

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LNOB
Joint Programme 2020 Annual Progress Report

Cover page

Country: Montenegro

Joint Programme title: Activate! Integrated Social Protection and Employment to Accelerate Progress for Young People in Montenegro

Short title: Activate! Youth in Montenegro

Start date (month/year): 12/2019

End date (month/year): 12/2021

RC (name): Peter Lundberg

Government Joint Programme Focal Point: Goran Kusevija, Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare

Representative of Lead PUNO: Michaela Bauer, Deputy Representative, UNICEF

List of PUNOs:

ILO: Nina Krgovic, National Project Coordinator, (krkovic@ilo.org)

IOM: Dusica Zivkovic, Head of the Office, (dzivkovic@iom.int)

Tijana Simic, Project Coordinator, (tsimic@iom.int)

UNDP: Daniela Gasparikova, Resident Representative, (daniela.gasparikova@undp.org)

Miodrag Dragisic, Assistant Resident Representative, (miodrag.dragisic@undp.org)

UNHCR: Adrian Edwards, Representative ai, (edwards@unhcr.org) until mid-March

Jean-Yves Bouchardy, Representative (bouchard@unhcr.org), as of mid-March

Mensur Bajramspahic, Programme Assistant, (bajramsp@unhcr.org)

RCO Main JP Focal Point: Radosav Babic **E-mail:** radosav.babic@un.org

Lead Agency Main JP Focal Point: Michaela Bauer **E-mail:** mbauer@unicef.org

Contact person for Joint Communications: Vlatko Otasevic **E-mail:** vlatko.otasevic@un.org

Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): USD 1,970,000

Overall budget (with co-funding): USD 2,689,000

Annual Financial Delivery Rate (= Total JP expenditures / transferred funds x 100%): 24.6%

Rate of Committed Funding (= Total JP commitments / transferred funds x 100%): 28.3%

Total Utilized Rate = 52.9%

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

The JP aims to enhance the capacities of the social protection system to better serve people in need – through a dual focus on improving the effectiveness of social policies as well as delivery of social services. It focuses on youth, children, migrants and refugees, and addresses the root causes of human trafficking while supporting decent work and employability/skills development. The vision is that by 2022, Montenegro has improved capacity to design impact-oriented, evidence-informed social protection policies and deliver integrated human-centered services that reduce poverty and social exclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalized, focusing on young men and women, thus accelerating sustainable human development.

Executive summary

The global health and socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19 severely affected Montenegro. According to the World Bank, Montenegro experienced a 14.9% decline in economic activity- the sharpest economic downturn in the region ¹. Poverty is expected to rise from 18.1 percent in 2019 to 20.4 percent in 2020² and family income might shrink by 5-10 percent, meaning that 9,000-20,000 citizens might slip below the poverty line. Most of them are currently not accessing social welfare – pointing to an expected increase in the number people in need of social assistance and services. Most affected are those who were already vulnerable but also “new poor” whose household income depends on the informal economy and who are not covered by social protection and/or eligible for employment benefits. The crisis has revealed and exacerbated existing weaknesses of the social protection system and highlighted the urgent need for system reforms to improve poverty reduction and increase resilience.

Against the backdrop of the current crisis the UN Joint Programme on Social Protection (Activate!) has become more relevant than ever before with its dual approach to strengthening social protection system and improving services for the most vulnerable. At the same time, programme implementation during 2020 has been challenged by delays caused by COVID-19 and the first change of Government in 30 years. Implementation of the programme mainly focused on **real time evidence generation** on the impact of COVID-19, **consultations with partners** and **adjustment of programme approaches**, preparations for providing **technical assistance** for effective social policy reform and improved service delivery for the most vulnerable groups.

- Two rounds of the UN Rapid Social Impact Assessment (RSIA) provided real-time data on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, especially on vulnerable groups. Following data collection and consultations with vulnerable groups the UN proposed recommendations to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups - a powerful tool for advocacy that programme guidance for the COVID-19 response by UN Government and civil society organisations.
- In cooperation with EBRD, the ILO conducted a Rapid Assessment of the Impacts of COVID-19 on the World of Work in Montenegro, warning about the risks of a ‘lockdown generation’ and proposing mitigation measure that led to JP programme adaptations. A photo campaign on Youth’s transitions to the World of Work was launched to raise awareness on challenges with school-to-work transition.
- Through more than 560 legal advices provided, UNHCR supported 248 refugees from former Yugoslavia and persons at risk of statelessness towards regularizing their legal status thus providing much needed access to social protection assistance and services.
- To assist the Government with policy simulations and modeling for poverty reduction a team of experts started to i) develop tools for planning and implementation of more effective social policies and ii) design social policy options for poverty reduction (eg redistributive social policy scenarios).
- Partners from the social protection and employment sectors have been working with the project team to develop a human-centered design process for service delivery with support of UNDP Moldova. The implementation plan and locations for service delivery have been validated, covering all regions and municipalities with the highest numbers of beneficiaries.
- Two capacity-building events for partners were organized with stakeholders on labour market analysis and skills mismatch.
- The ILO, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the social partners, and the Employment Agency of Montenegro (EAM) completed co-design of an innovative active labour market measure targeting young people and aimed at facilitating the welfare-to-work transition of young women.
- The social-emotional skills programmes for young people have been adapted for online deployment to be implemented through civil society partner in 2021. Preparations for the development of a mental health app have started.

