



UNCT Meeting

FINAL

26 January 2016, 3rd Floor Conference Room – UN House

Participants:

1. Sezin Sinanoglu, UN RC
2. Zahira Virani, UNDP
3. Sinisa Sesum, UNESCO
4. Doina Bologa, UNFPA
5. Andrew Mayne, UNHCR
6. Anna Riatti, UNICEF
7. Ayman Abulaban, UNICEF
8. Anne-Marie Esper-Larsen, UN Women
9. Lejla Tanovic, ILO
10. Victor Olsavszky, WHO
11. Amina Omicevic, UNEP
12. Radmila Radovic-Urosevic, IOM
13. Alen Gagula, UNODC
14. Michael Fowler, UNODC
15. Vlado Pijunovic, FAO
16. Sonja Jakic, UNDSS
17. Zelimir Mijic, UNV
18. Aris Seferovic, RCO
19. Envesa Hodzic-Kovac, RCO
20. Ajla Memisevic, RCO
21. Dalila Sadinlija, RCO

The thematic meeting was organized with regards to the UNCT reporting obligations to DOCO for 2015 and the upcoming first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee. Aim was to jointly review the three consolidated and shared reporting documents: Results table for 2015, Work Plan for 2016 and the RC's letter to the SG. The documents are to be uploaded into DOCO's Information and Management System before the deadline of 31st January.

The RC opened the first meeting in 2016 by welcoming and presenting the two newly appointed colleagues: **Mr. Victor Olsavszky, Head of WHO Country Office**, and **Mr. Michael Fowler, UNODC** Adviser dealing with money laundering and terrorism financing. The UNCT briefly discussed the latest political developments in the country, namely the high-level arrest of the SBB party leader which might destabilize the SDA-SBB coalition and is creating a political turmoil at the same time when the country is expected to submit the EU membership application (scheduled for 15th February). While it's early to foresee the potential implications for the state-level government functioning, the timing of the arrest came as unexpected, and the UNCT will keep monitoring and assessing the situation.



UNCT Reporting 2015: Results table 2015; Workplan 2016; Narrative Report (RC letter to the SG)

RCO presented the three consolidated reporting documents, noting that the IMS as the reporting platform is being used second year in a row. The modality remained the same, albeit with pre-set questions per reporting sections when it comes to the narrative report, and the attention was drawn to particular sections which needed further elaboration and inputs from the UNCT, notably for the questions on integrating human rights-based approach into national development processes, and the joint resource mobilization. Same was seen for the 2016 Work Plan which has already set-up working areas (work-streams and normative areas) and where 15 outputs was proposed, based on results more than processes, thus making them more tangible and achievable, and focusing mostly on country programming (e.g. JSC, JWPs, Operations).

The UNCT was asked to review and agree on what are the most critical and strongest elements to be put up-front for this year, taking into account the already specified areas where DRR, Human Rights and Country Programming were included, and the more operational mode of the required reporting frame. The focus on concrete Joint Programmes was viewed as a right step forward, with more agencies taking the lead on different ones and tailoring them strategically to benefit BiH's development, including its EU accession path. Some areas which could already be discussed are the SDGs (with the Task Force that is already developing a joint Work Plan), DRR (where the joint concept is being developed), Preventing Violent Extremism, Human Rights programming, continuation of the CRSV and DFF projects (with possible different modalities), stronger Communicating as One and Operations, and potentially looking at developing a separate joint programme around one or two vulnerable and marginalized groups in the country.

During the discussion, it was further emphasized that the already formed Results groups provide the space and should act as the instrument for drafting joint proposals and setting up Joint Programmes. They could be further operationalized, with specific working-level subgroups and accountable tracking of their performance. As the reporting period for the first year of UNDAF 2015-19 is currently ongoing, it will provide an overview of what has been done and an analysis on what can be included during development of next Annual Work Plans, as well as a cross-check of how effective the Results Groups were and how they can further be strengthened and used. With the approaching of the first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee, the UNCT agreed that it is the new stage for the One UN and that it can provide the moment for reflection and operationalization of those parts that are not yet fully functioning.

