

Joint SDG Fund

Template for the Joint Programme Annual Progress Report

SDG FINANCING PORTFOLIO – COMPONENT 1

Cover page

Reporting period: June 30 – December 31, 2020

Country: Belarus

Joint Programme (JP) title: Promoting new tools of sustainable development budgeting that prioritize vulnerable populations in Belarus

Short title: SDG performance-based finance

Start date (month/year): 1 October 2020

End date (month/year): 30 September 2022

RC (name): Joanna Kazana-Wisniowiecki

Government Focal Point (name and ministry/agency): Ministry of Finance

Representative of Lead PUNO (name and agency): Alexandra Solovieva (UNDP)

List of PUNOs: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women

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Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): 993,104

Overall budget (with co-funding): 1,190,604

Annual Financial Delivery Rate: 0

$$- \text{Annual Delivery Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Expenditures PUNO 1+ Expenditures PUNO 2...}}{\text{Total transferred funds Jan 2020 to December 2020}};$$

Rate of Committed Funding : 0

$$- \text{Committed Funding Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Committed money PUNO 1+ Committed money PUNO 2...}}{\text{Total transferred funds Jan 2020 to December 2020}}$$

| | Expenditures January 2020 - December 2020 | Committed resources January 2020- December 2020 | Transferred Funds January 2020- December 2020 | Annual Financial Delivery Rate (%) | Committed Funding Rate(%) |
|---------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| UNFPA | 0 | | 0 146,590.00 | 0 | 0 |
| UNICEF | 0 | | 0 159,782.00 | | |
| UNDP | 0 | | 0 183,552.00 | | |
| UNWOMEN | 0 | | 0 | | |

Short description of the Joint Programme (max 1 paragraph):

The project envisages the introduction of a set of new tools of sustainable development budgeting in Belarus in the form of diagnostics, policy advice and technical cooperation with the Ministry of Health, MLSP and Ministry

of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP) with overall support of the Ministry of Finance, along the principle of “leaving no one behind” (LNOB). With the support of UN agencies, the package will help mainstream normative budget planning per consumer, sustainable development tagging of state expenditures and assist the Government to ensure that recent gains of Belarus in terms of achieving high position on SDG and Human Development Indices will not be compromised by current macroeconomic constraints. The project envisages a diagnostic assessment of sector-specific spending as well as available fiscal resources. The project will involve technical cooperation as follows: 1) advisory services to undertake the cost planning of SDG-related expenditures addressing needs of vulnerable groups based on the cost of budget services per consumer, in the areas of health care, social services, national resources. 2) Setting up of SDG performance-based expenditure tagging systems with a focus on the prioritized vulnerable groups. 3) Developing guidance for SDG program-based expenditure tracking across ministries and administrative levels. 4) Undertaking of SDG-related expenditure reviews and assessments; and 5) introduction of gender-sensitive and child-focused normative budgeting methodology. This will ultimately contribute to the development of gender-responsive and SDG-aligned financing strategies aiming to mobilize public and private financing flows behind the 2030 Agenda and specific SDGs.

Executive summary

On 25 August 2020, the Ministry of Finance requested a number of changes to the JP that, while not significantly affecting the list of interventions, required additional work by PUNOs to obtain the endorsement of selected line ministries that would be counterparts for specific activities. Considering the split of responsibilities regarding aspects of SDG finance between the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Finance, it was decided that the Development Finance Assessment will not be undertaken as part of the joint programme in addition to other changes aimed at better focusing the other interventions on addressing the needs of regional authorities.

Consequently, between September and October 2020, the agencies worked to amend existing interventions so that they are strictly aimed at introducing normative budget planning methods focused on the cost of budget services in the fields of education, health care, social services, and environment and to “pilot” new instruments at the regional level (using the example of the Minsk region) and tracking of expenditures with gender sensitive indicators. In November 2020, the PUNOs held informal consultations with the selected line ministries and obtained endorsements from the Ministry of Health, the MLSP and the MNREP. Relevant focal points have been designated by the ministries to work on the JP implementation. A decision was also made, at the suggestion of the Government, to include a Finance Assessment in the area of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources (in place of the Development Finance Assessment). After the changes and endorsements were communicated to the Ministry of Finance, it reaffirmed its support to the JP and encouraged PUNOs to start implementing the activities with municipalities in coordination with line ministries. Expert support of the Ministry of Finance will be provided at a later stage, once the development of appropriate approaches by line ministries with local authorities is completed.

