrimination encountered in institutions that regulate and develop markets, such as governing units and sector representation organizations.
The gender-sensitive value chain analysis and development approach helps achieve gender equality and broader goals in Albania by identifying value chain solutions that improve productivity. They reduce gender-related barriers to achieve women’s full participation and inclusion and promote equality between women and men. Table 9 highlights some of the benefits that come from analyzing and developing the value chain according to gender sensitivity and the market system.

### Table 9: Benefits of intervention with gender basis in the value chain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECONOMY</th>
<th>SOCIETY</th>
<th>FAMILY</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More competition: all human resources of society are used.</td>
<td>Long-term development: investment in the education and health sectors of future generations.</td>
<td>Improving living conditions in the family, reducing vulnerability, and increasing resilience.</td>
<td>Family contribution and household chores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher productivity: manufacturers, mainly women in rural areas, can improve the quantity and product quality.</td>
<td>Economically secure and healthier society. More balanced roles and responsibilities of women and men resulting in lower gender discrimination.</td>
<td>Reducing the economic burden of men in their role as “sole provider”. More investment in children’s education and health.</td>
<td>Self-realization, more trust, improved social capital. Enhancing women’s skills. Women’s economic independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest demand: increasing spending power, stimulating domestic demand.</td>
<td>Strengthening the roles of women in under-represented areas of society, such as political representation and decision-making.</td>
<td>Improving the common understanding between men and women about roles and responsibilities.</td>
<td>Higher productivity and income through access to investment and training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More powerful market ecosystem by offering enterprises higher support, productivity and competitiveness.</td>
<td>Strengthening legal and supportive functions for market systems, improving governance and stability.</td>
<td>Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience, increasing social and health insurance coverage and pension benefits.</td>
<td>More formalized businesses and more equitable and equal access to business development support services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the main economic sectors in the Rrogozhinë municipality were initially assessed using the criteria of gender sensitivity analysis in value chains (GSVCA), among the most important of which we mention:

1) Is there a growing demand for the product?
2) Are women involved in the chain steps?
3) Do most of the chain steps happen in the municipality?
4) Are there any existing or recent initiatives to get involved in the value chain?
5) Are there development opportunities for the value chain?
6) Is there a connection between what women do and prospects for growth/diversification in the value chain?

The main sectors that have been identified during the research work in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë municipality are the following:
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Honey
- Tourism

Further, in cooperation with the Municipality and groups of interest, a detailed assessment was conducted based on six pre-defined basic criteria. After identifying the value chains or sub-chains, in the main sectors, discussions and suggestions led to the further presentation of problems, constraints, possible solutions, etc., which in a macro analysis are presented and summarized in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Tourism</th>
<th>Fruits and Vegetables</th>
<th>Honey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is there a link between what women do and prospects for growth/diversification in the value chain?</td>
<td>Business formalization will enable the formal employment of women in this sector. They are already involved in support services; however, the contractual relationship doesn’t exist, therefore, women are suffering from a lack of access to economic benefits of formal employment.</td>
<td>Women are involved in family businesses, and formal employment in this sector would be a good opportunity for them. Same as in the case of tourism.</td>
<td>Yes, the right connection, more opportunities to participate as active contributors to the VC. The formalisation is an important driver for women’s access to economic benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do women (or can they) acquire the skills needed to add value through product processing or diversification?</td>
<td>They are already involved in hospitality support services, so their role can be strengthened through trainings.</td>
<td>They can still acquire and improve their skills, especially skills related to the use of new technologies.</td>
<td>Women are involved in almost the same activities as men. The necessary skills exist, and there is a high willingness to learn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does this value chain offer new opportunities for women?</td>
<td>Yes, especially after performing some infrastructural interventions.</td>
<td>If steps are taken to modernize and increase interest in the sector, opportunities for women will also increase as well as make the working conditions much better for women involved.</td>
<td>If steps are taken to formalize and use modern technologies, opportunities for women will increase along with market growth as well as make the working conditions much better for women involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can this value chain improve living conditions for women/families?</td>
<td>Yes, if the employment rate in this sector will be high.</td>
<td>Yes, if the sector is formalized and the inclusion of women will</td>
<td>Currently, most beekeepers in the Municipality of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 27. Identified Value Chains

Currently, most beekeepers in the Municipality of
Table 10. Ranking and Selection of Value Chains, using the Gender Sensitivity criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Rrogozhinë are family enterprises.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is there an organization in the value chain committed to supporting/representing value chain actors so that they can develop further?</td>
<td>Alternative tourism, as well as small hotels, is considered a diversification strategy and would bring additional revenue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, there is no support towards the development of the Agricultural Products Processing Industry.</td>
<td>Yes, from the Local Association of Beekeepers Rrogozhinë and the National Association of Beekeepers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there opportunities to make changes with small investments?</td>
<td>Not much. What is missing in Rrogozhinë are the accommodation capacities of alternative tourism, the establishment of which requires investments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are opportunities through the provision of small grants to increase the number of hives and improve processing technology.</td>
<td>There are opportunities, especially if investments are made with a focus on storage and processing technology for the market.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As Tourism is a very large sector and requires large investments in terms of intensification, it was not considered for a more detailed analysis. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë we have conducted a more detailed analysis of the two sectors, Fruits and Vegetables and Honey.

4.1 FRUIT AND VEGETABLES VALUE CHAIN

The agricultural system in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, covers an area of 13,248 ha and extends to almost the entire municipality's surface, but with a dominance in the central plain and its western part. The development of agriculture, the creation and implementation of irrigation schemes, and the creation of access to the hills will increase the planting of fruit trees, olives and the creation of vineyards. These plantations, which have started to be implemented in uncultivated lands today, in pastures that are not used, etc., are gradually enabling a part of the Natural System to be transmitted to the Agricultural System. The Development Strategy of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë foresees that the agricultural system will be significantly improved through investments in the drainage irrigation system that aims to convert agricultural lands without irrigation systems into arable agricultural lands, significantly increasing the area of the latter. The development of support policies for farmers through incentives will enable the increase of the area with olives, orchards, and vineyards, enabling these territories to pass from agriculture to industry and services. The final goal of these interventions will be the introduction into the agricultural system of barren lands, shrublands, etc., as well as the creation of social educational and recreational services.

An added value in the territory is the potential of hilly areas, both western and eastern. These hills, in addition to the agro-agricultural potential, also have potentials from a landscape point of view, both for the values they carry and for the observation points they offer over the sea in the west, but also over Myzeqe plain and up to Mount Tomorr in the east.
Within this administrative territory, one of the most important branches of economic development is the agricultural sector. The basis of agricultural production in this municipality is the production of cereals, field crops such as beans and potatoes, field vegetables, fruit crops, honey, and livestock. Agricultural economic units of the territory of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë supply nearby markets such as Elbasan, Lushnjë, Kavajë and Durres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Unit</th>
<th>Sown Land</th>
<th>Field Crops</th>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Fodders</th>
<th>Fruits</th>
<th>Vineyards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rrogozhinë</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gose</td>
<td>3,306</td>
<td>1,760</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekaj</td>
<td>3,268</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sineballaj</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kryevidh</td>
<td>4,427</td>
<td>2,301</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>1,420</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bashkia</td>
<td>12,819</td>
<td>6,591</td>
<td>1,501</td>
<td>4,026</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11: Sown land in Ha and production structure in tons in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë

In the territory of the Municipality there is a perennial production of field vegetables, based on the tradition of the villagers for the production of tomatoes, peppers and especially carrots, where the administrative units Gosë and Kryevidh are prominent as specific and specialized producers.

The storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products remains a real challenge for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector in the territory of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë. Today, in the territory of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, there are two milk processing units, two fruit and vegetable processing units, and two wine cellars for the production of wine and olive oil. An interesting area which is considered to be developing is honey production.