A. Annual Progress

A.1 The overall approach

¹ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34710/9781464816123.pdf>

² World Bank – Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, October 2020

Broader context and JP changes

The COVID-19 epidemic has significantly changed the context within which the JP operates – both the ability of the social protection system to reduce poverty and social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups (Outcome 1) as well as the possibility to provide decent work and employment for those who are not in employment, education and training (Outcome 2). The crisis has revealed and exacerbated existing weaknesses of the social protection system and highlighted the urgent need to make it more effective in terms of poverty reduction and more resilient to shocks.

This is both confirmed by the UN Rapid Social Impact Assessment – that has shown the negative impact on the most vulnerable groups and new vulnerable segments of society – as well as the ILO Rapid Assessment of the impacts of Covid-19 on the World of Work in Montenegro which highlights the emergence of a lockdown youth generation, but also that women are over-represented in sectors at highest risk of job losses, which led to Welfare -to-work program refocusing. While some of the targets originally set in the proposal (eg re poverty reduction) can no longer be achieved due to the increase in poverty and unemployment, the relevance and importance of the JP activities has significantly increased. However, the innovative tools to be rolled out by the JP – in particular policy simulation – may lead to acceleration of the programme.

The COVID crisis and the institutional changes in the aftermath of elections and change of government, along with suggestions from stakeholders led **to reshaping and adapting of some of the JP activities:**

- The ILO **Welfare-to-Work (w2w) program is now focused on the inclusion of women** (aged 25-34) in the labour market through a pilot unemployment allowance and child-care grant, and subsidized on-the-job training with two main target groups: (i) women with pre-school age children who were previously employed and who lost their job due to the COVID-19 crisis; (ii) women with children in pre-school age who are willing to work, but are inactive due to lack of access to childcare services.
- The **Social-Emotional Skills Programme was adapted for online use** and roll-out in 2021 with a particular focus on the well-being and resilience of vulnerable young people. A blended learning model will be utilised, combining online learning and traditional learning, where circumstances allow. The focus of the **mental health app** will be to provide much needed support during the crisis taking into account WHO Guidance and linking the app with referral to institutional support for well-being and mental health.

Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic

As part of JP Activate! under the guidance of the UNCT and the UNDAF Social Inclusion Results Group, two rounds of the UN Rapid Social Impact Assessment (RSIA) of the COVID-19 outbreak in Montenegro were implemented. The RSIA provided real-time, in-depth information on the socio-economic impact on existing vulnerable groups, and pointed to new vulnerable groups. It was designed and implemented by UN staff in cooperation with IPSOS research agency (for quantitative research) and a wide range of government and civil society partners and direct beneficiaries (for qualitative research) and complemented by a U-Report Poll among young people. The dimensions covered by the assessment included income, employment, food security, exposure to violence, access to health, education, social and child protection.

The RSIA, together with the Rapid Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on the World of Work in Montenegro conducted by ILO and EBRD, were used to inform UN system, Government and civil society response to the pandemic. The findings of both assessments guided programmatic response by all relevant UN agencies, especially WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNHCR and IOM. They were also subsequently widely reflected in the UN Social Economic Response Plan (SERP), the revised 2020 and 2021 UNDAF work plans for Social Inclusion, the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the CCA background paper on “Leaving No One Behind”. In the discussions on the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework the findings of both assessments have led to poverty reduction, social inclusion and inclusive economic growth and employment being identified as emerging priorities.

JP adaptation to COVID-19 in 2020

JP funds were repurposed formally (Outcome 1- RSIA) and changed through adaptation (Outcome 2-ILO)

- A small portion of our Activate! funding (related to Outcome 1) was used to collect additional data on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 (in particular related to poverty) as part of the Rapid Social Impact Assessment on COVID-19
- ILO's Rapid Assessment on the COVID-19 impact on the labour market identified that in May 2020, manufacturing, wholesale, retail trade, accommodation and food service activities topped the list of sectors at high risk in terms of employment impacts. At that time, 36,000 jobs appeared at immediate risk of being lost, with women over-represented in precarious jobs in these sectors. Hence this triggered the adaptation of the w2w programme to target in particular women through a new Activate Women Programme

Update on the progress/status of these adaptations

- Two rounds of the RSIA were conducted in 2020 and an additional third round will be conducted in Q1. The new Government intends to contribute to the design of the RSIA III and use the findings to inform the next set of Government measures planned for Q2 in response to the economic and social crisis.
- The roll-out of the adapted Activate Women programme is planned for early 2021 (IA, Minutes and ToR to be signed).

Other re-alignments of the JP over the past year

While the Government in Montenegro has changed in 2020 the strategic objectives of the JP – effective reducing poverty and social exclusion (Outcome 1) and providing decent work for those not in employment, education and training (Outcome 2) – remain very relevant and are indeed key priorities for the new Government. As the transition is still ongoing (Government assumed function only in December 2020), the UNCT is currently reengaging with new stakeholders to ensure strategic alignment with Government priorities:

