

**United Nations
Office of the Resident Coordinator
of Operational Activities for Development
in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

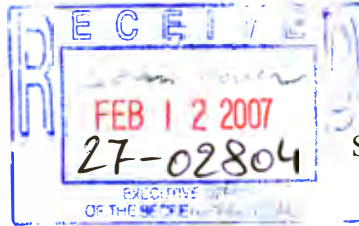
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UNDP/Resident Coord

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Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Subject: 2006 Annual Report of the Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Introduction

Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH) is undergoing four transition processes simultaneously: from post conflict reconstruction to long term development, from socialist autocracy to democracy, from a planned to a market economy, and from international supervision to full sovereignty.

In January 2006, BiH started Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) negotiations with the European Commission (EC) and completed the technical work. However, due to limited progress at the political level, the SAA was not signed. The Bonn Powers of the High Representative have been used sparingly throughout the year and planning for the possible closure of the Office of the High Representative in mid-2007 was initiated. The post-Dayton structure of the political landscape of BiH continues to be a challenge for effective governance and has contributed to delays in vital reforms as well as complicating national development planning and the implementation of development programmes.

A second international commitment worthy of note is that BiH took the first steps towards joining the Nato Partnership for Peace. This is of significance to the UNCT as we work closely with Government, international and bilateral organisations on issues of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as well as De-mining.

2. Summary on progress towards UNDAF outcomes

The UNCT in Bosnia and Herzegovina comprises the following agencies: FAO, ILO, IMF, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNICTY, UNOHCHR, UNV, WHO and World Bank

2006 saw major changes in the management of several UN Agencies in BiH. After more than six months without a UNDP RR and Resident Coordinator (RC), Ms. Christine McNab took up this position on the 1st September. Thanks are given to Ms. Helena Eversole of UNICEF for her work as the RC ad interim. UNICEF was without a Representative from October to early December 2006, when Ms. June Kunugi took up the position. The UNOHCHR withdrew its international representative and started planning the closure of the BiH office. Human rights issues will be integrated into the work of the UNCT as a whole from mid-2007. Partly due to these changes in senior positions, there were some delays in implementing planned activities with a consequent under-utilisation of the RC budget.

The goals agreed in the BiH UNDAF are:

- strengthened accountability and responsiveness of government to pro-active citizens;
- improved access to and quality of basic education, health and social protection services;

- improved government and local community management of mine action, including mine risk education and mine victim assistance, and small arms and light weapons at national and local levels.

During 2006, good progress has been made towards the goals, and it is expected that the UNDAF targets as specified with indicators will be reached in 2008. During the first part of 2006, an UNDAF Monitoring and Evaluation framework was set up by the UNCT. The three UNDAF Working Groups on Governance, Basic Services and Human Security, as well as the Gender Theme Group, were tasked to monitor, evaluate and report on UNDAF outcomes in accordance with the framework.

In 2006, the UNCT has been successful in the following areas related to the achievement of the macro-level UNDAF goals:

- UN agencies advocated and maintained Government and donor interest for provision and protection of rights directly relating to development objectives in social sectors.
- The UN has put the issues of social inclusion and social protection on the government agenda, and raised the importance of the issue with other international actors. This has been done by implementing and supporting programmes that incorporate human rights and inclusion standards in local planning and resource allocation, and through dialogue and policy initiatives at State, Entity and local levels. A particular success was a Social Inclusion Conference organized by UNDP with important inputs from UNICEF, the World Bank and other UN agencies.
- The UN maintained the dialogue on social issues with other international actors including the European Commission and bilateral European agencies.
- The UN promoted and implemented human rights based assessments and projects at municipal level and in the “return” sector, and contributed to increased local government capacity for incorporating human rights standards in planning and resource allocation.
- Specific rights focussed on by the UNCT, and which have had an impact, include: access to health services, sexual and reproductive health, rights of youth, rights of women, the right to information, child rights, and the right to conscientious objection to military service.
- Joint UN efforts in mine action and small arms risk reduction contributed to mitigating the impediment to development posed by landmines, unexploded ordnance and small arms. UNDP and UNICEF mine action and small arms risk reduction programmes are designed to complement each other and work in synergy. While UNDP focuses on strengthening the State’s capability in mine action and SALW control, UNICEF is working on awareness raising and education on mine and SALW risk. A joint proposal (UNDP, UNV and UNESCO) was made to the UN Human Security Trust Fund for Development with a focus on tourism and mine action. The proposal has received funding.

