Mainstreaming Human Rights For Better Development Impact and Coherence

There is virtually no aspect of our work that does not have a human rights dimension. Whether we are talking about peace and security, development, humanitarian action, the struggle against terrorism, climate change, none of these challenges can be addressed in isolation from human rights.

— Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

About the UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM)

The UNDG-HRM was established in 2009 at the request of the Secretary General to institutionalize the mainstreaming of human rights in the UN’s development work. It aims to strengthen coordinated UN responses to requests from Member States for support in their efforts to fulfill international human rights commitments.

Objectives and Priorities of the UNDG-HRM

The objectives of the UNDG-HRM are to strengthen system-wide coherence and collaboration and provide catalytical support for Resident Coordinators, Regional UNDG Teams and UN country teams and their national partners in mainstreaming human rights.

In line with the overall UNDG Strategic Priorities, the UNDG-HRM will focus on four broad priorities:

1. Policy and operational coherence: Promoting a coordinated and coherent UN system-wide approach towards the integration of human rights principles and international standards into UN operational activities for development.

2. Leadership: Providing coherent and coordinated support to Resident Coordinators and UN country teams in mainstreaming human rights.

3. Support to national capacity building: Developing a coherent UN system-wide approach, to providing support towards strengthening national human rights protection systems at the request of governments.

4. Advocacy and knowledge: Contributing to the integration of human rights issues in the overall UNDG advocacy on development agenda and global issues.

We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including respect for all human rights, are essential for achieving the MDGs.

- Millennium Summit Outcome Document, 2010

UNDG-HRM Activities

During 2011-2013, the UNDG-HRM aims to:

At the UN system level, strengthen system-wide policy coherence, advocacy, knowledge sharing and accountability for results in mainstreaming human rights, for example by:

- Developing guidance and tools on human rights-based approaches to development (HRBA)
- Documenting good practices and evaluating the impact of HRBA on UN programmes and national policy
- Expanding the UN HRBA Practitioners’ portal: http://hrbaportal.org/
- Developing key messages and advocacy tools highlighting the human rights dimensions of global development priorities, such as the MDGs

At the regional level, strengthen the role and capacity of Regional UNDG Teams in providing HRBA and technical support to UNCTs, for example by:

- Delivering regional training on HRBA
- Facilitating regional exchange of experience (e.g. on the support to the Universal Periodic Review)
- Deploying regional advisors on HRBA to programming
- Creating rosters of experts

At the country level, strengthen the Resident Coordinator/UNCT leadership in driving mainstreaming efforts and in supporting Member States fulfill human rights commitments, for example by:

- Providing strategic capacity development support to strengthen national human rights protection systems at the request of Governments;
- Providing updated guidance and enhancing learning opportunities for the Resident Coordinators and UNCT leadership
- Delivering training on HRBA for UNCTs
- Facilitating the deployment of human rights advisors and thematic experts at the request of Resident Coordinators
To better respond to actual needs and opportunities at country level, the UNDG-HRM conducted a Survey of UNCT needs in 2011. The Survey underlined key challenges that UNCTs face in mainstreaming human rights. In particular, UNCTs are asking for more technical support and know-how on the practical application of HRBA, a strengthened role of Regional UNDG Teams and more global knowledge sharing on human rights mainstreaming. The UNDG-HRM will prioritize these areas through its 2011-2013 work plan.

**How to contribute to the UNDG-HRM**

To mobilize and pool resources for coordinated support on human rights mainstreaming, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for the UNDG-HRM has been established. On behalf of the UNDG-HRM, UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) will administer the funds by: concluding the standard agreement and receiving contributions from Contributors; disbursing the funds to implementing agencies for projects approved by the Steering Committee; and providing annual financial and narrative progress reports on the UNDG-HRM’s financed activities to the Steering Committee and Contributors. The MPTF Office has a strong record of transparent and accountable administration of over 40 48 Multi-Donor Trust Funds operating in over 82 countries with over $5.3 billion contributions received from more than 54 donors and development partners.

For more information the UNDG-HRM MDTF, please visit: http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/HRM00

**Members and Partners of the UNDG-HRM**

The UNDG-HRM is made up of 19 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. It is chaired by OHCHR with a rotating vice-chair, reporting to the full UNDG. Members and partners of the UNDG-HRM are:

- DESA
- FAO
- ILO
- OHCHR
- UNAIDS
- UNDP
- UNEP
- UNESCO
- UNHABITAT
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNIDO
- UNISSC
- UNODC
- UNOPS
- UNWomen
- WFP
- WHO

**UN DOCO** provides coordination and secretariat support to the UNDG-HRM.

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Visit www.undg.org/hrm to learn more

Maintained by DOCO, the UNDG inter-agency website.