- UNICEF is supporting the Government in co-designing a roadmap for social protection system reform as part of the on-going Social Protection System Assessment, conducted with the international CODI methodology. A Steering Committee including key governmental bodies, international organizations and civil society organizations is guiding this process to be concluded in Q1-2021. The finalization of the roadmap of reforms is a prerequisite for the next tranche of the EU's macro-financial assistance to Montenegro. The Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare intends to use the policy simulations tool – supported under Outcome 1 - to model effective social policy measures (eg child allowance) to test possible options envisaged in the roadmap. The evidence generated through the simulations will inform the reform of the Law on Social and Child Protection which is expected to be amended in 2021.
- In light of the impacts of Covid-19 on the world of work and at the request of the Ministry in charge of labour and employment, and with the view of lock-down and remote working schemes, the ILO did not consider it ethically appropriate or technically feasible during the lifetime of the Activate! project to advocate and implement welfare-to-work measures. Thus, in the context of the support that the ILO provides to the tripartite partners in Montenegro and as part of the Decent Work country programme, a new broad measure was designed. Entitled "Activate Women", it focuses on the inclusion of women in the labour market through a pilot unemployment allowance and child-care grant, and subsidized on-the-job training.
- UNHCR leveraged its membership in the Intersectoral Working Group established by the Ministry of Interior to draft the new Strategy on Migration and Reintegration of Returnees in Montenegro 2021-2025, together with the Action Plans for 2021 and 2022, thereby ensuring that UNHCR activities foreseen by the JP remain strategic and catalytic. Access to the national social protection system and socio-economic rights (work, education, healthcare, etc) for refugees from former Yugoslavia and persons at risk of statelessness is embedded in the Strategy through a strategic and operational goal of acquiring the appropriate legal status.

JP alignment with the UN's SERP

Through the two assessments generated by the JP - RSIA and ILO-EBRD assessment – real-time data was produced on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Consultations with key stakeholders on these assessments - Government, social partners, civil society organizations, international donors and beneficiaries – informed the planning and implementation of the COVID-19 response. Data and feedback from partners informed all pillars of the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) and guided the UN's programmatic response – which focuses on the most pressing problems of the current social protection system, including targeting, coverage, and adequacy of social assistance and effectiveness of services, especially concerning vulnerable groups, but also responses in other areas such as health, education and social cohesion. All UN agencies used key findings from two assessment to leverage and mobilise resources and to develop response and recovery activities for the 2021 UNDAF Annual Work Plan and inform the preparations of the next UNSDF.

A.2 Update on priority issues

SDG acceleration

Due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 poverty, inequality and unemployment are very likely to increase significantly in Montenegro. This makes acceleration towards SDGs even more pressing but will considerably slow down SDG achievement. While the baselines for the Activate! are expected to worsen – eg poverty and unemployment rates - it is too early to predict the anticipated impact of Activate!. The policy simulations envisaged as part of Outcome 1 could lead to introduction of the new social policy measures that can help vulnerable groups to withstand the current shocks. Similarly, the human-centred services and employment measures foreseen in Outcome 2 will hopefully lead to increase in employment of vulnerable young women and men and assist those currently not covered by social protection – refugees, stateless and trafficked persons – to access the system. However, the acceleration of progress towards achieving the SDGs would be possible only after the overall social-economic situation has stabilized. The key SDG targets remain valid – see Annex 1.

Vulnerable groups

- The following vulnerable groups were reached through Rapid Social Impact Assessment:

Target group	Number of respondents in the first round of data collection	Number of respondents in the second round of data collection	The percentage of respondents that were interviewed in both rounds
Children³	278 parents/care givers 87 men and 191 women	160 parents/caregivers 40 men and 120 women	87.5%
Adolescents	505 data entries using U-Report poll 159 men and 346 women	344 entries 106 men and 238 women	68%
The elderly	94 respondents 47 men and 47 women	89 respondents 38 men and 51 women	87.6%
Persons with disabilities	63 respondents 19 men and 44 women	59 respondents 19 men and 40 women	100%
Domicile Roma	33 respondents 27 men and 6 women	33 respondents 27 men and 6 women	15.2%
Refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons (at risk of statelessness)	186 respondents 137 men and 49 women	128 respondents 99 men and 29 women	86.5%
Migrants (seasonal workers, foreigners)	44 respondents 16 men and 28 women	25 respondents 9 men and 16 women	84%
LGBTI community		46 members of LGBTI community (9 women, 7 men, 3 lesbians, 7 gays, 16 transgender persons, 1	Data was obtained only in round two.

³The group included children with disabilities, Roma children, children living in single-parent households, children whose parent(s) have a history of substance abuse, children from families which receive social assistance ('family material assistance'), and children in foster care.

		intersexual person, 1 gender variant and 2 nonbinary persons)	
--	--	---	--

- Social protection assistance is currently insufficiently targeted as only about 20% of the annual allocation is specifically targeting the poor. COVID-19 and the economic downturn resulted in the rise of poverty and thus an increase of those in need of assistance. The national statistics will not be able to capture the poverty level changes in real time - as per the EU Statistics on Income and Living Condition (SILC) methodology the impact of COVID-19 on poverty will only be measurable at the end of 2021. The policy simulation exercise to be conducted through the JP in the first half of 2021, will propose new policy measures to reach an increased number of people in need for social protection. The Government plans to introduce new policy measures in 2021 to reduce poverty more effectively, in particular child poverty. For example, this could help to increase the current number of beneficiaries of child allowance (13.000) and material benefits (28.000) by 10%.
- By working in partnership with the Employment Agency of Montenegro, the “Activate women” programme to be rolled out in 2021 offers an opportunity to empower and capacitate EAM to provide support and services to its most vulnerable members at a time of crisis. The project supports women to access the labour market taking into consideration the specific barriers that they face. The project is expected to have an impact on economic recovery and job protection efforts in response to the Covid-19 crisis. Regarding youth, service delivery focuses on the increase of their participation in education, employment or training to reduce dependence on social protection.
- Through more than 560 legal advices provided, UNHCR supported 248 persons towards regularizing their legal status. The acquisition of a stable and permanent legal status in Montenegro allows refugees and persons previously being in a statelessness-like situation to access the national social protection system and labour market.
- Through the (re)design of services for labor activation of most vulnerable social protection beneficiaries, UNDP plans to reach at least 100 people, mostly youth and women. Depending on the type of changes in current services and the nature of redesigned services, the intervention may potentially reach much more beneficiaries and can be replicated in the rest of local communities.