A. Annual Progress (MAXIMUM 7 PAGES)

A.1 The overview of progress and challenges

A.1.1. Overall self-assessment

Provide a self-assessment on the overall JP progress in the last year.

- Above expectations (expected annual results fully achieved and additional progress made)
- On track (expected annual results achieved)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)

During July-December 2020 preparatory and planning work was done to start implementing the JP activities. Whereas the requested changes by the Ministry of Finance created some delays in the disbursement of funds, only two activities were deemed to be rolled out in the reporting period (i.e. Output 1, Activity 1, and Output 2, Activity 3) and the agencies have rescheduled them to Q1 2021. The implementing PUNOs (UNFPA and UNICEF) have informed that despite the funds not being disbursed, since the activities will be rolled out throughout more than one quarter, they were able to start planning implementation with the Ministry of Health and the MLSP regardless of pending approvals. For example, UNICEF developed and shared with the Ministry of Finance, the MLSP and Belstat a policy brief summarizing research finding generated using the UNICEF methodology measuring impact of public expenditures focused on achieving child-related SDGs.. The Convening agency (UNDP) also reported that work on communications and outreach has been started and a focal point designated who would prepare a press note on the launching of the programme during Q1 2021.

A.1.2. Overall progress and key developments to date

- 1) Governance and coordination: during 2020, it was agreed that the Ministry of Finance will facilitate the completion of the programme once the normative budget methods are developed at the level of line ministries. Therefore, there will be no official Government launching event of the Joint Programme, but agencies will undertake their planned activities as included in their plans.
- 2) Research assessments and feasibility studies on SDG financing: UNFPA and UNICEF will proceed with their interventions, which do not require prior research. In the case of UNDP, preparatory activities were initiated to apply the BioFin (Biodiversity Finance) methodology to the Finance Assessment in the area of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources. UN Women will only deploy activities in the second year of the program.
- 3) No financial policy development and financial advocacy activities were developed, as these are not encompassed as part of the Joint Programme.
- 4) UNFPA and UNICEF have initiated consultations with focal points, respectively, with the Ministry of Health with regards to strengthening capacities of public authorities and healthcare managers on normative cost-based budget planning methods per consumer and aligning budgeting with SDGs; and the MLSP with regards to initiating policy dialogue and capacity development for performance-based budgeting, including on capacity building for adolescents' and CSOs ability to assess the total volume and composition of budget allocations for children, adolescents, vulnerable families and other vulnerable groups. Two working meetings by UNICEF were conducted with the Ministry of Finance and the MLSP senior officials, including MoLSP's deputy Minister and the Ministry of Finance's Head of the General Directorate of Financing Social Sector and Science. In consultation with the ministries focal points have been selected (i.e. MoLSP's Head of the Department of Planning and Financing and Deputy Head of the Directorate of Organization of Social Services of the General Directorate of Social Services and Social Assistance).

- 5) UNDP, as the Convening agency, has appointed a focal point for communications and outreach who will develop a strategy that will be later discussed and validated by each of the PUNOs.
- 6) No additional funding or financing has been secured (available funding is sufficient to meet JP's goals).

A.1.3. Changes

Was the JP document modified in the past year?

- Yes
 No

After a thorough review of the programme activities by the Ministry of Finance, a number of changes were introduced to the JP. Because of the different remits of the Ministry of Economy (strategic budget planning) and the Ministry of Finance (costing and expenditure tracking), the Government requested that the activities of the JP be more closely focused on the areas of costing methods, tracking of expenditures and the efficiency in spending of specific ministries, rather than overall strategic budget planning or budgeting. Furthermore, upon request by the Ministry of Finance and the MLSP, it was agreed that instead of conducting the Open Budget Survey UNICEF would be assisting in implementing Activity 24 of the State Programme "Management of Public Finances and Regulation of the Financial Market" aimed at the development of approaches and the testing of the per capita financing of social services. Finally, the Development Finance Assessment was substituted with a more specific assessment of public finance with regards to the environment.

Thus, whereas the JP approach, strategy and theory of change have not substantially changed, and remains committed to public finance reform for SDGs (understood holistically as a cycle from strategic budget planning, costing and tracking expenditures, to monitoring and results), the activities and expected results are now more strictly focused on those areas that are considered a priority for the Government (i.e. costing and tracking of expenditures) with a focus on the needs of regions. Efforts were made to ensure the original budgets were left unchanged.

A.1.4. Challenges

Did the JP face any major challenges in the past year?