3. Summary on progress in UN Reform in particular with regards to

i. efforts to align the national development processes;

The Government’s key development strategy document is the Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) for the years 2004 to 2007. The MTDS was revised by the Government in mid-2006. The current UNDAF, 2005 – 2008, is aligned with the priorities of the revised

MTDS. The Government has begun work on a new Mid-Term Development Strategy to cover the period 2008-2012. The new MTDS may well not be ready until mid 2008 and therefore the UNCT would be better able to align its work with the national development process by extending the current UNDAF period. In this case, preparing the new CCA/UNDAF preparation process will start in early 2008. The World Bank has started preparing a new Country Assistance Strategy and their analytic work will be a support to UNCT programme development.

ii. support to the national government in the preparation, implementation and/or revision of comprehensive MDG-based national development strategies;

The BiH government does not have a Millennium Development Goals based national development strategy. The BiH MTDS does, however, have MDG indicators as its monitoring framework. The Government in consultation with donors and UN agencies reviewed the MTDS in 2006, with the individual UN Agencies providing their inputs on areas related to their mandates.

iii. progress UNCTs are making collectively in support of the national partners' endeavours towards capacity development and aid effectiveness;

One of the main accomplishments in 2006 was the establishment and consolidation of a Donor Coordination Forum. The forum consists of the 17 largest donors to BiH and has the aim of increasing donor coordination and aid effectiveness. UNDP was instrumental in the establishment of the forum and hosted the Donor Coordination Forum Secretariat. The RC represents the UNCT at the Forum. The Minister responsible for BiH donor coordination has attended the meetings when possible.

The Secretariat, supported by the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO), undertook a comprehensive mapping exercise in 2006 of donor activity in BiH with the aim of facilitating the reduction of duplication and promoting better synchronization between donors and government. At the same time, donor support was given to strengthening the Government's mechanisms for managing development cooperation funding.

UNICEF took the lead within the UNCT to implement DevInfo in BiH, working with the national authorities and NGO's to ensure data collection for priority indicators at State/Entity level and in ten municipalities. As a result, the Government's Economic Policy and Planning Unit was able to enhance MTDS monitoring at local level. The indicators for which data has been collected include child-centred poverty and the MDGs.

Given the focus of UN agencies in BiH on capacity building of national actors, all cooperation areas include important elements of capacity building. There has been joint action for capacity building, for example: in the context of a UNDP programme to build the capacity of the War Crime Chamber (WCC) programme UNDP and ICTY cooperated closely to provide relevant expertise for the training activities.

iv. experiences with joint programmes and HACT, as well as other highlights in coordination

Joint Programming

During 2006 there was a number of successful UN cooperation projects carried out by various combinations of UN Agencies. These include:

- **UN Youth Working Group:** This group (UNDP/UNV, UNICEF, UNFPA) has laid the basis for providing technical support to the BiH Youth Commission and is proceeding toward elaboration of possible joint programming.
- **The Assisting Communities Together Project:** was implemented by OHCHR and UNDP with inputs from UNICEF and UNV. Small grants were provided to six national NGOs carrying out human rights educational and promotional activities at the community level.
- **Census.** UNFPA and UNDP with inputs from UNHCR have together developed a concept note and a draft project document for subsequent joint programming, in collaboration with the BiH Bureau of Statistics.
- **The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS** was strengthened, and the group prepared a proposal to UNAIDS for the Programme of Accelerated Funds. The Chair rotated from UNFPA to UNICEF.
- **A Human Security Trust Fund** proposal on tourism and mine action, prepared by UNDP, UNV and UNESCO, received funding and new proposals were drafted by UNICEF-UNHCR and UNICEF-UNDP.
- **Transitional justice:** Progress has been made in relation to joint programming for transitional justice, a project developed jointly by UNDP and OHCHR.
- **Global Fund:** The Governments' preparation of a proposal to the Global Fund (GF) Program to combat HIV/AIDS, with support from UNICEF and UNDP, was a challenging and time-consuming process. The application was successful and UNDP and UNICEF continue to work closely together since the Project became operational. WHO and UNDP cooperated in preparing a proposal to the Global Fund on combating tuberculosis.
- **Research on mine action:** A small grant from the UNDAF Quick Joint Project Fund was made available and research on mine action and small arms risk perception is being planned by UNICEF and UNDP.
- **Situational and Protection Gaps Analysis,** concerning access to education, is a regional initiative implemented in BiH with UNICEF and UNHCR collaboration.
- **Gender:** OHCHR supported a joint mission of UNDP, UNIFEM and ILO to BiH during which a joint 5-year regional programme was launched devoted to advancing implementation of gender equality legislation in Europe/CIS.