Gender marker

Gender equality was mainstreamed in the two rapid assessment conducted with the support of the JP. When collecting data, equal representation of women and men was ensured. Data was disaggregated where possible and the RSIA applied gender lens by analyzing the situation of vulnerable families, including single parent households. One of the special focus groups were victims of gender-based violence and the impact of pandemics on this group has been analyzed and related recommendations advocated at policy level. The planning for services to be rolled out in 2021 was done in a gender-sensitive manner to ensure that all girls and boys, women and men benefit from access to labour market activation services, socio-emotional skills programme, mental health apps and other support. The adapted Activate! Women programme by ILO will promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls – applicable to female NEETs, and to women employment and reintegration. Legal advice and support were provided to both men and women refugees from the former Yugoslavia and persons at risk of statelessness.

Human rights

Implementation of the JP focused in particular on the following key priorities that were identified by human rights mechanism such as CESCR 2014, CCPR 2014, CEDAW 2017, CRPD 2017, CRC 2018, UPR 2018, IE OP 2018, CERD 2018, covering areas of

- Poverty (including child poverty), social assistance/security and services
- Employment/decent work
- Anti-discrimination
- Vulnerable and marginalized groups

Partnerships

The UNCT worked on the JP implementation in close cooperation with the following stakeholders and partners:

- institutions from the social protection and employment sectors (Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare, Ministry of Economic Development, Centres for Social Work and Employment Agency) – all worked closely with the JP core team on Outcome 1 (social policy) and outcome 2 (employment service).
- the Ministry of Interior, municipal centres for social welfare and the NGO sector, regarding the implementation of the birth registration and statelessness determination procedures at the local level.
- the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo to provide identity documents and passports to persons at risk of statelessness/refugees from former Yugoslavia.
- To collect real-time data through the UN Rapid Social Impact Assessment the following partners were engaged : Ministry of Justice, Protector for Human Rights and Freedoms/Ombudsperson, Police Directorate, Council for Civilian Monitoring of the Police, the Centres for Social Work in Niksic, Mojkovac, Berane, Cetinje, Kotor, Bar, Elderly People’s home “Grabovac” Risan, Day-Care Centre for Children and Persons with Disabilities Pljevlja, NGO Association of Youth with Disabilities, NGO Phiren Amenca, NGO Centre for Roma Initiatives, ‘Ljubovic’ Centre for Children and Youth in conflict with the law, NGO Civic Alliance, NGO Juventas, Red Cross of Montenegro, NGO Parents Association, NGO Family Centre, NGO Centre for Child Rights, NGO Special Olympics, NGO Pedagogical Centre of Montenegro, NGO Centre for Women’s Rights, NGO SOS Podgorica, NGO SOS Niksic, NGO Women’s Safe House, and UNICEF Youth Innovation Lab.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
JP launch event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The JP was scheduled for March but due to Covid-19, as well as to the new governmental/institutional changes and reorganizations of the ministries had to be postponed. ILO officially launched the partnership for welfare-to-work together with the tripartite partners, while UNDP and UNICEF presented Rapid Social Impact Assessment to the national government and development partners.
Annual JP development partners’/donors’ event*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Activate! Joint Programme did not host partners/donor event, but some development partners were present in a virtual meeting where UNICEF and UNDP presented Rapid Social Impact Assessment. A partners meeting is planned for February 2021.

Funding and financing

The JP helped to leverage additional resources from international donors

- Through UNICEF with support from the Danish Government, one off humanitarian cash transfers to 1200 families and children were provided by Centres for Social Work. Family outreach worker services are being expanded from 3 to 8 municipalities. These humanitarian assistance funds were directed to target groups identified in the RSIA under the JP Activate! (in total \$200,000)
- With support from the Norwegian Government and NGO Group 484 UNICEF supported Government, Red Cross and other civil society organizations to address the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable children and families. As a result, close to 33 000 individuals and 23 000 children in vulnerable situations benefited from support in child protection, education and water, sanitation and hygiene – targeting children without parental care, single parent households, children with disabilities and their families, children in foster care and from Roma and Egyptian communities as identified in the RSIA (\$ 202,957.70)

- While Activate! will focus on supporting young women, the European Commission will entrust 200,000 Euro to the ILO to support all women prime-age workers who are eligible for the programme.
- UNDP has mobilized 267,500 USD through the Rapid Relief Facility for the Covid-19 response, with major focus on assessments and policy advice on the effects of crisis on most vulnerable (women, social protection beneficiaries, SMEs). For example, implementation of the social protection measures (cash transfers) to the most vulnerable populations in the country was analyzed and policy simulations conducted relying on the data from Integrated Social Welfare Information System. A set of recommendations were provided that would be used to amend the Law on Social and Child Protection and increasing adequacy and coverage of the poor ones with the existing social protection schemes. At the same time, the data analysis informed decision makers on Covid-19 impact and existing vulnerabilities to support designing adjustments to cash transfers for social protection beneficiaries.