### 4.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

According to the data of the cadastre office and the directorate of Agriculture in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the surface of the agricultural land is 12,819 Ha; during 2020, 9,863 ha were planted. In terms of agricultural crops, cereals, vegetables, potatoes and beans, viticulture, fodder, fruit trees, and nuts are cultivated. Here, the main weight is borne by fodder with over 40% of the surface area. 708 Ha or 7.2% of the area is planted with fruit trees, olives, and vineyards.
The following paragraphs present in detail the structure of agricultural crops of vegetables and fruits in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë.

The Municipality of Rrogozhinë offers favorable conditions for the development of intensive vegetable production, but still, in 2020, in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, 1,810 ha were planted. This area is always in these figures in recent years. Even the production of vegetable plants is always around the same figures and last year it was in the value of 41,143 tons. This vegetable production is mainly used for the needs of farming families and its surpluses go only to the regional market of this municipality and not elsewhere. Regarding the period of planting vegetable plants, in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, farmers plant more first vegetable crops and a small area of them is planted with second vegetable crops. Specifically, last year, 1,079 ha were planted, and a total production of 35,621 tons was realized.

The area of second vegetables in the district of Rrogozhinë, last year was only 353 ha, almost the same figure in recent years and a total production of 5,522 tons of second vegetables was realized.

**Fresh Vegetables.** In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the area cultivated with raw vegetables in 2020 was 1079 ha and a total production of 20,887 tons was realized. Among the main vegetables we can mention:

- **Tomato,** is the main plant preferred by the farmers with a large difference from other plants in terms of surface planted. Specifically, last year, were planted 221 ha, an area which is at the same values in recent years and a total production of 7,691 tons was realized. The average yield realized this year was 347.7 kv/ha.
- **Cucumber** is an important vegetable crop for the Municipality of Rrogozhinë. In 2020, a total of 53 ha were planted and the total production of 1269 tons was obtained, a production which is mostly constant from year to year. The average yield realized this year was 237.6 kv/ha.
- **Pepper** is the second crop in terms of area planted with fresh vegetables in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, which is almost at the same values as cucumber. In 2020, 109 ha of peppers were planted and a total production of 2,255 tons of peppers was realized. The average yield realized this year was 207.6 kv/ha.

**Dried Vegetables.** The Municipality of Rrogozhinë has relatively good conditions for planting and production of dried vegetables. In this district there is an established tradition for the production of dried vegetables. Specifically, the area planted with dried vegetables for last year was 198 ha, which has been almost at the same levels over the last few years, and a total production of 2,310 tons was realized.

The main crop among dried vegetables in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, as everywhere in our country, is dried onions. Last year, 153 ha were planted, and a total production of 2,029 tons of dried onions was realized with an average yield of 132.6 kv/ha, which is a normal yield, considering the conditions.

**Melons.** Melons are not very popular plants for farmers in this district. Last year, only 533 ha were planted with melon plants, an area that has remained almost at the same level for several years in a row, and a total production of 17,946 tons was realized.
Watermelon. There were planted 74 ha watermelons. The production realized last year was about 1,705 tons. Its yield is relatively good and in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, last year, a yield of 230 kv/ha of watermelon was achieved.

Greenhouses. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, there are very good conditions for the construction of greenhouses in terms of soil and agro-climatic conditions but also proximity to the main markets of the country. This has led many farmers or various investors to step in to invest in greenhouses.

Last year, in the district of Rrogozhinë, the area cultivated with vegetables in greenhouses was 9 ha, an area that has remained unchanged in recent years, and a total production of 359 tons was realized, which is at the same level compared in recent years.

Even in this Municipality, the surface of the greenhouses is planted with first vegetables as well as second vegetables. It should be noted that the farmers of Rrogozhinë prefer to plant the first crops and, specifically last year, 5 ha were planted with the first vegetable crops and 5 ha with the second vegetable crops. The production realized from the planting of greenhouses with first vegetables last year was 229 tons of vegetables, while with second vegetables the production has been lower and a total production of 129 tons was realized.

Potatoes. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the cultivation of potatoes, as everywhere in these surrounding areas, is well known. Last year, 165 ha of potatoes were planted in this district, which is almost the same area that has been planted in recent years, and a total production of 2,011 tons of potatoes was achieved. The average yield throughout the area was 116.1 kv/ha.

Beans. The cultivation of beans by the farmers of this district is an early tradition, as everywhere in our country. In the current conditions, they cultivate beans, first of all, to meet their family needs, but also for the market, as they provide a good part of the income for their families. Beans are planted everywhere in the district of Rrogozhinë, and last year, 758 ha were planted with beans and a total production of 1,408 tons of beans was realized. Production in this Municipality is optimal and the yield is 18.9 kv/ha.

Orchards. Fruit-growing, as anywhere in our country, is a permanent agricultural activity in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, carried out by farmers in this area, which is generally extensive and there are no blocks of fruit trees where to apply intensive technologies for their production. In this district there are quite good conditions for the cultivation of a wide range of fruit trees, especially arable plants. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, last year were counted 302 thousand fruit trees, of which only 268 thousand roots are fruit-bearing. There are 34 thousand trees in the process of growth, and this shows that the farmers are showing increased interest in planting fruit trees. Fruit production in Rrogozhinë is relatively satisfactory, and specifically, last year, a total production of 6,185 tons was realized, and a relatively low yield was realized with only 23.1 kg/tree.

Olives. Olive is one of the oldest crops in this area, especially in the hills of Rrogozhinë. In this area, the olive is used for oil production as well as for canning, mainly to meet the needs of farming families. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, there are a total of 173 thousand olive trees, of which only 86 thousand are fruit-bearing, which shows that planting of new trees by farmers in recent years has increased significantly. From these olives, last year, in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, was realized a total production of 1,320
tons in total. The yield of olives is relatively low and is likely to increase if farmers apply the technology links correctly. Last year, an average yield of 15.3 kg/tree was achieved.

**Vineyards.** The vineyards are another tradition of the farmers of this area and the processing of grapes in this area is quite old. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, to this day extend the largest massifs cultivated with vineyards, and the best grape processing factories in the country, which have very high technology. Currently, in this district, there is a total of 210 ha planted with vineyards, of which 180 ha are in production. Last year, a total production of 2,535 tons of grapes was realized, which generally goes for processing as the type of grape cultivated is not suitable for the table. The realized yield of the vineyard is in optimal values, and last year an average yield of 140.8 kv/ha was realized. In addition to the production of grapes from plots planted with vineyards, the production of grapes in this district is also realized through the use of pergolas. Pergolas in this Municipality count for a total of 44 thousand trees, of which 41 thousand are fruit-bearing, producing a total of 930 tons of grapes. The average yield per vine is estimated to be about 23 kg/tree.

**Citrus.** In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, citrus fruits have always been widespread. Climate change and the development of new varieties resistant to cold have made possible the expansion of the area of cultivation of these types of fruit trees in Rrogozhinë with complete success. Currently, in this district are planted about 23 thousand citrus trees. New plantings continue with intensity, especially in recent years, and this is shown by the number of citrus fruits that are fruit-bearing, which last year was at the level of 15 thousand trees in total. Last year the average yield realized by citrus in this district was only 28.1 kg/tree.