- Yes
 No

Since the approval of the Project document on 30 June, the economy was affected by COVID19 and it also suffered an impact due to a contentious post-electoral period after elections were held on 9 August. The country's political evolution remains uncertain and a worsening epidemiological situation related to the COVID19 could create further constraints for authorities. The consequences of these two crises affected the launching of the JP, as it created some delays in communications with the authorities, especially when there was a need to coordinate between ministries certain programme changes that were requested by the Ministry of Finance. With the new year, the political situation seems more stable and protests have decreased, but the situation may change.

In spite of these challenges, looking forward, the PUNOs are confident that they will be able to implement all of their planned activities in a smooth fashion. A number of decisions were agreed, which would minimize risks. Firstly, at the time of inserting revisions, the PUNOs and the Ministry of Finance have also agreed that the JP will not undergo registration with the Ministry of Economy (a common bureaucratic procedure for technical cooperation projects, which can be a source of delays). Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance agreed that it will allow PUNOs to work directly with the line ministries in the development of the budget methods, which will

reduce the iterations of comments and revisions. Finally, the worsening macroeconomic situation in Belarus has kept public finance reform on top of the agenda of all ministries and the civil service, which ensures a Government buy-in regardless of the political evolution of the country.

[A.1.5. COVID-19 and other strategic alignment](#)

COVID-19 will have a negative impact in the short term on the achievement of certain SDGs including some areas that are the focus of interventions (e.g. 1.3 – social protection, 3.8 on universal health coverage and 5.4 on value of unpaid care and domestic work). As part of its effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus and mitigate its negative impact on all areas of human life, the Government has undertaken measures aimed at supporting economic activity and enhancing social protection of people. This document is aligned with immediate government priorities as expressed in its response to the UNCT's offer to support authorities in the long-term recovery of the economy in the wake of the pandemic.

The UNCT socioeconomic response plan (SERP) was finalized in July 2020 and it is based on information regarding the epidemiological situation in Belarus and Government measures undertaken at that time. The Joint Programme is closely aligned with other UNCT and IFIs projects under pillar 4 (Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration), which includes a series of interventions providing advice and technical assistance for public and private funds to be used more efficiently. The SERP document may be revised in 2021 to account for new COVID-19 related developments and priorities.

A.2 Update on priority issues

[A.2.1. Progress on Integrated National Financing Framework/SDG financing building blocks](#)

| Implementation stages | Planned (0%) | Emerging (1-49% progress) | Advancing (50-99% progress) | Complete (100% progress) | Previously completed | Not applicable | Comments/ Notes |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Inception phase | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2. Assessment & diagnostics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3. Financing strategy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 4. Monitoring & review | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 5. Governance & coordination | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Although an agreement on INFF adoption has yet to be signed, numerous rounds of discussions with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Finance were held with UNDP. The current JP is a building block of the inception phase of INFF, providing a platform for fostering further cooperation. The adoption of modern, results-based budgeting methods will contribute to a more efficient public spending, which in Belarus constitutes the largest component of SDG finance. In 2021, UNDP and other UN agencies plan to expand cooperation with the Ministry of Economy on a technical level and involve international experts to demonstrate the potential other elements of the INFF could bring to Belarus in terms of better financing for development. It is also expected that the successful implementation of the JP will be an example of productive collaboration and, building on the success, lead to embracing a more holistic approach to development finance as implicit in the INFF.

[A.2.2. Thematic focus](#)

X Cross-cutting

x Social protection

Agriculture

Other.....

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & nutrition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children & youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change & nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue economy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... |

A.2.3. Gender marker

Did your Joint Programme feature Gender Results in the past year at the outcome or output level?

- Yes
 No

Briefly explain:

Gender Marker total average scoring from 0 to 3 (as defined in the JP document): 2.5

The context analysis describes the impact of discriminatory gender-based attitudes and domestic violence that continue to hinder progress in women’s full participation in all aspects of society as well as the vulnerabilities at later stages of the life, which remain a priority for public policy. PUNOs have consulted with the MLSP on the need to foster gender equality within the current proposed project. The programme contributes to substantively strengthen Government participation and engagement in gender related SDGs localization and/or implementation and will have synergies with the National Action Plan on gender Equality that was adopted in 2020. Over 50 per cent of planned expenditures will be allocated to gender equality and women’s empowerment in each of the components

A.2.4. Vulnerable groups

Will the JP directly impact marginalized and/or vulnerable groups through a dedicated outcome or output?