Innovation, learning and sharing

COVID-19 disrupted the normal modus operandi of national authorities and the UN country team but also offered opportunities for innovative approaches as 'online' work modalities were adopted to ensure continuity of evidence gathering and service provision while partner consultations and meetings were conducted through digital platforms and tools. This has led to significant learning not only as part of the UNCT but also in cooperation with partners, including government authorities and civil society who were involved in the JP activities.

Levering wide range of partnerships has been another important feature of the JP's. Through the Rapid Social Impact Assessment (RSIA) of COVID-19, the UN in Montenegro was able to mobilise a wide range of partners from national authorities and civil society organisations to support data collection, validation and engagement with the most vulnerable groups. In line with the LNOB principle, consultations on the RSIA recommendations were held with the most vulnerable groups or intermediaries. The results of the RSIA were presented to the highest level of Government – Deputy Prime Ministers and several Ministers in April as well as the Joint Steering Committee for the UN Development Assistance Framework in Montenegro.

Strategic communications

While Covid-19 caused some delays in communication activities, the Joint Communications Team reviews the workplan and delivers activities as feasible in the current situation.

- UN Rapid Social Impact Assessment (in both language):
 - [The Full Report](#)
 - [The Summary](#)
 - [The Key findings](#).
- UN Socio-Economic Response Plan to COVID-19 in Montenegro ([The Full Report](#))
- The second round of the Photo/Awareness rising activity on theme: World of work and education in Montenegro in the COVID19 atmosphere is planned for 2021. Theme covering: women and youth advocating, protagonists in in-work or in-training situations.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/106991185@N05/albums/72157717849292906>
- UNHCR prepared a web-story "Opening Door of Opportunities" to highlight how activities under the JP enable refugees from former Yugoslavia in accessing the social protection system through the regularization of their legal status. The web-story was featured prominently on the UN Montenegro website, the UN Montenegro and UNHCR Facebook pages, as well as the global UNHCR Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/UNHCRgov/status/1288826329027223552>). The web-story was also published on the [Joint SDG Fund webpage](#).
- UNHCR highlighted on Social Media (Facebook) cooperation with the Embassy of Kosovo under the JP, facilitating the provision of personal documentation to refugees from former Yugoslavia and persons at risk of statelessness. The post, along with the photos is available at UNHCR Montenegro Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/unhcr.montenegro/photos/pcb.3649608515103461/3649606058437040/>.

B. Annual Results

Overall progress

- On track (expected annual results achieved)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)**

- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)
Please, explain briefly:

The COVID-19 epidemic has significantly changed the JP context and severely impacted the ability of the social protection system to reduce poverty (Outcome 1) as well as the possibility to provide decent work and employment for those who are not in employment, education and training (Outcome 2). The crisis has revealed and exacerbated existing weaknesses of the social protection system and highlighted the urgent need to make it more effective in terms of poverty reduction and being more resilient to shocks. While some of the targets originally set in the proposal (eg re poverty reduction and youth unemployment) are unlikely to be achieved due to the expected increase in poverty and youth unemployment, the relevance and importance of the JP activities has even increased. Against the backdrop of the current crisis Activate! will support the new Government in tackling major challenges the country is facing through its dual approach - strengthening social protection policies and improving services for the most vulnerable. The JP can potentially play a catalyzing role in this process.

At the same time, JP programme implementation during 2020 has been challenged by delays caused by COVID-19 lock down measures that have limited the possibility to implement service intervention and the first change of Government in 30 years which meant that work with government partners severely restricted in Q3 and Q4. Implementation of the programme mainly focused on **real time evidence generation** on the impact of COVID-19, **consultations with partners** and **adjustment of programme approaches**, preparations for providing **technical assistance** for effective social policy reform and improved service delivery for the most vulnerable groups. It is expected that the implementation of the JP will accelerate considerably in Q1 and Q2 of 2021 with ILO and UNDP planning to roll out employment services in 2021 which will increase their commitments and expenditures. However, the UNCT is likely to request a non-cost extension in order to ensure that all activities can be effectively implemented and thus contribute to SDG acceleration.

Contribution to Fund's global results

Outcome 1:

- Two rounds of the UN Rapid Social Impact Assessment (RSIA) provided real-time data on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 which proposed recommendations to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on most vulnerable groups - a powerful tool for advocacy and programme guidance for the COVID-19 response by UN, Government and civil society organisations.
- To assist the Government with policy simulations and modeling for poverty reduction a team of experts started to i) develop tools for planning and implementation of more effective social policies and ii) design social policy options for poverty reduction (eg redistributive social policy scenarios).

Outcome 2:

- In cooperation with EBRD, the ILO conducted a Rapid Assessment of the Impacts of COVID-19 on the World of Work in Montenegro warning about the risks of a 'lockdown generation' and proposing mitigation measure that led to JP programme adaptations.
- Partners from the social protection and employment sectors have been working with the project team to develop a human-centered design process for service delivery with support of UNDP Moldova. The implementation plan and locations for service delivery have been validated, covering all regions and municipalities with the highest numbers of beneficiaries.
- The ILO, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the social partners, and the Employment Agency completed co-design of an innovative active labour market measure targeting young people and aimed at facilitating the welfare-to-work transition of young women.
- Through more than 560 legal advices provided, UNHCR supported 248 refugees from former Yugoslavia and persons at risk of statelessness towards regularizing their legal status thus providing much needed access to social protection assistance and services.
- The social-emotional skills programmes for young people have been adapted for online deployment to be implemented through civil society partners in 2021. Preparations for the development of a mental health app have started.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