There were some attempts at inter-agency cooperation not carried through in 2006, among them:

- **Mine action:** An attempt to develop a joint proposal between UNDP and UNICEF in mine action and small arms to be submitted to the UN Human Security Trust Fund was not successful. However, a proposal developed by UNDP, UNV and UNESCO to the Trust Fund did receive funding.
- **Srebrenica:** UNDP received funding for the area development program in Srebrenica. UNFPA was the designated agency to develop two health centres but implementation had to be deferred to 2007.
- **HACT:** The Ex-Com Agencies have performed micro assessments of all

implementing partners. However, the required overall macro-assessment has been postponed to 2007 and will be carried out in cooperation with the new Government.

- **Dinaric Arc Initiative (DAI)** agencies including FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP and others, worked on a regional project proposal including BiH. The aim is to preserve environmental and cultural diversity and heritage in the Dinaric Arc region. The proposal will be finalised in 2007.

Other highlights in coordination

- UN agencies have provided support for partnership between Gender mechanisms in BiH and Civil Society Organisations with the aim of implementing the Gender Equality Law and Gender Action Plan of 2006. A National Gender Working Group was established to perform a gender analysis of the BiH Mid-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) – working towards an authentically engendered MTDS.
- During 2006 the UN Gender Group undertook two assessments, one of the work of the Gender Group itself and a second to map gender mainstreaming in all UN Agencies. The increased momentum and capacity of the group has resulted in several more UN Agencies joining the group.
- The UN Communications Group is a strong thematic group which has created tangible results and synergies. The joint web page www.un.ba has been operational for the past two years and is the joint face of the UN. The page is updated with joint news issues, vacancies, UN publications, and links to the UN agencies homepages. The group has created a synergy across all agencies and made recommendations to the UNCT on a joint UN communications strategy in line with the One UN philosophy.
- The RCO in cooperation with UNHCHR arranged Human Rights Based Approach training for the UNCT and UN project staff. There was a high level of participation.
- During Autumn 2006 the UNCT Civil Society Focal Point undertook a survey on Civil Society-UN cooperation in BiH. The conclusions and recommendations will be published in a report due early 2007.
- The UN Country Team supported OHCHR in preparing a compilation of all concluding observations and recommendations from UN Treaty Bodies issued to BiH. This document was introduced to the BiH Prime Minister and other BiH authorities, NGO and international organization representatives on the Human Rights Day, as a basis for a BiH Human Rights Action Plan and also for defining human rights priorities in BiH.

4. Key aspects of the proposed 2007 workplan

The focus of the Government of BiH continues to be EU accession and closer linkages to alliances such as NATO. The Government formation process following the October 2006 elections is not yet completed but the Chairperson Designate of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Nikola Spiric, in a key address to Parliament on the 11th January 2007, has laid out a programme of work for the new government. This largely reflects the reform demands linked to the EU accession process: police reform, public broadcasting reform, cooperation with the ICTY, fighting corruption, amendments to criminal legislation, and education reform. Other

programme objectives are to do with membership in NATO, adoption of constitutional changes, full implementation of the Dayton agreement, agreement on succession of property rights, border regulation, and economic reform. Regarding the latter, particular attention is given to promoting the development of agriculture, tourism and protection of the environment.

Specific groups mentioned in the speech are youth, refugees and displaced persons. Commissions for investigation into the truth about war sufferings are also mentioned, including the role of the media in its presentation of the work of the commissions. The speech goes on to address the proposed work plans for specific ministries and of particular interest to the UN is the policy statement on the return of refugees and displaced persons. Gender equality is not raised in the speech.

The UNCT 2007 needs to take into account the key messages of Mr. Spiric's speech, the priorities expressed in the Medium Term Development Plan and the core areas of the current UNDAF as well as the cross cutting areas of gender and human rights. The UNCT Report on Results for 2006 shows that there are already projects underway that are joint agency activities and many of these activities are continuing into 2007. We are on track to achieve the UNDAF outcomes and there is coherence between Government and UN objectives. However, some areas need strengthening and at the UNCT retreat of January 2007, it was decided that following should be focused on over the coming 12 months:

- Supporting the government in its reform agenda
- Strengthening cooperation between the Government, United Nations and Civil Society
- Developing a UNCT common strategy on Capacity Development
- Strengthening the human rights based approach
- Gender mainstreaming
- Improving communication, within the team and externally.

In addition, the Office of the Resident Coordinator will manage the following joint activities:

- The Mid-Term Review of the UNDAF
- Establishing a Local Employment of International Spouses Association
- Strengthening contacts with non-resident UN Agencies that have programmes in BiH

In order to manage these activities, the Office of the Resident Coordinator should continue to be staffed by a Coordination Officer and an Administrator, supported when needed by consultants.

5. Recommendations

The BiH UNCT recommends that stable and strengthened resourcing of the Office of the Resident Coordinator be considered as the minimum prerequisite for pursuit of the One UN concept of the High Level Panel, in BiH as in all other countries.



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Bosnia and Herzegovina