- Yes
 No

| List of marginalized and vulnerable groups | Dedicated Outcome | Dedicated Output | Status (planned/in progress/complete) |
|--|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Women and girls | x | x | planned |
| Children | x | x | planned |
| Youth | x | x | planned |
| Persons with disabilities | x | x | planned |
| Older persons | x | x | planned |
| Minorities (incl. ethnic, religious, linguistic...) | x | x | planned |
| Indigenous peoples | | | |
| Persons of African Descent (when understood as separate from minorities) | | | |
| Migrants | x | x | planned |
| Refugees & asylum seekers | x | x | planned |
| Internally displaced persons | | | |
| Stateless persons | x | x | planned |
| Persons deprived of their liberty | x | x | planned |
| Peasants and rural workers | x | x | planned |
| Human rights defenders (incl. NGOs, journalists, union leaders, whistleblowers...) | x | x | planned |
| LGBTI persons (sexual orientation and gender identity) | x | x | planned |
| Persons affected by (HIV/AIDS, leprosy...) | x | x | planned |
| Persons with albinism | | | |
| Victims or relatives of victims of enforced disappearances | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---------|
| Victims of (slavery, torture, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse...) | x | x | planned |
|--|---|---|---------|

A.2.5. Learning and sharing

No learning and sharing events were organized in this period.

A.3 Update on events and partnerships

A.3.1. Events

| Type of event | Yes | No | Comments |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| JP launch event | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The launching event will be planned during year 2021 and may be held in combination with the Annual donors and partners' event. |
| Annual donors' event* | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Partners' event ** | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

*the Fund donor countries are Denmark, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. Please note that this event can be held together with a launch event or partners' event.

** Key advocacy outreach events with high level JP partners.

A.3.2. Partnerships

Did your Joint Programme facilitate engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector)?

- Yes
 No

Discussions were held with the World Bank at the time of the inception of the Joint Programme, which facilitated contacts with the Ministry of Finance. It is expected that throughout implementation further interactions will occur with international partners both from the IFIs (e.g. World Bank, EBRD), the donor community and non-governmental institutions in order to ensure the complementarity with ongoing initiatives affecting not only public finance management, but broader public sector reforms (e.g. SOE restructuring, the promotion of PPPs in infrastructure).

- Partnerships with IFIs: will help build synergies with stakeholders that could mobilize other sources of finance that are currently incipient in Belarus like FDI and domestic investments as well as the promotion of business climate reforms that could impact on enterprise development.
- Partnerships with civil society: PUNOs will build on previous cooperation with civil society partner organizations (e.g. Gender Perspectives) through the mechanism of social contract, including with women organisations. In 2021 UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance will continue their engagement with the Council for Sustainable Development, regional authorities and Child and Adolescent Friendly Cities, academia, local NGOs, private sector for sustainable child budgeting aimed at achieving the SDGs.

A.3.3. Additional financing

- Yes
 No

A.4 Strategic communications

Did the JP develop a strategic communications plan?

- Yes
 No

A focal point for communications was appointed in Q4 2020 and a plan will be developed throughout Q1 2021.

B. Annual Results (MAXIMUM 3 PAGES)

- Section B should provide specific information on the achievement of expected annual results and workplan, following up on the broader progress presented in the part A.*

B.1. SDG acceleration

List up to 3 main SDG targets that your Joint Programme primarily focused in 2020:

SDG: 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

SDG: 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

SDG: 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

- *Briefly explain the activities implemented in 2020 to accelerate progress towards these SDGs, in line with the JP's Theory of Change for SDG acceleration.*

In Belarus, the MAPS has acknowledged that public finance will continue to play a dominant role in the overall financing mix to deliver on the SDGs in the long term. A new National Sustainable Development Strategy was prepared by the Government, which extends the horizon until 2035. Translating this agenda to the lower levels of policy making will require much planning work by the authorities, which shows that the JP's focus on public finance reform is timely and in line with the country's urgencies.

Indeed, the Government of Belarus is still to calculate the financial needs associated with SDG implementation. This JP will help the Government move in this direction in the short term, by enabling Belarus to harness more efficient use of resources and public investments in reaching the SDGs. In the medium term, the impact of these efforts will allow Belarus to increasingly draw on alternative forms of financing particularly from private sector, including by setting up SDG social impact funds, attracting private financial flows through the improvement of FDI specific policy frameworks, and harnessing climate finance.

This JP also assumes that moving forward many dimensions of the accelerator platforms and financing of the SDGs will require to leverage on new partnerships. The positive trend of increasing multi-dimensional bilateral, regional and global engagement should be deepened. Additional sources of SDG financing could be leverage public-private partnerships and investments.