Outcome 1: Social policies are informed by evidence, tested, and tailored to needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups (including girls and boys), and impact-oriented toward reducing poverty and social welfare dependency

Output 1.1 New tool supports analysis of poverty-related data and simulation of policy impact

- The UN Rapid Social Impact Assessment (RSIA) of COVID-19 on households in Montenegro that focuses on the **impact of the epidemic on the most vulnerable groups and their livelihoods**, was published on 02 September. The RSIA was conducted in two stages to monitor changes over a three months period (March - June, inclusive). The RSIA purpose has been twofold: To identify new vulnerabilities and support the design of targeted social protection responses and to offer new data to complement the poverty profile. **(UNDP and UNICEF with support from UNHCR, IOM and RCO)**
- UNDP and UNICEF implementation team has been created including an International Consultant for Social Policy simulations and representatives of the Maastricht University. Orientation phase was conducted, and an Inception Report has been produced which provided a **brief overview of the recent trends in income inequality and poverty** in Montenegro and described the current system of social benefits and direct taxes along with possibilities for their simulation. **(UNDP and UNICEF)**

Outcome 2: Human-centered services for increased participation, empowerment and employment of vulnerable and marginalized groups, focusing on young men and women, are piloted, evaluated, and rolled out

Output 2.1 Human-centered, integrated service delivery at community-level, focusing on youth, to increase their participation in education, employment or training, including reintegration assistance, to reduce dependence on social assistance, are rolled-out.

- **Social-emotional skills programmes were adapted** for online deployment and a contract was signed with the implementing partner, Pedagogical Center of Montenegro. A blended learning model will be utilised, combining online learning and traditional learning, where circumstances allow. **Four major software development companies in Montenegro were interviewed** on the possible models of **building a mental health app**. It was concluded that a consultant for content development will be hired. WHO also provided guidelines on potential pathways for development. A ToR is currently being drafted. **(UNICEF)**
- Institutional partners from social protection and employment sectors have been engaged, while the project team has **developed the implementation framework for the human-centred design process**, with support of UNDP Moldova. The implementation plan has been validated with partners, due to many inconsistencies and gaps in integrated service provision related to the labor activation of SP beneficiaries. The project team has **selected the locations where the activity will be implemented**, covering all regions and municipalities with the highest numbers of beneficiaries. As a baseline evidence input, **mapping of the services for labor market activation has been done**. **(UNDP)**
- Through more than 560 legal advices provided, UNHCR **supported 248 refugees from former Yugoslavia and persons at risk of statelessness** towards regularizing their legal status. The acquisition of a stable and permanent legal status in Montenegro allows refugees and persons previously being in a statelessness-like situation to access the national social protection system and labour market. **(UNHCR)**
- In cooperation with the EBRD, The ILO **realized the Rapid Assessment of the impacts of Covid-19 on the World of Work in Montenegro** in relation to the risks of a 'lockdown generation'. Two capacity-building events with stakeholders were organised. **Human-centred, integrated service delivery at community-level, focusing on women**, to increase their participation in the labour market, including reintegration assistance and on the job training, to reduce dependence on social assistance, **has been developed**. Entitled "Activate Women", it focuses on the inclusion of women in the labour market through a pilot unemployment allowance and child-care grant, and subsidized on-the-job training **(ILO)**

Workplan

- JP workplan was modified
 JP workplan was not modified

Explain briefly:

JP funds were repurposed formally (Outcome 1- RSIA) and changed through adaptation (Outcome 2-ILO)

- A small portion of our Activate! funding (related to Outcome 1) was used to collect additional data on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 (in particular related to poverty) as part of the Rapid Social Impact Assessment on COVID-19
- ILO's Rapid Assessment on the COVID-19 impact on the labour market identified that in May 2020, manufacturing, wholesale, retail trade, accommodation and food service activities topped the list of sectors at high risk in terms of employment impacts. At that time, 36,000 jobs appeared at immediate risk of being lost, with women over-represented in precarious jobs in these sectors. Hence this triggered the adaptation of the w2w programme to target in particular women through a new Activate Women Programme

C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation

Outcome 1: Social policies are informed by evidence, tested, and tailored to needs of vulnerable [...]

Output 1.1 *New tool supports analysis of poverty-related data and simulation of policy impact*

- Interviews with the relevant stakeholders will be conducted along in order to collect all necessary data (mainly from Statistical Office of Montenegro - MONSTAT). Overview of the existing simulation models, analyses and researches in the area of social policy/social assistance will be reviewed. Further, data gaps will be identified for different available models and missing data (necessary to run simulation) would be generated. As the last part of the Inception phase, recommendations will be made in the process of selection of a (methodology for) simulation model. **Three poverty reduction scenarios will be developed** and presented to the Government for consideration. Following the simulations of the effects of social policy reforms on the risk of poverty levels, **recommendations will be provided on defining the scope of potential (optimal) policy scenarios**. Sustainability of implementation of the recommended policy options/scenarios would be insured through capacity development for civil servants working in the social sector and by providing recommendations for upgrades of the Social Welfare Information System. The new Government is keen to use the policy simulation to model social policy options, eg increase the scope of child allowance **(UNDP and UNICEF)**
- Together with the other Agencies and partners, UNDP and UNICEF will work on **RSIA III** that would further complement the social policy modeling by identifying new vulnerabilities due to COVID -19 impact. The Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare intends to participate in the design of RSIA III and use its findings to inform the next set of Government measures planned for Q2-2021. **(UNDP and UNICEF with support from UNHCR, IOM and RCO)**

Outcome 2: Human-centered services for increased participation, empowerment and employment [...]