### 4.1.2 GENERAL ASSESSMENT BASED ON BASIC CRITERIA

The assessment of women’s empowerment and gender equality in the Craft chain based on expert analysis and groups of interest discussions and interviews with key actors is presented below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the participation of employed women in the value chain relatively high?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>In agriculture, women are more involved than men, even though they are not formally registered (by law).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there many female entrepreneurs in the value chain?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Women are involved in the processes, but the decision-makers and business owners are men. This is rather a matter of mentality based on tradition; men are considered the head of the family, who make decisions; they are landowners and represent the family in relations with third parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do women control/own equipment and assets?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>The need for technology is low, except for a tractor for tillage, which is controlled by men when owned by the farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do women (or can they) acquire the skills needed to add value through product processing or diversification?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Employees, especially women, need training in support services, as well as the implementation of new technologies. Also, increasing the range of products through reactivation of some products that are on the verge of extinction is a great potential in terms of adding value.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 12. Assessment of women's empowerment and gender equality in the value chain of Agricultural Products.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
<th>Total for Gender Potential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do women have control over sales and enterprise revenue?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can work be located near home?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this a value chain with small barriers to entry for poor entrepreneurs (small production scale, low initial cost, not requiring large capital investment, using low technology)?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this a value chain with low barriers to women's involvement (time and movement, access to technology and assets, cultural constraints)?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does this value chain offer new opportunities for women?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the activity in the value chain in line with living conditions (year-round income, use of domestic work, quick returns, keeping the environment intact)?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a connection between what women do and prospects for growth/diversification in the value chain?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there gender norms (for example, “women’s work”) that prevent women from taking full advantage of value chain opportunities?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total for gender potential: **69/102**
## 4.1.3 SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE VALUE CHAIN

### STRENGTHS

- The Municipality of Rrogozhinë enjoys an agricultural system with climatic, geological, and hydrological characteristics, which offer a high yield and a competitive advantage for the domestic and international market. Agricultural crops (crops, vegetables, fruit growing, olive growing, and viticulture), both in the plain and hilly areas, have a good market for sale and optimal profit.
- Population of the area: (organized farmers and individuals); have knowledge and experience in the production of agricultural crops.
- Suitable climatic-soil conditions for the development of the vegetable sector of the field (spring and winter).
- Tradition of farmers in intensive cultivation of field vegetables, fruit trees even in protected areas.
- The production structure of the agricultural farms of the region is profitable and with advantages for the cultivation of fruit trees, olives, viticulture, intensive plants.
- The proximity of the territory of the municipality within the national framework and from the point of view of the mass markets of Tiranë, Durrës and Elbasan.
- Engaging women throughout the process and raising awareness of her contribution considering it as a good opportunity to achieve individual goals;
- Willingness of women to participate in trainings and increase their skill levels, to build a market with ever-increasing demand.

### WEAKNESSES

- Informal operation in the market (unregistered businesses and unregistered workforce).
- There is a lack of an appropriate link between producers and the market.
- Poor system of irrigation schemes on agricultural lands, due to non-functioning of irrigation and drainage network. This reduces their effectiveness.
- Deficiencies in collection points compared to high productivity, even those existing individual points, not structured and with a wide range.
- Deficiencies in the mechanical equipment for processing, collection, and processing of agricultural product, as well as the lack of a complete chain of production, storage, processing, and trade.
- Lack of knowledge for marketing, selection, packaging and storage of fresh and non-fresh products of agricultural production, mainly seasonal vegetables.
- Lack of financial resources and consequently lack of proper investments in technology and mechanization;
- Lack of points of sale and promotions and inability to attract potential buyers;
- Lack of desire from the younger generation to dedicate themselves to these types of activities, adding the non-existence of a dedicated study program in vocational centers.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Climatic and geological advantages offer the possibility of specialization in products with higher productivity and product diversification.
- High productivity creates a favorable ecosystem for the development of light industry of processing of agricultural products, which provides a long-term

### THREATS

- Lack of investment in improving engineering and social infrastructure will increase the rate of migration of residents.
- Lack of consolidated sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies jeopardizes the optimal use of human, natural resources and unique values of the area.
- Lack of coordination of investments and
economic stability for producers.
- Specialization in certain fields of production, modern technological integration, and application of quality norms offer a more sustainable economic development opportunity.
- Good traditions of the region for the production and trade of agricultural products, such as beans, vegetables, fruits, grapes, etc.
- High growing domestic and foreign market demand for disposable products.
- Agrotourism development is a new opportunity for the promotion of local products, diversification of economic activity, monitoring of market demands and economic development.

strategies between neighboring municipalities jeopardizes the optimal development of the territory, as well as ownership issues jeopardize the implementation of development projects.
- Economy oriented only to the sector of agriculture and tourism, which are sectors sensitive to climate and natural risk.
- The high degree of informality hinders free and fair competition endangering the development of efficient entities. The persistence of the difference in the level of unemployment between the administrative units of the municipality deepens the social inequality in the territory.
- Technical and technological modernization risks significantly increasing the unemployment of the employed population in the agricultural sector.
- Lack of vocational secondary education in the agricultural and livestock formation of the active population reduces the level of knowledge, limits the distribution of new technologies and techniques and does not guarantee the preservation of the tradition of the area.
- Utilization of production in greenhouses needs permanent and controlled maintenance of the soil to reduce the risks of reduced productivity.

Table 13. SWOT Analysis of the Value Chain of Agricultural Products

4.2  HONEY (BEEKEEPING) VALUE CHAIN

4.2.1  DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

Beekeeping in Albania has already proven itself as a profitable business and of great interest not only to farmers but also to those who want to start a business in the rural sector. INSTAT data show that honey production in 2019 reached 4,116 tons with an increase of 4.5% compared to last year, while the number of hives increased by only 0.9%. The average production per hive of honey in 2019 marked 14.4 kilograms from 12.6 kilograms in 2018. In contrast, the production yield per hive increased by 14%. According to official data, a quarter of the amount of honey is produced in the Region of Vlora, then for the high quantities of production come the regions of Korça, Shkodra, Elbasan. Nationwide, honey production during the period 2008-2019 has increased by 56%.

In Albania, honey production capacities are still small; approximately 365 thousand hives are estimated in all of Albania, yields obtained are among the lowest in the region with approximately 10kg/hive. This is because a proper job has not been done with the bees. The farmers are not focused; most farmers who deal with beekeeping besides other agricultural activities, have less than 50 hives registered according to the 2011 Census and there is a small percentage that has more than 50 and there are practically no large
farms in Albania, the maximum is 400-500 hives. Beekeepers need to focus more on honey production, as there is demand and very little supply.

In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, there are almost 100 beekeeping farms that own almost 3,500 beehives in total. Honey production is about 40 tons of honey per year with an average yield of 5-6 kg of honey per hive per season (usually, there are 2 harvest seasons per year).

Most honey producers in the country are not registered as businesses, and thus, they lose the opportunity to sell their product in the domestic market. The same situation exists in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë. According to information received from this municipality, today there is practically no producer from Rrogozhinë who exports honey, due to lack of capacity, market information, certificates, etc. All producers in Rrogozhinë declare that they sell honey directly in the market or among their regular clients.

4.2.2 GENERAL ASSESSMENT BASED ON BASIC CRITERIA

The assessment of women’s empowerment and gender equality in the beekeeping/honey value chain based on expert analysis and stakeholder discussions and interviews with key actors is presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Point*</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the participation of employed women in the value chain relatively high?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>There are almost 30% of beekeeping farms managed by women in Rrogozhinë. Considering the total number of 100 beekeepers and the average employment of 1.5 to 2 women per beekeeping farm, there are up to 115-120 women involved in the beekeeping and honey production sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there many female entrepreneurs in the value chain?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship is still considered a men’s field due to cultural constraints and mentality. Nonetheless, in the field of beekeeping almost 30% of businesses are run by women. Also, when businesses are registered in the name of men (formal registrations are rare), the women are often employed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do women control/own equipment and assets?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Women are involved in many honey production processes, especially in processing activities, and they control the respective assets and equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do women (or can they) acquire the skills needed to add value through product processing or diversification?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>They have basic knowledge and skills, but they are willing to learn and develop their skills and participate in capacity development sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do women have control over sales and enterprise revenue?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>So far, marketing and sales have been the realm of men, considering their connections and network; however, income decisions are made by family negotiations and women express their opinions on the matter. Women also do the budget planning when it comes to supplies, input materials as well as family essentials such as food and children’s needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can work be located near home?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this a value chain with small barriers to entry for poor entrepreneurs?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this a value chain with low barriers to women's involvement?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does this value chain offer new opportunities for women?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the activity in the value chain in line with living conditions?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a connection between what women do and prospects for growth/diversification in the value chain?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there gender norms (for example, &quot;women's work&quot;) that prevent women from taking full advantage of value chain opportunities?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Starting a beekeeping business has low entry barriers. Start-up costs are relatively low (the price of a beehive is around 40 Euros (5000 ALL), and prices for processing equipment are affordable).