With the same regard, ways to enhance information management were also discussed, noting that two modalities already exists- the UNDAF monitoring tool is currently being used to report on the first year results; the SMT is preparing one for joint management with the funding received through the Innovation Challenge. Though there is a need for more coherent joint databases and possible joint teams who could compile information on e.g. what is being done by different agencies in one particular place (contributing to more solid joint presentation to donors as well), the already existing mechanisms should be looked at, in particular how effective and useful the UNDAF monitoring tool could be for such purpose.



Action points:

- Comments to the DOCO reporting documents to be provided to the RCO for finalization by noon tomorrow, Wednesday 27th. RCO to upload and officially submit the report by the deadline of 31st January.
- Further discussion on the effectiveness of the existing donor coordination mechanisms, as well as on joint external communication guidelines to be held separately.

First meeting of the Joint Steering Committee

The RCO informed the UNCT that the first meeting of the JSC is tentatively scheduled for 23 February, date which seems to be convenient for all the members at the time being. If agreed, the RCO will extend formal invitation to the nominated ministers as soon as possible, with a three-item agenda: presentations of the ToR, Work Plans and their progress, and the SDG agenda. The UNCT was asked to focus (with the sense of urgency) on the currently ongoing reporting on the 2015 results, to be consolidated in the Country Progress Report and presented at the meeting. Heads of Results groups were asked to prepare the presentation slides highlighting key results achieved and simple strategic message for each of the results. After the inaugural JSC meeting and the analysis of the progress made, a more reflected discussion on the results is to be held, as well as on the effectiveness of the RGs, clearer targets and clearer potential Joint Programs.

Action points:

- Results Groups to submit inputs on implementation of the 2015-2016 Joint Work Plans for 2015 using the endorsed UNDAF Monitoring Tool to RCO by the end of January.
- Results Groups to prepare key results and messages on the 2015 progress, send to RCO for formatting and consolidation of the presentation at the JSC meeting. Heads of Results Groups to meet prior to the JSC meeting to jointly go over the presentation.
- RCO to send official invitation to the nominated ministries, scheduling the JSC meeting for the 23rd February, to be held in the UN House.

Update on the Refugee and Migration situation in the region

Brief update was provided on the regional refugees and migrant crisis, with the still constant influx of people, and the still slow registration process and receiving measures. As funds are being shifted from development to emergency assistance, joint UNHCR-IOM appeal is seen a good move, with a joint meeting being held in Brussels this week. The anticipated arrival of people for 2016 is at the same level as for 2015 (around one million). After the Paris events, transit countries began more strictly filtering and rejecting those not seen as refugees (i.e. not coming from Syria and Iraq). With a crude system trying to differentiate between migrants and refugees, an increase is seen in accumulation of those getting through different routes (e.g. Albania) and through smuggling. Smuggling will presumably become more prominent and this is where B&H could be potentially impacted more. Along with smuggling, drugs, crime and extremism is increasing, and closer monitoring of the situation is needed.



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During winter, the transit countries have worked on strengthening their borders, fences and registration centers, adding more breaking points on the route and slowing the process down. This might lead to some trying to push through B&H once the number of people crossing increases during spring. If it happens, it will start in smaller numbers and those people would be smuggled across. The MoS and the Service for Foreigners are equipped to deal with smaller numbers, however they still need to finalize their contingency plan, having in focus the smuggling aspect, and to share it with the UNCT's Task Force.

UNHCR informed that there is some funding set aside for possible spillover countries at the HQ level (out of said 500 million USD) and that they have an overview of what is available regionally, as well as an overview of preparedness for different actors and different scenarios regardless of the national plans. The Task Force is set to present the overview and the UNCT preparedness plan at a separate thematic UNCT meeting, before another possible IC coordination meeting is held.

Action points:

- The Task Force to resume preparing joint response plan with regards to the possible spring developments, and present it with consideration to coordination, information management, funding and communication to UNCT at a separate thematic meeting.
- RC to meet with the Minister of Security the following week, urging again for their preparedness plan to be shared.