Output 2.1 *Human-centered, integrated service delivery at community-level, focusing on youth, to increase their participation in education, employment or training, including reintegration assistance, to reduce dependence on social assistance, are rolled-out.*

- Social-emotional skills programmes will be organized, combining online learning and traditional learning, where circumstances allow. **Socio-emotional/self-care skills will be provided for 1,500 marginalized youth** from 8 municipalities. A ToR for the possible models of building a mental health app will be published for an open call in Q1 2021. **A digital tool will be built for mental health support** for hard-to-reach adolescents and youth. **(UNICEF)**
- Since the coordination structure, action plan and technical details for development of human-centered employment service have been set, it is expected that the activity will progress as planned, without further delays. The first **workshops with service providers and ethnographic research** will start in January 2021, which will provide insights into the gaps and bottlenecks of current service provision and will be used for the co-design of improved services and user journey. **The new, co-designed, service(s) will be rolled out for testing and piloting. (UNDP)**
- **Supporting 700 people to regulate their legal status:** provision of administrative, legal aid and financial assistance for the most vulnerable ex-Yu refugees to acquire the status of a foreigner with permanent residence and to people at risk of statelessness, focusing on youth and vulnerable groups; development of a public information campaign to draw the attention of affected communities to the importance of birth registration and civil documentation; development and distribution of reference material on procedures and documents necessary for the acquisition of a stable legal status. **(UNHCR)**

- **The implementation of the “Activate Women” programme** is anticipated to last 8 months and include the following steps:
 - **Profiling of individual needs, employment counselling, career guidance, job search and job placement support**, according to individual needs and throughout the duration of the programme
 - **A monthly non-contributory unemployment allowance**, payable for maximum six months as well as a lump sum contribution towards the costs of child-care (maximum for six months), and
 - **Subsidized on-the-job training to increase employability**, provided for a period ranging from three to six months (according to the individual’s profile). **(ILO)**
- **Provide support and increase access to effective social support services through** provision of integrated reintegration assistance to readmitted nationals and operability of local teams for the provision of reintegration. In addition, provide support for the skills development by providing tailored vocational trainings for vulnerable groups. Finally, **enhance identification of victims of trafficking through capacity building activities and raise awareness on the dangers of trafficking**, targeting youth with a focus on marginalized groups. **(IOM)**

Towards the end of JP implementation

Outcome 1: Social policies are informed by evidence, tested, and tailored to needs of vulnerable [...]

Output 1.1 *New tool supports analysis of poverty-related data and simulation of policy impact*

- The International Consultant for Social Policy and Maastricht University with the support of UNDP and UNICEF are expected to enable delivery of the Output 1.1. At this stage the inception phase for developing new tools (models/simulations) has been completed. **The delivery of the simulations/models is expected in the first half of 2021.** It is expected that the timeframe concerning Outcome 1 would be extended due to the Covid 19 pandemics and institutional/personal changes in the Government. **(UNDP and UNICEF)**

Outcome 2: Human-centered services for increased participation, empowerment and employment [...]

Output 2.1 *Human-centered, integrated service delivery at community-level, focusing on youth, to increase their participation in education, employment or training, including reintegration assistance, to reduce dependence on social assistance, are rolled-out.*

- Due to the initial delays caused by pandemics and elections/change of Government, the activity would require additional time for implementation. **(UNDP)**
- Through the implementation agreement with the EAM, ILO will reach unemployed and inactive women with family or care responsibilities who will transit to a decent job. **(ILO)**

Risks and mitigation measures

1. The **COVID-19 epidemic has significantly changed the context** within which the JP operates. The crisis has revealed and exacerbated existing weaknesses of the social protection system and highlighted the urgent need to make it more effective in terms of poverty reduction and being more resilient to shocks. While some of the targets originally set in the proposal (eg re poverty reduction and youth unemployment) are unlikely to be achieved due to the increase in poverty and unemployment, the relevance and importance of the JP activities has significantly increased. The innovative tools to be rolled out by the JP – in particular policy simulation – may lead to acceleration of the programme. Key mitigation measures used by the UNCT are **to ensure strong ownership and support by the new Government for the tools and services piloted through the Joint Programme** that can improve policy development and service implementation.
2. **Delays have also been caused by the first change in Government in 30 years, i.e.** new governmental/institutional changes and reorganizations of the ministries as well as limited availability of data. In addition, Covid-19 pandemic influence on poverty levels may require additional data gathering that could cause delays in implementation of the planned activities. Due to the initial delays, the activity would require additional time for implementation. To mitigate these issues, representatives and employees of UN Agencies are in constant contact with the Government, ministries and other partners to search for the solutions best for the project activities.

3. **Programmatic risks have increased due to the COVID-19 restrictions** that continue to apply for face-to-face programme delivery. This could cause delay of the piloting of interventions that rely on face-to-face contact. Key mitigation measures are to continue to adapt all interventions to the new normal. Some of the programmes have already been adapted for online delivery such as the social emotional skills programme and the mental health app, while others will be rolled out in early 2021 in compliance with COVID-19 measures.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (annual)

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

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

Goal 1: Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 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

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- 10.7 facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

1.1 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scope⁴ in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

1.2 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scale⁵ in 2020? (if so, brief explanation)

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful:

Provide the list **n/a**

Explain briefly:

1.4 Number of integrated policy solutions implemented with the national partners in lead in 2020

Total number: **n/a**

Provide the list

Explain briefly:

1.5 Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020?