There are no specific restrictions that prevent women from entering the VC, but some barriers, as described above, are present.

Also, there are no time constraints, beekeeping care would require 2-3 hours a day, and cultural constraints are not apparent as women are already involved in various processes in the value chain.

Opportunities for women to be involved at the top of the value chain (marketing and sales).

This is considered a sector that generates income and profitable margins. From the possession of 10 hives, there is a monthly profit of 10,000 ALL, and during what is considered a year of normal production, there is an annual profit of 100,000 - 120,000 ALL. This amount exceeds the amount of financial assistance provided by state authorities.

Higher inclusion of women would improve the overall efficiency of the value chain.

| Total | 76/102 |

Table 14. Assessment of Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Honey Production Value Chain
### 4.2.3 SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE VALUE CHAIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRENGTHS</th>
<th>WEAKNESSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ The existence of 30 female beekeepers, as well as their willingness to expand their beekeeping activity;</td>
<td>▪ Lack of working materials and equipment necessary for production;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Willingness to cooperate and consider it as a good opportunity to achieve individual goals;</td>
<td>▪ Lack of financial resources and consequently lack of proper investment in technology and processing;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Willingness to participate in trainings and increase their skill levels;</td>
<td>▪ Existence of technical skills gap, to complete all processes and lack of manpower to operate in each of the separate processes;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Engaging women throughout the process and raising awareness of her contribution, especially in the promotion and sales steps;</td>
<td>▪ Poor extension services both in quantity and quality;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Existence of a long-term family tradition and transmission of skills from one generation to another.</td>
<td>▪ Lack of certification for quality standards;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Opportunities to create interrelated value chains (agritourism);</td>
<td>▪ Informal functioning in the market (businesses and unregistered workforce);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Market always in demand and growing.</td>
<td>▪ Poor vertical and horizontal cooperation creating many inefficiencies throughout the VC, as well as asymmetry of information related to market developments;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
<th>THREATS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Variety of flowers and natural resources;</td>
<td>▪ Lack of promotion and marketing strategies (regional brands).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Increasing availability of grant funds and direct subsidy schemes, although many businesses are not eligible due to a high level of informality</td>
<td>▪ Lack of incentive schemes and funding opportunities from relevant institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Increased donor focus in the Rrogozhinë Area</td>
<td>▪ Unfair competition (low-quality products on the market);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Participation in local fairs organized by relevant state institutions (municipality mainly) with opportunities to display and promote their products;</td>
<td>▪ Production depends on climatic conditions;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Acknowledging the potential and willingness to support the VC and empower the women involved to reach its full potential.</td>
<td>▪ Use of unsuitable and non-bee-friendly pesticides by agricultural producers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Pressure from national and international competition (lower-priced imports)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Bee’s poor health due to improper care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Fluctuating demands: Lack of a stable market and access to the desired market.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 15. SWOT Analysis of the Honey Value Chain
4.3 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis of the above two sectors, using the criteria of gender sensitivity analysis in value chains (GSVCA) we have the following evaluation situation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fruit and Vegetables</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Still poor organization of the community of collectors of agricultural products in the territory of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of processing industry is a growing obstacle to fruit and vegetable production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey (Beekeeping)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>The existence of a market with ever-increasing demand and long-term family traditions are the premises for a successful intervention in strengthening the role of women in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Opportunities to create interrelated value chains that enhance each other.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the initial roundtable research (including statistical information that strongly supports the assumption) supplemented with information obtained from municipal authorities, as well as from working group discussions and field actors, the Honey value chain has been identified as having the greatest potential to improve women’s livelihoods and lead to women’s economic empowerment.
5. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE HONEY (BEEKEEPING) VC

5.1 MAPPING OF THE HONEY VALUE CHAIN

The analysis of the situation and the development plans of the municipality suggest that the development of Beekeeping both in the city of Rrogozhinë and in some rural areas will increase employment.

The following figure presents a comprehensive outline of the Beekeeping Value Chain based on fieldwork and subsequent expert consultations. It identifies gaps or obstacles in the production flow. The numbers represent the portion of the effort for each phase as well as the costs.
Beekeeping Value Chain

- Suppliers of materials
- Financial institutions
- NGO and donors
- Beekeepers
- Veterinary pharmacies
- Climatic conditions
- Beekeepers
- Technology and equipment providers
- Beekeepers
- Infrastructure
- Technology
- Packaging suppliers
- Inspection and Certification bodies
- Buyers
- Packaging suppliers
- Inspection and Certification bodies

Inputs: 30%
- Winter season foods
- Hives, frames
- Protective cloth

Production: 25%
- Medications
- Frames
- Queen control (every 10 days)

Harvesting: 10%
- Beekeepers
- Fork, knife, etc.
- Harvesting equipment
- Smokers

Processing: 10%
- Drainer
- Centrifuges
- Honey plates
- Storage packaging

Packaging: 15%
- Cans
- Top ups
- Tags
- Card packaging

Trading: 10%
- Direct sales in the market
- Contract sales
- Transport

Problems:
- Lack of infrastructure
- Out of standard hives
- Lack of knowledge
- Financial limits
- Lack of medications
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of specialists
- Migration costs
- Lack of technology
- Lack of labor force/informality
- Lack of Equipment
- Hygiene certification
- Process automation
- Lack of labor force/informality
- NFA certification
- Municipality certification or Agriculture ministry
- Packaging quality
- Lack of market access
- Informal market
- Lack of infrastructure

Figure 29. Mapping of the Honey value chain in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë.
5.2 VALUE CHAIN ACTORS

It should be noted at the outset that as in any Value Chain, even in the Honey Production VC there are some key actors who indirectly influence the improvement of the chain. Given that these actors are present in almost every link, we are doing their analysis in the context of influencing the entire VC.

5.2.1 CENTRAL AND LOCAL SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Support services provide free technical assistance to farmers. This includes three levels: central, regional and local, which include a total of 285 employees nationwide (ISARD 2014-2020). At the regional level, each of the 12 Directorates of Agriculture has additional services provided by 5-6 vegetable, fruit, and plant protection specialists, livestock specialists and agricultural economists. At the local level, for more than 4 years, the municipalities have a functional duty to perform functions in the field of agriculture, rural development, forests, and public pastures, nature, and biodiversity. Municipalities are responsible for performing specific functions in this field according to applicable law. The municipalities and related directorates have also among their objectives to work with women and promote women entrepreneurship, including in the sectors of strategic importance.

Currently, in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the services for performing the functions are provided by the Forest Service and Agriculture Agency, which is mainly oriented towards the administration of the public forest and pasture fund of this municipality and does not have sufficient structures for the creation and administration of the local system, agricultural and rural information and counseling as well as the establishment and administration of local grant schemes for agriculture and rural development, funded by the local budget and/or co-financed by third parties, guaranteeing gender-balanced access. The information provided shows that there is no established structure for providing this service.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development can influence the functioning of VC actors through their strategies, policies and plans. Under the IPARD program (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development), the latter has several grants available to beekeepers as the program supports the honey value chain in production, processing, and marketing. Eligible investments include the reconstruction of facilities for the production and processing of honey and the purchase of specialized machinery and equipment for the production, processing, and treatment after honey harvesting. The intensity of support amounts to 65 percent of the investment, which ranges from 10,000 to 400,000 Euros. Informality and property issues are preventing Rrogozhinë beekeepers from benefiting from this type of investment.

