



Summary Note

West Balkan Peacebuilding Consultation

28-29 January 2019

Podgorica, Montenegro

The two-day consultation on UN peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in the sub-region brought together members of the UN Country Teams from Albania, Bosnia i Hercegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The purpose was to create synergies across different workstreams and build momentum and relationships to enhance the UN contribution to sustaining peace in the sub-region. Beyond UN colleagues working in the Western Balkans, connections were made via the presence of PBSO from New York, from UNDP's governance team from the regional Istanbul hub, and by video with DPPA and UNDP colleagues in the north. A RYCO delegation participated in the second day afternoon.

This note summarizes only agreed next steps. The agenda and participants list are annexed to this report.

DFF Regional project

- **Update.** Recruitments of staff underway for regional and national components. Preparation of detailed Joint Annual Work Plans. Draft Communications Strategy (first draft from UNDP BiH, comments by RCO Communications Specialists/Agency technical experts); further exchanges on conceptual documents regarding dialogue platforms and Small Grants Facility. In addition to Presidency Offices, RCOs/Convening Agencies to coordinate identification of national ministries that will be invited to nominate members in the Joint Programme Board. Continued diplomatic efforts with counterparts in Croatia to secure participation in the Joint Programme (proposed deadline is 31 March 2019).
- **Synergies with UNCT Albania/RYCO project.** Additional discussion among UN agencies on exchanges at Strategic Advisory Board level. Regarding cooperation with RYCO specifically, BiH DFF Team will discuss further with Presidency counterparts in light of previous comments on this matter. In general, there are opportunities for coordination regarding baseline/endline study, methodological framework for peacebuilding competencies, engagement with schools,

grants facility (especially training materials for prospective and unsuccessful applicants, as recommended by PBSO).

RYCO Support project

The list below represents the initial activities that will form the workplan for the 18-month RYCO support project. Many of the ideas may benefit from collaboration with DFF Regional, for example the work with teachers or communications. While the cross-observation in Steering Committees offers an opportunity for coordination, staff on the activities should reach out directly in addition based on the list below to explore and realize synergies. For the key activities below UN agencies in Albania are in the lead, and will reach out to their sister offices across the sub-region.

- UN Alb: Hire project coordinator (Q1)
- UN Alb: Baseline indicators review (Q1)
- UN teams in region: nominate members to Steering Committee (Feb); DFF identifies one observer to be invited to Steering Committee
- Steering Committee (March)
- UN teams in WB6: Country level intro w RYCO (Q1)
- M&E institutional capacity building (TORs being prepared) (UNDP) (Q1)
- Mapping best strategies peacebuilding in educ in WB6 (UNICEF) (Q1)
- Support RYCO communications strategy development (UNFPA) (Q2)
- Methodology and TOT for teachers on peacebuilding in educ (UNICEF) (Q2-Q3)
- Study visit in sub-region on best practice in school, prior to next RYCO call
- Digital platform on teacher training conceptualization (UNICEF) (Q4)
- Organize regional learning meetings (2019-Q3; 2020-Q1)
- Identification of 2-3 youth groups / country for capacity building and support for innovation on peacebuilding (UNFPA) (Q3)
- Coordination with WB6 UNDP offices for consultancies to assist with grant monitoring (UNDP) (Q3)
- Tools for capacity-building for schools to use for fundraising (UNICEF) (Q3/Q4)

Youth Perceptions on Priorities for Sustaining Peace in the Western Balkans

- **Rationale.** Action research and advocacy to influence public and political discourse. In the post-conflict period, a whole new generation risen to adulthood and continues to experience the legacies of conflict. However, perceptions of all young people missing from the debate and regionally comparable data lacking. The perceptions study and following advocacy aim to consolidate and support peacebuilding initiatives in the region and fill a

gap in the array of available regional and global surveys and indices, as well as RYCO baselines.