Improving the efficiency of public spending will not only have an immediate impact on sustainable development, but it will also free up public resources to undertake more difficult business climate reforms linked to the security of property rights, creating a pipeline of infrastructure projects that could attract foreign capital, and ensuring fairer taxation of productive activities, even if all of these reforms may take time to materialize. Finally, whereas Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows have been quite small relative to government budget revenues, further funds are more likely to be leveraged from the development community if the authorities show a long-term commitment to transparency and accountability.

B.2. Contribution to Fund's global results

With regards to Outcome 2, the measurement is not available for the existing Joint Programme. An alternative outcome that could be suggested is "Progress is made in the adoption of results-based normative budget methodology that can contribute to SDGs". Indicators of achievement could be the number of Ministries that adopted these methodologies.

With regards to Output 4, all targets were shifted to 2021 due to the late initiation of the programme. They remain the same, as the Government continues implementation of a public finance reform, to which the development of modern methods for undertaking social, environmental and gender sensitive expenditures will add on, thus allowing for more integrated financing strategies.

B.3. JP Outputs and outcomes

- Fill out Annex 1-3 and provide brief narrative on the implementation of JP-specific outcomes and outputs. While annual results might refer mostly to output-level results, they might also include contribution to outcome-level results.
 - Achievement of outputs

Evidence was shared with Government partners presenting policy simulations of feasible changes in fiscal policies in Belarus aimed to reduce child poverty more effectively. Belarus is among the countries with the lowest poverty rate in Eastern Europe, and public social assistance focuses specifically on families and children. However, the national measure of child poverty is almost two times higher than for the population as a whole. This research provided the Ministry of Finance and MoLSP with feasible options to change child benefits and subsidies that will make social protection for the most vulnerable children more equitable and efficient, and estimated the costs of achieving the SDG 1.2 target of halving child poverty by 2030 (available at <https://www.unicef.by/en/ceq4c/>)

- Achievement of outcomes

n.a.

B.4. Strategic Documents

Did the JP produce strategic documents in the last year (policy, strategies, analyses/assessments, methodological documents, and other relevant documents)?

- Yes
 No

C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation (MAXIMUM 2 PAGES)

See Annex I.3 for a description of outcomes and outputs

C.1 Upcoming activities

Outcome 1: Priority activities in 2021: Capacity building activities for public authorities and healthcare managers on normative cost-based budget planning methods per consumer, result-oriented budgeting and aligning budgeting with SDGs; The list of activities will include online or offline workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, expert meetings depending on the needs of national counterparts. In addition, preparations will be initiated for the development of the conceptual and methodological framework to integrate SDGs in result-oriented normative budgeting in healthcare based on the cost of service per one consumer.

Outcome 2: Priority activities in 2021: Providing technical expertise on supporting the development of approaches on planning budget expenditures using the per capita spending rates for social services provided by the territorial centres of social services for population (TCSSP) in Minsk oblast. In addition, work will be undertaken for generating evidence and estimating child-focused budgets in three cities using UNICEF child-focused public expenditure measurement (C-PEM) framework. Furthermore, capacity development for performance-based budgeting: knowledge and expertise developed in the activities referred above will inform developing a draft training programme for civil servants with learning modules' outlines on child-focused SDG performance-based budgeting. A dedicated social protection specialist will be hired to implement these activities.

Outcome 3: Priority activities in 2021: Conducting the Finance Assessment (FA) in the area of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. UNDP, in cooperation with the MNREP, including: a) a diagnostic assessment of existing costs allocated to environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources (SDGs 12-15); b) funding needs assessment for activities in the area of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources and assessment of opportunities for mobilizing additional sources of finance.

The specific steps of conducting the FA will include the following:

- 1) Inception phase: conducting preliminary review with the MNREP and other interested government agencies;
- 2) Research and initial consultation: recruiting the technical team to research and analyze with a view of preparing the report, while an oversight team steers and guides the research and consultations, fostering multi-level stakeholder dialogue;
- 3) Consultations on the preliminary findings: while the technical team provides analysis-based recommendations and a draft of the report, the oversight team continues to engage multiple stakeholders in a dialogue on validation and recommendations.

Furthermore, the BioFin methodology will be applied as a tool for tracking budget spending, monitoring expenditures, as well as mobilizing funds, managing capital and using financial incentives to support sustainable biodiversity management. It envisages the use of such instruments as Biodiversity Finance Policy and Institutional Review, together with the Expenditure Review and assessment of the possibility of introducing normative budgetary planning methods in the area of biodiversity, including protected areas. The analysis will lead to recommendations for financing biological diversity to help achieve SDG 15 target 15.a.