Donors: this includes organizations, associations and entities that provide support to VC actors through the implementation of various initiatives, through the provision of grants and financial support, as well as other forms of assistance and support. The main organization that has provided support for this VC so far in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë has been the National Association of Beekeepers, which in some cases has also contributed with:
✓ Hives, hive tools, protective clothing, smokers and other equipment for the production of honey, and equipment for beekeeping;
✓ Castings and equipment for the extraction and storage of honey and bee products, and equipment related to production;
✓ Laboratory equipment;
✓ Equipment for the production and preparation of bee feed;
✓ Fences around the beekeeper/farm.

Agricultural Technology Transfer Centers (ATTC) have begun to play an active role in terms of technology transfer, aiming to improve competitiveness in the Albanian agricultural sector. There are five ATTCs in Albania, located in Korçë, Lushnje, Vlorë, Shkodër and Fushë-Krujë. ATTCs are involved in preparing and implementing several programs related to olive plantation schemes, irrigation and drainage, agricultural support schemes, food security, land consolidation, etc.

National Food Authority (NFA) is a government agency subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and is the competent authority with national management inspection functions in the field of consumer safety and protection, plant and animal protection. NFA performs interventions based on Law no. 10 433, dated 16.6.2011 on "Inspection in the Republic of Albania", article 7 "Principles of inspection program". The time of inspection is determined in the annual inspection program; however, random inspections occur in cases when provided by law. Article 4, in the same law, gives the purpose of the inspection, namely: (i) assessment of compliance with legal requirements; (ii) documenting good practices in complying with legal requirements; (iii) advising the inspected entity on the correct implementation of legal requirements; (iv) ordering the correction of violations of legal requirements and the elimination of the consequences arising therefrom; and (v) sentencing and taking other administrative measures to avoid risks that may be posed to the public interest.

Based on Article 26, "Annual inspection time", the maximum allowed inspection period varies from 5 to 15 days and there is no inspection fee. The inspected business/farm must provide the necessary evidence and information required by the inspection authority. Inspections usually follow a predetermined schedule based on the Annual Inspection Schedule, but there may be occasional inspections. The nearest inspector is the Regional Office of the National Food Authority, the NFA office in Tiranë.

5.2.2 CERTIFICATION STRUCTURES

Regarding Certification Institutions, the basic standards are HACCP (Standard of Risk Analysis and Critical Control Point) and ‘Organic’ Certification. HACCP is mandatory by law in Albania for any farmer, business, or other entity that produces food products. ‘Organic’ certification is being sought by markets in urban areas and adds value to the product.

The average time for HACCP certification is 14-30 days, and its process includes the following steps:
Field visit by a consulting company specializing in certification standards which provides recommendations for improvements and adaptations;

- Preparation of necessary documentation;
- Establishment of a system of keeping records and data;
- Inspection by the certification body;
- Issuance of certification.

Figure 30. Steps for HACCP Certification

While ‘Organic’ certification is a more complex standard that can take 2-3 years to obtain. During this period, businesses receive “Organic certification process” statement until the final certificate is issued. The main certification body for the Organic Standard is AlbInspekt, based in Tiranë. There are several certification bodies for HACCP certification. HACCP and Organic are provided by private companies and NGOs, while the phytosanitary certificate, which is required for export, is issued by the national phytosanitary service, part of the Regional Directorate of Agriculture, Tiranë.

5.2.3 PRIVATE SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Raw material and technology suppliers play an important role in the Beekeeping value chain. This includes all individuals, businesses, companies or entities that offer products as well as equipment for value chain actors, which will be used and processed to produce the desired products.

They assist beekeepers in treating bees. Normally, these suppliers also provide the necessary technology for the mechanization of various processes, both those of harvesting and those of honey production and packaging. Due to the development and fragmentation of this sector, the small number of hives and consequently the relatively small quantities of honey produced, the mechanization is almost non-existent throughout the VC of its production in Rrogozhinë. These suppliers also offer, in special cases, the group of bees used for their breeding.

Veterinarians and Veterinary Pharmacies. The existence of several veterinary specialists, zootechnicians and ing.technologists plays a very important role in advising and preventing bee diseases. As well as by providing their advice, they support beekeepers to create truly successful models. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, there are a total of 3 entities that have a
greater role in the value chain advising beekeepers on best practices and inputs and appropriate medicines to use. Increasing the capacity of pharmacists can have a positive long-term effect on improving the exchange of information across the value chain.

**Clients/Consumers** are mostly locals, small families, or individuals who consume honey for their family and buy mainly for friends and their inner circle of connections. Honey consumption in Albania is considered low, with only 0.8-0.9 kg per capita per year, while regional consumption is higher (up to 2-3 kg per capita per year). Sometimes customers live in other cities of Albania, but they order honey from the producers of Rrogozhinë, taking into account the relationship of trust established with the producer. Due to the low production, it rarely happens that the producers of Rrogozhinë sell it to the collecting entities.

**Local Partnership/Cooperation**: Beekeeping associations at national, regional and municipal levels. There is a general understanding that the honey value chain in Rrogozhinë has developed albeit informally. Many of the largest honey producers have an established customer base. Honey producers in Rrogozhinë are ready to join groups of trusted neighbors/colleagues into associations or cooperatives (or nuclei). Producers lack basic beekeeping activities as well as marketing skills. Producers are very interested in lobbying for the Beekeeping Law in order to provide subsidies and regulate bee treatment, pesticide use, quality, and safety issues. Business advisory organizations can work together to assist with certification, formalization, and access to finance.

### 5.3 ANALYSIS OF THE VALUE CHAIN STAGES

It should be borne in mind that Rrogozhinë Beekeepers have a relatively narrow range of products, including by-products such as bee milk, wax, etc., which from the point of view of care and work required for their realization are relatively the same.

As shown in the diagram above in Figure 30, the Value Chain (VC) for Beekeeping is composed of six main links. The following paragraphs analyze these elements based on:

- The main inputs needed in each link.
- Influencing factors and their weight.
- The role of women in each link and the factors or opportunities for improving this role.
- Problems identified, and opportunities and recommendations for their minimization.

Based on the fieldwork, observations and interviews conducted with the main actors of the value chain in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the respective situations were identified and conclusions, and recommendations were identified.

#### 5.3.1 INPUTS

Activities that take place. This chain link includes activities related to the main elements to enable the development of activity in the Beekeeping VC and summarizes:
✓ Providing Hives, normally a good part of beekeepers have a small or medium number of the inherited swarm; however, they need to renovate the hives from time to time. They can get small new quantities to improve the growing conditions of bees and they try to increase the number of hives every year through the processes of dividing the hives.

✓ Bee population, normally most of the beekeepers of Rrogozhinë, as everywhere in Albania, ensure the continuity of bees from their own population, but sometimes they are forced to take from other producers.

✓ Food Provision for the Winter Season. Mostly, during the winter season, in the absence of natural pastures, beekeepers use ready-made food for bees, most of which they buy in the market.

✓ Hives, Frames, etc. They are also obliged to renew the hives indoors every year, using mainly new hives and frames. This renewal process ranges from 30-40 of their renewal each year.

✓ Protective Clothing. Finally, they also need protective clothing during all work processes, such as masks, gloves, etc., which are practically consumables and require their renewal periodically.

✓ Transportation, storage of materials, finally everything taken on the market must be transported and stored until their use.

In this link, it should be noted that the materials are in most cases taken at points of sale in the city of Rrogozhinë and therefore do not carry high transport costs.

Women's Participation. This activity, in most cases, is dominated by men who make up 70% of the total workforce. Men are mostly the ones who go out to the markets and also carry out the transportation of inputs. In some cases, women accompany men chiefly to ensure the quality of products taken in the market, mainly in businesses run by women.

Cost of this link. This stage in the total cost, since most of the inputs are with several years of use does not significantly affect the cost of the product. It accounts for about 10% of the cost of Honey production, not taking into account the full cost of winter-consuming foods, which are mostly provided by beekeepers through the processing of hives or leaving a portion of the unharvested honey behind.

5.3.2 PRODUCTION

Activities that take place. In this link are realized all the activities related to the growth of bees and the production of honey. Almost all daily activities are carried out in this chain link. The main activities in this process are:

✓ Food. Bees generally graze around the area where the hives are located. During the winter when there are no flowers, beekeepers periodically feed the bees.