- **Implementation.** As a component of the larger RYCO support project, will consist of three activities: a youth-focused and youth-led perceptions survey (including diverse target groups), regional networking of youth organizations and their capacity-building in research and advocacy (with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment), and advocacy for programmatic and policy impact. All three UN agencies will be involved, including on regional level.
- **Current stage.** Component is at the pre-design phase. Next steps – reflection on the methodology for the survey, management structure and choice of partners. Could possibly be linked to a Western Balkans launch of and consultation on the Missing Peace report, generating support and networks for the process. An inception workshop will be held once the project is approved, convening key stakeholders (UN agencies, DFF and RYCO project management, youth and relevant experts and civil society).

Sub-Regional Reconciliation, Trust-building and Constructive Dialogue Strategy

The RQR Western Balkan Strategy Working Group (WG) held its first meeting on 12 February following the submission of requested inputs from the UN System. The WG will now begin a process of synthesizing the material and generating drafts of the UN Strategy focusing on reconciliation, trust and constructive dialogue in the region. A first master draft should be generated by 26 February 2019. This will allow for more clarity in terms of developing the action plan. Likewise, it should take into account as well as feed into the development of UNDAFs in the region, many scheduled for 2020.

Also discussed was the notion of organizing a field-HQ strategy review workshop in the region toward the end of March. A logical opportunity to bring the UN together would present itself around the planned visit of the SAPG to the Balkans. While noting the need to ensure an optical firewall between his visit and the UN strategy review session, a tentative date of Tuesday, 19 March 2019 was discussed. The workshop would take place in Sarajevo and DPPA-DPO was asked to provide support in organizing the session. In conclusion, the sequencing around the finalization of the strategy is to submit the document to the IATF for review; then to the RQR Principals for a final endorsement; and finally to the EOSG by 1 April 2019.

AGENDA

Joint Consultations of the Regional Teams for implementation of the projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund

Podgorica, January 28-29, 2019

UN Eco House

Time	Description
DAY 1: MONDAY, JANUARY 28	
09.30 – 10.00	Introduction and welcome
10.00 – 11.00	RYCO project session (UN internal) Lead: UN Albania (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF) Purpose: briefing to project level staff of three agencies, discussion of project workplan, agreement on cross-border modalities, and opportunities for high-level UN engagement, preparation of presentation for PBSO/UN DPA and for RYCO on day 2
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.30	RYCO continued (UN internal)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	DFP Regional project & coordination with RYCO (UN internal) Lead: UN BiH (with other country offices) Purpose: project approach, discussion of project workplan across agencies and countries, political issues and strategy
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 17.00	Regional Peacebuilding and Trust building Strategy, follow up to RQR Lead: DPPA / UNDP NY Purpose: Present status to date (establishment of task force; purpose and objectives) PBSO and DPPA briefing (DPPA by video from NY/HQ) Lead: PBSO and UN DPA ECAD (Europe and Central Asia Division) – briefing on DPPA work on sub-region, PBF engagement, DPPA tools
DAY 2: TUESDAY, JANUARY 29	

Time	Description
09.00 – 9.30	<p>Kosovo peacebuilding project – summary briefing</p> <p>Lead: UN team Kosovo</p> <p>Purpose: Presentation of project framework and overall project approach, discussion on any relevant regional best practices and potential synergies.</p>
9.30 – 10.30	<p>Sub-regional youth research project</p> <p>Lead: UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and UNFPA Regional Office</p> <p>Purpose: advance project development, building on sub-regional activities</p>
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee Break
10.45 – 12.00	<p>Brainstorming on broader UN sub-regional reconciliation strategy</p> <p>Lead: BiH Peace & Development Adviser</p> <p>Purpose: Take advantage of those present to brainstorm more on input into regional strategy on peacebuilding in Western Balkans.</p>
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch with RYCO
13.30 – 15.00	<p>RYCO project session (with RYCO)</p> <p>Lead: UN Albania (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF)</p> <p>Purpose: Present draft workplan and modalities to RYCO; discussion; agreement on next project roll-out plan</p>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 17.00	<p>Video Discussion with New York: PBSO and UN Dept of Political Affairs</p> <p>Lead: UN Albania & RYCO</p> <p>Purpose: Present summary of project implementation plan to NY – introduce RYCO key actors to partners.</p>