Outcome 4: Priority activities in 2021: In close cooperation with the MLSP a joint review of the existing training programmes for civil servants in the public administration will be undertaken, paired with a capacity needs

assessment in the MLSP. Following the review, specific recommendations will be proposed and discussed with MLSP for: a) developing training module on gender responsive policy planning and budgeting and b) selection of target programme for gender budget analysis. Both activities will be foundational for delivery of targeted trainings to civil servants and conducting of the gender budget analysis of the select programme, accompanied by guidance on how to mainstream GE perspective in the MLSP process of planning and budgeting, that will be completed in 2022.

JP's specifics expected impact on annual results (outputs and outcomes) for 1 Jan 2021 – 31 Dec 2021.

Outcome 1: Key Ministry of Health specialists and regional healthcare managers will obtain knowledge and skills in result-oriented budgeting including gender budgeting issues methodology on normative budgeting in sexual and reproductive health service. As a result, a result-oriented budgeting approach will be applied and integrated to the development of a small-scale healthcare programme with a focus on reproductive health. The integration of result-oriented budgeting on local and national level will contribute to Output 1 through the mechanisms of improving of cost-effective public financing.

Outcome 2: Approaches to integrating cost-planning tools based on per capita financing of social services provided by the territorial centres of social services for population (TCSSP) will be developed. These activities will support of the Ministry of Finance and MLSP specialists in developing and mainstreaming performance-based budgeting for more effective spending on social services, thus addressing existing needs of children and families with children. Furthermore, the piloting of a child budget at the level of Child and Adolescent Friendly City in Minsk Oblast will inform a thematic plan for advanced training and retraining of civil servants, which will allow to integrate child-focused SDG performance-based budgeting into the development and implementation of state policy. The interventions will contribute to the improvement of mechanisms and inter-agency approaches to enable identification, recording, and monitoring of the needs of vulnerable groups, including families in difficult circumstances.

Outcome 3: The activities undertaken will help strengthen capacities in the MNREP for cost-planning and tracking of budget sending, monitoring expenditures and mobilizing development funds, therefore impacting on achieving progress on improving the system of collection, monitoring, analysis and use of disaggregated data in accordance with principles of LNOB, gender equality and human rights-based approaches; contributing to outcome level improvements in data collection, gender equality policies, and child and gender budgeting by year 2025 and related sustainable development impact.

Outcome 4: Civil servants and gender focal points in the MLSP will increase knowledge and understanding on specialized tools for gender responsive planning and budgeting tailored to the different needs and priorities of the civil servants, i.e. policy developers/planners and finance specialists, identified through Capacity needs assessment.

C.2. Expected changes

No further changes to the work plan, budget, Theory of Change, results framework of the JP are expected between 1 Jan 2021 – 31 Dec 2021.

C.3. Risks and mitigation measures

Are there any changes made/expected to be made to the Risk Matrix?

Yes

No

The Matrix in Annex 4 has been updated in 2020 to incorporate contextual and programmatic risks linked to two major sources, which are the potential worsening of the macro-economic environment and the related impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic. They remain the most important risks at this stage of the programme as they may compromise reform priorities of the Government. In the past year, agencies managed to mitigate a major programmatic risk linked to the long duration of the national project approval procedures through holding discussions with the line ministries and the Ministry of Finance, which resulted in the agreement that the activities could be rolled out without national registration, reducing national approval procedures.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (annual)

Joint SDG Fund Global Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement (Update table below)

| Indicators | Target 2020 | Result 2020 | Target 2021 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2.1: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope(for other/ additional sector/s or through new sources/means) | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| 2.2: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale(for the same multi-sectoral solution.) | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |

Joint SDG Fund Global Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented (Update table below and provide details as requested)

| Indicators | Target 2020 | Result 2020 | Target 2021 | List of strategies/ frameworks developed |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| 4.1: #of integrated financing strategies that were tested (disaggregated by % successful / unsuccessful) | 1 | 0 | 1 | n.a. |
| 4.2: #of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead disaggregated by (1) government/public partners (2) civil society partners and (3) private sector partners | 1 | 0 | 1 | n.a. |
| 4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on SDGs made operational | 1 | 0 | 1 | n.a. |

2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

- Provide data for aggregation at the global level of the Joint SDG Fund.

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of the overall UNCT coherence in 2020?