✓ Veterinary Controls and Medications. Periodically, beekeepers perform general veterinary checks, as well as give bees medications to prevent any disease.

✓ Queen Control. This is a very important activity especially in the period February-June, which is related to the situation in each hive and directly to its honey production. This check should be done every 10 days.

Women's Participation. In this part of the process, the participation of women is almost equal to that of men. Men perform these activities mainly when they have moved the hives to
pastures away from home or the places where they usually keep them. In the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, the pastures are generally near the houses, and in these cases, the activities of this link are carried out by women. Women in this chain link make up 60% of the workforce used in this chain.

Cost of this link. Due to the effect of the cost of medicines and dry food on the total cost, this process affects about **40% of the production cost** of Honey.

5.3.3 HARVEST

Activities that take place. In this link are realized all the activities related to the process of extracting honey from the hives. As a process, this is normally done twice a year, but sometimes there may be a third time, mainly depending on climatic conditions when there was not a very hot summer. Necessary work includes activities related to:

✓ **Extracting frames from hives.** This is a process that is done entirely by hand. At this stage of the process, women's work is slightly dominant. As during the production process, men are only involved when the hives are located too far from home.

✓ **Extracting honey from jars and frames.** This, too, is a process that is done entirely by hand. At this stage of the process, women's work totally dominates. This process takes place in or near the home so that involving women is simpler.

✓ **Separation of other by-products from honey.** It should be noted that in this link of the chain is made the initial separation of other by-products, such as bee milk, wax, etc., which pass to further processing processes.

The product obtained in this chain link is already ready to be processed.

Women's Participation. The processing is dominated and executed mainly by women, who make up 90% of the involvement, but there are also cases when men also help the process.

Cost of this link. Based on the fact that the process takes place in a few days of the year, there are only ancillary equipment which do not have a large consumption; as well as due to the dominance of manual labor, the cost of this link is not significant in the final output, taking into account the low cost of labor. The cost in this chain link is estimated at about **10% of the production cost**.

5.3.4 PROCESSING

Activities that take place. This link is related to the necessary work for the processing of honey and for the benefit of its other associated products. Generally, the work for honey processing in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë is done on a family basis. Since the production is still done in a traditional way, it is the premises of the house that are used for its production. It should be noted that the conditions in which honey is processed are not the best possible because the materials, the packaging they store and process honey in, are often not the appropriate ones. Today, there is a lack of quality control by the relevant authorities, which significantly reduces the selling price of products.
Women’s Participation. This process is dominated by women’s work to the extent of 95%, but sometimes men also help them. In order to increase production in the absence of any simple mechanism of the process, it necessarily requires an increase in the workforce. This is an opportunity to increase the integration of women in this VC. It is necessary to intervene with working tools to ensure the minimum necessary standards in order not to contaminate production and maintain the quality that would consequently lead to increased revenue.

Cost of this link. Activities in this chain are periodic according to the time of honey harvest. But based on the fact that there is a lack of suitable conditions for honey storage and a complete lack of use of equipment, the work in this period is very intensive and requires large resources. So from a cost point of view it should have a significant weight, but based on the very low levels of payments even being realized for the family, the process affects about 15% of production cost of Honey and its by-products, including also the renovation of the equipment used.

5.3.5 PACKAGING

Activities that take place. This chain link is included in the process of packaging honey and its by-products. We have broken it down during our analysis to differentiate interventions in chain improvement. The conditions in which the honey is stored do not enable the adherence to the maximum quality as for its preservation often plastic cans are used and they are placed in the corners of fresh rooms but not in dedicated environments, which often leads to loss of quantities produced due to contamination. Also, when the product is marketed, the containers or packaging used are not often the appropriate ones. In terms of labeling (creating a product brand), this is never done, so even for the lack of marketing only, the chances of selling at a reasonable price decrease. Also, at this stage of the process, there are no production certifications that are being obtained.

Women’s Participation. Being a concluding process of production and carried out at home, this process is also dominated by the work of women to the extent of 95%, but men also help them, especially during transportation from the production environment to storage. It is necessary to intervene with simple tools which would provide a standard packaging that ensures the minimum necessary standards in order not to contaminate production and maintain quality that would consequently lead to increased revenue.

Cost of this link. In terms of cost, since there are no dedicated storage facilities, which would slightly increase the cost of production, the only affecting element is the work of people for packaging (the cost of the containers which the honey is sold in). This process, calculating the losses that come due to poor storage conditions, affects about 15% of the production cost of Honey in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë.

5.3.6 TRADING, PROMOTING AND SELLING

Activities that take place. There are generally two ways to trade honey: a) Contract sales, or b) Direct market sales. Due to the small quantities produced, honey producers sell almost all the quantities to end customers. This link in the chain includes activities related to:
✓ **Production contracting.** Currently, the practice of contracts, as everywhere in the agricultural sector in Albania, even for honey products in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë, does not exist. Formalizing agreements and employments contracts of workforce involved thereof would be the step in the right direction both in terms of access to economic benefits and betterment of working conditions.

✓ **Transportation of the product to the market.** Generally, this process is performed by the men who are responsible for the transport activities throughout the VC.

✓ **The process of selling in the market.** Even in this activity, the participation of men is almost exclusive, but women take an active part in the sales process in the market during the absence of men. In farm products sales women are often the ones selling the product, as well as any other family member available.

✓ **Promotion,** this process includes the display of products in the dedicated space and offline or online promotion on social media, as well as the process of selling products to customers and the impact on buyers.

**Women’s Participation.** These activities, also due to the mentality effect, in most cases are dominated by men who make up about 60% of the total workforce. Practically, the women who own and administer the honey production, which in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë make up 30% of the beekeepers, realize this link of the chain themselves.

Cost of this link. In terms of cost, this link makes up about 10% of the cost of the whole chain.

### 5.4 OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN THE VC

Based on the fieldwork, observations, and interviews conducted with key value chain actors, as well as interviews conducted with other actors the following data were identified.

#### 5.4.1 OPPORTUNITIES

Regarding the Opportunities that the honey production and processing value chain should offer, the interviewees described the following:

**Revenue generation and a good profit margin from this value chain.** If we take into account that for example, a producer who owns 10 hives, will have a monthly profit of 10,000 ALL in what is considered a normal year of production, he/she will generate almost 100,000-120,000 ALL/year, which is higher than the economic assistance provided to individuals. So being engaged in this type of business allows you to generate profit and hire people in the area. People would have more opportunities and would be
inclined to stay in the country. Some of the farmers are in dire economic situation, so improving family income and formalizing the business will affect the whole family unit.

Increased market demand will lead to an increase in supply (honey production), which in turn will lead to a decrease in honey imports from other countries, thus emphasizing the quality and benefits of honey produced in country, and honey can reach higher prices in the market.

**Involvement of women in the process.** This is considered a benefit because it leads to improved sharing of household burdens between men and women, contributes to improving and enhancing the well-being and empowering women.

**Links to local tourism.** Gaining and involving potential customers in the production process, and allowing them to participate in various processing activities would contribute to the establishment of a trusted relationship between the producer and the customer and would also serve as a connecting point with Local trips in the area. As stated by one of the interviewees, the fact that he has visited and participated in the production processes himself assures him of the quality of the product.

**Natural resources and contribution to biodiversity.** Bees play a key role in the cultivation of wild crops and herbs. 85 percent of cultivation occurs in crops. Bees are the main factor in biodiversity. The area possesses a great variety and variety of flowers, chestnuts, clean environment, offering opportunities for quality and highly curative honey.

**Existence of guaranteed market.** The Honey Market, due to the specificity of small, natural production, is one of the safest markets, compared to all other agricultural and livestock products. This market is consolidated and its demands have been growing. The market has the ability to attract any kind of quantity without any restrictions. Also, the growth and strengthening of Tourism services has created a significant market for the honey product and its byproducts. All Tourism actors, who were contacted, stated that, due to the lack of this product, as well as the non-standard way of packaging, they are forced to buy imported honey instead.

Cooperation between actors: despite the current lack of cooperation between actors, opportunities for them may arise in the case of cooperation not only for the implementation of fair competition rules but also in terms of cooperation at various stages in the VC, in order to increase their opportunities as a group. Opportunities for cooperation were identified in the first, fourth, and fifth phases of the VC. So far, each business has operated individually, and each actor identifies and tracks its possibilities of both supply and processing and packaging. Cooperation between actors would mean taking control of the process and making decisions about the possibility of improvement both in terms of negotiating better prices and obtaining higher quality products, as well as investing in simple production machinery, and packaging. Thus, it would also serve as a good opportunity for actors to take advantage of initiatives, projects, and grants provided by various donors and organizations, especially if this cooperation would see participation and leadership of women beekeepers. Another collaboration opportunity identified by interviews with stakeholders is the creation of dedicated promotional and sales points: The municipality can offer a point of sale at a
symbolic rental value in the center of the town of Rrogozhinë. It also contributes to the realization of frequent fairs for agricultural and livestock products.

5.4.2 CONSTRAINTS

Regarding the **Constraints** faced by the honey value chain, they can be summarized as follows:

![Constraints in the Honey Production Value Chain](image)

**Formalization.** Most businesses operating in this sector are not officially registered. They are registered as farmers, having no specific field of operation. Most workers are not officially registered and employed in accordance with Albanian law, and therefore cannot benefit from subsidy schemes or other benefits.

**Lack of standards, certifications, and relevant legislation.** First, there is no hygiene and quality certification by the relevant authorities for the honey produced; therefore, the product can only be sold at the farm gate and cannot enter the desired markets. According to the interviewees, farmers (producers) are not aware of the standards and quality assurance processes. They do not know that the use of glass jars is more of a qualitative concern than a preference as their main consumers (customers) are small families (using reused plastic bottles) and also immigrants (who are afraid of damaging the glass during transport). Also, one of the manufacturers stressed the lack of money needed to improve the quality of their product, but the willingness to improve and expand the business exists.

Moreover, the lack of standards creates a group of producers who offer the inferior product for less (abuse of the process by feeding too many bees, using bad medicines, mixing different types of honey, etc.). Cooperation of manufacturers using a single brand and group
certifications for their product would force manufacturers to adhere to unified standards and rules.

Second, the food and packaging standards needed to enter wider markets are not met. Often the packaging process is done manually.

Finally, Albania is the only country in the region and the world that does not have a specific law on beekeeping. Beekeeping is mentioned in separate sections in the "Law on Food", "Law on Livestock", "Law on Veterinary Services".

**Lack of support from state authorities & lack of proper promotion strategies.** There is low subsidy from relevant institutions (ARDA/ARDA - Agency for Agriculture and Rural Development). The subsidy is inconsistent (being in different amounts from year to year), and there is no limit to the number of hives to which it applies. For Kosovo, this is 15Eur/bee (No. limit of 30 hives). There are 364,000 bees on 11,700 farms in Albania, with an average of 30-32 bees/farm. Farmers do not benefit from subsidy policies.

**Lack of working materials and equipment and their existing condition.** This limitation was indicated by all interviewees and the producers themselves. Providing opportunities for the use of simple equipment in both the processing and packaging process would be a key element in increasing the quality of the product and facilitating women’s work in this office. It should be noted that treatment and packaging as soon as possible after harvest eliminates sources of contamination, which often result in significant production losses.

**Improper use of pesticides.** Use of unsuitable and uncertified (not bee-friendly) pesticides. In Europe, producers use pesticides that do not harm bees and fish, while in Kosovo, there is a law that obliges farmers to notify local producers in advance in case of pesticide spraying so that they can take precautions and keep the bees in hives. The same does not apply to Albania. The general quality of inputs (especially of medicines used in health treatment) is poor, and sometimes, individuals who are engaged in bringing new bees to the Municipality of Rrogozhinë do not have veterinary certification.

**Environmental Damage.** Damage to the environment of bees and deterioration of its habitat by burning wood and pastures. There is a 35 percent damage caused to bees by this phenomenon, close to the European norm, while in the US, this rate is 37-41 percent, given that their rating system is more accurate. Also, climatic events directly affect the production process. If there are unfavorable weather conditions, bees use honey as a food source, as they can not produce more.

Regarding gender equality issues and the inclusion of women in the value chain, almost all respondents (key actors and other actors) mentioned the contribution of women and their involvement in almost all production processes, emphasizing beekeeping activities, harvesting, processing, and packaging, while men play a role in providing inputs, treating bee health and transport activities on sale. Women are considered to be job managers and often perform activities that men do not have time to perform or that they cannot perform due to external migration to neighboring countries.
Over the years, although many capacity-building exercises have been carried out, women have managed to acquire only basic disabilities of business management (e.g., formalization efforts should go hand in hand with improving accounting skills), and business management. However, skill gaps still exist and are significant, especially in areas such as bee health, harvesting, marketing, business, pricing, product differentiation, processing quality standards, and specialized courses such as queen growth, bee pathology, foundation of combs, honey analysis. They are willing to participate in various trainings and seminars to improve their skills. According to interviews conducted with active participants of the Beekeeping Associations, the role of women would be strengthened in the long run if there was a **Regional Association of Women Beekeepers**. The empowerment of women and the goal of creating an association would have a social impact on the quality of life of women. They would interact with each other, exchange experiences and knowledge, and be encouraged to stay and not leave the country (as seen in last year’s trend). Given the low emancipation, a higher involvement of women in the process means changing the area’s more traditional patriarchal mentality. Moreover, during the interviews, it became clear that beekeepers had limited knowledge of key business and marketing concepts that would improve their capacity to improve production processes and productivity but would also empower them within families and their communities, subtly altering gender-based power balances.

In terms of **Financing Opportunities**, producers depend on the income generated from the honey trade (retained earnings) and do not prefer to enter the loan process. Many of them have ongoing problems with ownership; smaller farms do not require working capital, while bank loans usually aim to expand activities to reach commercial levels. Other issues include:

1. **Lack of collateral**: sometimes it’s easier for men to access finance, compared to women, but they also face difficulties as they do not have the necessary collateral. In addition, women are not (officially) employed in business; they are only involved in it. In doing so, they do not pay social security and are not entitled to loans.

2. **High interest rates**: There are very high credit rates (3-20 percent), and if producers (farmers) decide to borrow, they are rarely able to repay it. The only sources they have are the revenues generated by the business itself.

3. **Informality**: In Albania, not all producers are registered as businesses and do not benefit from reimbursement policies (In Macedonia, for example, there is a 1Eur/kg VAT refund for honey businesses).

Furthermore, manufacturers do not possess all the sources of information and knowledge regarding access to funds. Women often have decision-making authority in the family regarding financial matters, but only after joint consultation with other family members.

Regarding **support functions and areas of intervention**, it is worth noting that honey producers receive very little support from state authorities or other institutions. All respondents stressed the need for government subsidies in the sector and addressing specific problems if institutions cooperate. As stated by the interviewees, the institutions often lack the necessary capacity to write projects and provide information on them. Among the main issues mentioned are:
✓ Insufficient expansion service in terms of quantity and quality;
✓ Banks and other financial institutions (FI) that are not present in the area due to high informality;
✓ Small focus from the municipality, although it is an agriculture-based area, there is no development strategy for agriculture;
✓ Input suppliers are more traders than specialists in the field;
✓ Lack of capacity building providers in areas (except World Vision);
✓ No business development services (BDS) providers in the area.

Other key areas that need institutional support and intervention are:

1. **Provision of subsidy schemes:** State institutions (mainly ARDA - Albanian Agency for Rural Development and Agriculture) have the power to increase subsidy schemes, reduce the number of bee ceilings that a farmer must submit to benefit from the subsidy (from 50 at 30).