- Yes, considerably contributed
 Yes, contributed
 No

Explain briefly: The JP will contribute to harmonized interventions on public finance reform with a focus on health, social and environmental spending. Whereas activities will only be implemented in year 2021, the PUNOs benefited from the planning and coordination that will avoid duplications and ensure more focused interventions once they are rolled out.

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other Joint Programmes?

- Yes,
 No
 N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly: Yes. The endorsement by the Ministry of Finance of the JP without the need to undergo registration with the Ministry of Economy will ensure a smoother implementation than it is the case in the majority of the Joint Programmes in Belarus. The agencies also benefited of coordination by the RCO which help minimize the iterations of contacts with Government authorities.

2.3. Was your Joint Programme aligned with the UNCT Results Groups in 2020?

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: Whereas activities have been postponed to year 2021, they are aligned with the results framework of the country team's upcoming UNSDCF, which was also approved in year 2020.

3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

- Present annual JP results in the following template

| Result / Indicators | Baseline | Expected 2020 Target | Expected 2020 result | Reasons for variance | Expected 2021 Target | Expected Final Result (if different from 2021) |
|---|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Outcome 1: By 2025, adolescents, youth, families with children and vulnerable groups practice safer and healthier behaviors and enjoy better access and quality healthcare services | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Output 1 A set of inter-agency measures is developed for teaching healthy lifestyles and safe living skills, improving sexual, reproductive and mental health | | | | | | |
| Capacity building on normative budgeting based on expenditures per consumer in the healthcare system is undertaken of the Ministry of Health, healthcare managers and local government with focus on reproductive health and gender-sensitive services. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Delay in project endorsement by authorities. | 1 | |
| A conceptual and methodological framework to integrate SDGs in normative budgeting based on the cost of services per consumer in healthcare is developed. | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. | 1 | |
| Feasibility study and testing of the conceptual and methodological framework in a pilot region is undertaken. | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. | 1 | |
| Outcome 2 By 2025, adolescents, youth, families with children and vulnerable groups, enjoy better access to gender-responsive, inclusive and labor-market-oriented education, improved social protection system, more restorative approaches to justice, and opportunities to strengthen their families' resilience. | | | | | | |
| Output 2 Support is provided to the development and improvement of mechanisms and inter-agency approaches to enable identification, recording, and monitoring of the needs of vulnerable groups, including families in difficult circumstances, and in developing alternative forms of care and deinstitutionalization | | | | | | |
| Cost-planning tools using standards for expenditures per consumer are developed for children and families with children and piloted at CAFC of the Minsk region. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Delay in project endorsement by authorities. | 1 | |
| Child-focused budgets (child budgets) are developed at the local level in 3 (three) municipalities in Minsk Oblast. | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. | 1 | 3 |
| A thematic plan for advanced training and retraining of civil servants is developed for the | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 1 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|---|
| development and implementation of state policy in the interests of children, adolescents, families with children, based on individual needs and budget expenditures planning using standards per consumer. | | | 0 | n.a. | | |
| Outcome 3 By 2025, improvements in data collection, gender equality policies, and child and gender budgeting have created conditions for men and women of all ages, including those aged 65 years and older, as well as girls and boys, to better realize their rights and increase the quality of their lives, including through increased opportunities for employment and better protection from gender-based and domestic violence. | | | | | | |
| Output 3: The system of collection, monitoring, analysis, and use of disaggregated data, including related to vulnerable groups, is improved in accordance with the human rights-based approach, gender equality and "leaving no one behind" principles. | | | | | | |
| The Finance Assessment in the area of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources (FA) is carried out, the draft report on the FA results and the developed recommendations shared with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Delay in project endorsement by authorities (before starting date). | 1 | |
| The final report on the results of the FA in the area of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources is presented at the national level. | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. | 1 (Conference) | |
| The BioFin (Biodiversity Finance) methodology is applied, the possibility of implementing the normative budgeting in terms of specially protected natural territories is assessed, the report and developed recommendations are shared with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. | 0 | 1 |
| Outcome 4: By 2025, improvements in data collection, gender equality policies, and child and gender budgeting have created conditions for men and women of all ages, including those aged 65 years and older, as well as girls and boys, to better realize their rights and increase the quality of their lives and better protection from gender-based and domestic violence. | | | | | | |

| Output 4: Wider opportunities are provided to apply the principles of gender analysis of legislation, gender budgeting and gender equality mainstreaming in developing state programs and allocating budget resources | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gender equality issues are incorporated into training programs for civil servants. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Delay in project endorsement by authorities (before starting date). | 0 | 3 |
| Gender analysis of one selected programme in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection based on well-defined criteria followed up with action plan and budget. | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. | 0 | 1 |
| Trainings are undertaken for the budget and strategic planning unit of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Delay in project endorsement by authorities (before starting date). | 0 | 3 |

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

- Complete the tables by focusing on documents that are of particular strategic importance for the JP results and for the priorities of the Joint SDG Fund in this portfolio.

1. Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

| Title of the document | Date (month; year) when finalized | Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| n.a. | | |

2. Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution

| Title of the document | Date (month; year) when finalized | Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| COVID19 Socio-economic Response Plan | July 2020 | Summarizes the UNCT socioeconomic response to COVID19 |

Annex 3: List of strategic communication documents

- Provide the responses to the questions below with data for the last year overall.

1. Have you created a strategic communication plan for the Joint Programme?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: UNDP appointed a communications focal point during Q4 2020 and the communications strategy will be prepared during Q1 2021..

2. What percentage of the annual budget towards communications was utilized from the total budget? (Note that the entire JP comms budget must be min 5% of the total JP budget)

Explain briefly: N.a.

3. Have visibility outcomes increased due to the provided funding for JP strategic communications?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:N.a.

4. Does the Country Profile Page on the Joint SDG Fund website contribute to your JP outreach?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The Country Profile Page is a good public outreach tool to inform interested stakeholders about the evolution of our Joint Programme. It also contributes to raising the profile of Belarus with regards to mainstreaming SDG public finance agendas.

5. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about your JP were published by an external media outlet (Non-UN published)?

Total number:0

Explain briefly: The strategic communication plan will be developed during Q1 2021.

6. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about the Joint Programme were published by the UNCT and JP PUNOs?

Total number:0

Explain briefly: The strategic communication plan will be developed during Q1 2021.

7. Have you received an increase of social media followers?

Yes

No

Total number: n.a. (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly: UNDP appointed a communications focal point during Q4 2020 and the strategy will be prepared during Q1 2021.

Multi-Media Faucets

| Title of the document | Date when finalized (MM/YY) | Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| n.a. | | |

Social Media Campaigns

| Title of the document | Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.) | Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|

| | | |
|------|--|--|
| n.a. | | |
|------|--|--|

Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

| Risks | Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact) | Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1 | Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1 | Mitigating measures | Responsible Org./Person |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Contextual risks | | | | | |
| Potential worsening of the macro-economic environment, in view of the global Covid-19 pandemic, may affect coordination with IFIs; Change in reform priorities may limit commitment to implementation of the programme | High (9) | Possible (3) | Moderate (3) | UNCT will establish institutionalized dialogue mechanisms and work to keep continued contact with Government counterparts at national, regional and local level to ensure the delivery of the programme is not compromised | PUNOs as per individual activities |
| Programmatic risks | | | | | |
| (1) Long duration of the national project approval procedures preceding the launch of individual activities, (2) political support for gender equality initiatives may weaken (3) the impact of COVID-19 pandemic may delay or prevent the implementation of specific programme elements. | Medium (8) | Likely (4) | Minor (2) | Regular consultations with the competent government authorities involved in the project approval and registration processes will be established at all levels of Government; an agreement will be sought with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the gender components of the JP are not compromised; regular consultations will be held with the Ministry of Health and WHO to inform the JP on different COVID 19 scenarios that may develop. | PUNOs as per individual activities |
| Institutional risks | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| <p>Changes in the mandates of agencies and ministries at the national, regional and municipality level could slow down the speed of programme implementation. Furthermore, limitations in the capacity of the Belarus ministries to dedicate sufficient staff time to the proposed engagement, due to foreseeable budget cuts may create additional hurdles.</p> | <p>High (16)</p> | <p>Likely (4)</p> | <p>Major (4)</p> | <p>UNCT will work to strengthen local capacities to ensure preparedness of municipal and regional authorities to internalize new knowledge and develop mechanisms to mainstream the institutional memory of all government echelons with regards to SDG finance.</p> | <p>PUNOs as per individual activities</p> |
| <p>Fiduciary risks</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Project implementation may be resisted by sectors of public administration (especially those that are not the subject of reform) as an instrument of macroeconomic adjustment.</p> | <p>High (9)</p> | <p>Possible (3)</p> | <p>Moderate (3)</p> | <p>The UNCT will need to work to communicate the purposes of reform in advance if implementation and ensure the individual interventions are perceived as elements of a broader strategy that will lead to efficiencies and a more sensible use of public funds</p> | <p>PUNOs as per individual activities</p> |