2. **Product certification and advancement in technology:** Investing in technology and switching from manual to automated technology, especially during the evaluation and quality control activity, stamping, and labeling activity, will increase the value of the product and will enable him to enter the national or international market. Also, one of the interviewees mentioned that almost 70 percent of the people who have bees are not professional beekeepers (so they need training courses).

3. **Marketing and promotion:** There is little to no marketing and promotion of the product by the authorities. Most of the sales process is based simply on the producer's network, family and relatives, friends, and close circle (farm gate sales). Failing to meet the required food standards and certification, the product may not enter the wider market and be properly promoted. Cooperation between manufacturers to create a single brand and increase the role of the association is essential in this step. The opportunities offered, to name a few, would be: establishing market links between producers themselves and between producers and the market; providing training and knowledge courses, thus increasing the skills of people involved in VCs; establishing communication bridges between producers and relevant institutions (inter-municipal exchange, for example); creating opportunities for honey tourism, etc. Having consolidators take a more active role in proving backward chain support (e.g., quality testing) would improve the overall situation and increase opportunities alongside the entire VC.
6. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERVENTION

The following sections present some general recommendations about the Honey Production Value Chain for the Municipality of Rrogozhinë:

- **Provide** capacity building activities for women involved in beekeeping
  - ✓ Treatment of beehives;
  - ✓ Bee feeding;
  - ✓ Learn about location needs at different times of the year;
  - ✓ Operation and maintenance of machinery;
  - ✓ Food safety and quality certificates;
  - ✓ Packaging, labeling, post-harvest handling;
  - ✓ Product differentiation;
  - ✓ Access to markets and understanding buyer requirements;
  - ✓ Basic accounting skills;

- **Promote Women-Friendly Technologies-Clustering** and provide small grants for honey processing facilities and equipment. It is also very important to support the increase in the number of hives. Beekeeping farms are ready to expand their activity by increasing the number of hives but do not have the necessary funds. This is important considering even under the detected supply of honey.

- **Increase** the capacity of input suppliers to better serve the honey sector (appropriate medicines and inputs, time of their application, etc.). Input suppliers can be important drivers of market development solutions in the honey value chain, given their direct benefits.

- **Improving** horizontal cooperation in the value chain by supporting the establishment of associations or groups of women in honey production.

- **Support** for beekeepers in obtaining HACCP certification, which is the most basic standard in beekeeping, is also required by law in Albania. Support group certification (3-4 beekeeping farms) to obtain Organic certification.

- **Encourage** the Municipality of Rrogozhinë to establish an agriculture department and prepare a development strategy for the honey production value chain (given its economic importance in the region and the high level of female involvement).

- **Encourage and support** beekeepers in the formalization process. Formalization would bring subsidies to the region.

- Supporting activities to link beekeeping farms to urban markets - with representatives from the tourism sector, supermarkets, and traditional organic shops may be an option.

- **Promotion** of contract agriculture in the honey value chain. This will increase market access by creating a stable and secure income. Under contract agriculture, buyers provide technical assistance and advances to producers to purchase high-quality products on their advice in many cases. From this point of view, buyers can be considered potential drivers of market development solutions.

- **Supporting efforts** to produce cheap packaging materials and hives in the country can reduce production costs and increase the competitiveness of beekeeping farms.
- **Support** for the promotion of interrelated value chains. Rural tourism development opens a new market window for honey producers.

- **Support** the establishment of a center for the collection and distribution of honey (long-term impact, medium and large budget).

- **Lobbying** for the drafting of the Law on Beekeeping that regulates the cultivation, protection, selection, and reproduction of bees, including administrative and legal issues for natural and/or legal persons in the beekeeping sector.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HONEY VALUE CHAIN

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<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
<th>IMPACT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
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<td>Short-term</td>
<td>Medium-term</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF BEEKEEPERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Business management training for women involved in beekeeping:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Drafting the development plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Basic accounting skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Designing technology that will need to be heard throughout the beekeeping process</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Follow-up and advice on beekeeping processes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Consulting for post-harvest items</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>Trainings for raising the level of knowledge about beekeeping:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Treatment of beehives;</td>
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<td>✓ Feeding beehives;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Movement of beehives;</td>
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<td>✓ Packaging, labeling,</td>
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<td>✓ For post-harvest treatment elements</td>
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<td>✓ On the importance of the final hygiene of the product and how it is practically realized</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>Capacity building trainings for Women:</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓ Product differentiation;</td>
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<td>✓ Access to markets and understanding buyer requirements;</td>
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<td>✓ In the process of negotiating with others</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Capacity building trainings for Input Suppliers to better serve the honey sector (proper medicines and inputs, time of their application, etc.). Input suppliers can be important drivers of market development solutions in the honey value chain, given their</td>
<td>✓</td>
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direct benefits.

Promote an idea of women clusters (nuclei or associations) to do peer exchange, support, get access to cheaper materials for buying large quantities.

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<tr>
<th>2.1</th>
<th>Information and awareness sessions on IPARD funding schemes and other national schemes</th>
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<tr>
<th>2.2</th>
<th>Capacity building to better assist honey producers in receiving subsidies from national schemes and exchanging information on IPARD grant schemes.</th>
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<tr>
<th>2.3</th>
<th>Capacity building for honey producers in receiving subsidies:</th>
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- ✓ Small Grants for the Promotion of Women-Friendship Techniques
- ✓ Small grants for honey processing facilities and equipment
- ✓ Support in increasing the number of hives

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<th>2.4</th>
<th>Supporting efforts for local production of hives and packaging materials can reduce production costs and increase the competitiveness of beekeeping farms.</th>
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<tr>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>Awareness sessions on alternative opportunities related to honey value chain – queen rearing, selling packages of bees, making cosmetic products from honey byproducts, etc.</th>
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### Q U A L I T Y A N D S A F E T Y S T A N D A R D S C E R T I F I C A T I O N |

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<tr>
<th>3.1</th>
<th>Awareness session on the importance of certification in reaching high-value markets and the steps needed to be certified.</th>
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<tr>
<th>3.2</th>
<th>Manufacturer support in certification with HACCP and Organic, as the most basic requirements from customers.</th>
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<tr>
<th>3.3</th>
<th>Support beekeepers in obtaining organic certification, which is very important to add value to the product and build customer trust.</th>
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<tr>
<th>3.4</th>
<th>The advantage of Organic certification in terms of costs is based on the fact that group certification is possible. (LONG-TERM requires 2-3 years to update every link of the VC to meet organic requirements).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
4   TRADE AND PROMOTION

4.1 Support initiatives to promote related value chains. Tourism development opens a new market window for honey producers. X X

Establish B2B linkages with larger consolidators. This would formalize the market, promote adherence to uniform standards and create a stable and secure income for farmers involved. This needs to be implemented having environmental stability in mind, good beekeeping practices. X X

4.2 Organizing a honey festival/fair in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë by inviting representatives of traditional organic supermarkets and shops to establish links in the value chain. X X

5   SECTOR FORMALIZATION

5.1 Intensification and support of beekeepers in the formalization process. X X

Encourage the Municipality of Rrogozhinë to establish an agriculture department and prepare a development strategy for the honey production value chain (given its economic importance in the region and the high level of female involvement). X X

Table 16. Recommendations for the Honey Value Chain.
7. REFERENCES

- “General Local Plan of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë (GLP) - Territorial Development Plan (TDP)”. Approved by the Decision of the National Territorial Council No. 7, Date 16.10.2017.
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- Information from the official website of the Municipality of Rrogozhinë: http://www.bashkiaRrogozhinë.gov.al/
- Data from the Institute of Statistics in Albania, especially the Annual Agricultural Statistical Report, 2021.
Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis (GSVCA)
in the Municipality of Rrogozhinë

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Tel: +355 4 450 2555/7575
Website: albania.unwomen.org/en
Facebook: unwomenalbania