Yes

NO

Explain briefly:

1.6 Did your Joint Programme develop a functioning partnership framework for integrated policy solutions to accelerate progress on SDGs in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

⁴Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁵Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

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

Yes, considerably contributed

Yes, contributed

No

Explain briefly: **The JP provided key evidence that was at the heart of the UNCT COVID-19 as outlined in the UN Socio-economic Response Plan**

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to reduced transaction costs for participating UN agencies in their 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: **The RSIA was an example of very effective cooperation between UN agencies, Government institutions at central and local level, civil society organisations, research organizations and representative of vulnerable groups**

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly: **Yes – JP is fully integrated in the UNDAF Social Inclusion Results Group and contributed to reshaping UNDAF activities to respond to the COVID-19 crisis**

2.4. Did your Joint Programme secure additional funding resources in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 target	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
Outcome 1: Social policies are informed by evidence, tested, and tailored to needs of vulnerable [...]						
New policies for social protection/inclusion are informed by the latest poverty data	No	No	Two rounds of Rapid social impact assessment (RSIA)	n/a	Yes	
<i>Output 1.1 New tool supports analysis of poverty-related data and simulation of policy impact</i>						
Availability of a tool to ex-ante simulate policy impact	No	No	No	n/a	Yes	
Number of poverty reduction scenarios developed for the consideration of the Government	0	0	0	n/a	3	
Outcome 2: Human-centered services for increased participation, empowerment and employment [...]						
Employment agency applies gender sensitive and innovative services and tools for increased youth participation in the labor market	No	No	No	n/a	Yes	
Reduction in the number of NEETs in Montenegro (Activity renamed into: Provision of Services for an Active Labour Market Measure to support the reintegration of young women in the labour market post Covid-19. Due to current phase of negotiation with MLSW and EAM, currently it is not possible to provide figures. To be updated in accordance to the agreement formalisation procedures.)	28.900	No	No	n/a	28.322	
<i>Output 2.1. Human-centered, integrated service delivery at community-level, focusing on youth, to increase their participation in education, employment or training, including reintegration assistance, to reduce dependence on social assistance, are rolled-out.</i>						
Number of service providers applying HCD in service (re)design	0	0	0	n/a	7	
Number of people benefiting from piloted human-centered and integrated services, disaggregated by gender and municipality	0	0	0	n/a	100 (UNDP) 30 (IOM)	
Number of identified victims of trafficking, disaggregated by gender	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 2	
Number of ex-Yugoslav refugees with unresolved status and stateless persons/persons at risk of statelessness benefiting from assistance in resolving their legal status	n/a	500	248	COVID-19 related restrictions (movement restrictions, closure of borders, restricted work of MoI branch offices and courts)	500	700 (200+500)
Number of persons reached by the anti-trafficking related awareness	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	300	

campaign, disaggregated by gender						
Availability of an assessment of welfare/inactivity traps	No	Yes	Yes	n/a	Yes	
Number of young long-term unemployed transitioned from welfare to work	0	0	0	n/a	72	
Number of vulnerable young men and women benefitting from the skills building programme at municipal level	0	700	0	COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions (movements restrictions and group gathering)	800	1.500 (700+800)
Number of municipalities where skills building programmes for vulnerable youth are provided	0	4	0		4	8 (4+4)
Availability of a mobile-based tool for mental health support, targeting vulnerable young men and women	No	No	No	n/a	Yes	

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Two Report on the Rapid Social Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 Outbreak in Montenegro (in both language): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Full Report is available here The Summary is available here The key findings is available link 	07/2020 and 09/2020	The RSIA aims to provide a deeper insight into the social impact of the evolving crisis on groups that are already vulnerable in Montenegro. In addition, the assessment has sought to identify potential new groups of people who have become highly vulnerable in the period from April to June 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis.
The UN Socio-Economic Response Plan to COVID-19 in Montenegro. The Full Report is available here	07/2020	The plan seeks to protect the needs and rights of people living under the duress of the pandemic, with a particular attention to populations for whom this emergency compounds pre-existing marginalization, inequalities and vulnerabilities. The response focuses on the most vulnerable groups.

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Youth Aspiration and the Future of work: A Review of the Literature and Evidence The working paper no. 8 is available here	09/2020	An author article
Growing green: Fostering a green entrepreneurial ecosystem for Youth The working paper is available here	09/2020	An author article on entrepreneurial ecosystem for youth
Activation strategies targeting young welfare beneficiaries: An ILO 'how to' guide based on the ongoing experience in Montenegro (part 1). The article is available here	02/2020	An author article on activation strategies Policy advice Is youth employment improving in the Western Balkans? 5 key trends to guide decision-makers in 2020
Draft Strategy for Migration and Reintegration of Returnees 2021-2025, with Action Plans for 2021 and 2022	12/2020 Draft	The access to the national social protection system and socio-economic rights (work, education, healthcare, etc) for refugees from former Yugoslavia and persons at risk of statelessness is embedded into the Strategy through a strategic and operational goal of acquiring the appropriate legal status.

Annex 3: Strategic communication results

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

The Strategic Communications Framework has been developed in the initial stage of the JP Activate, streamlining major components including the overall narrative, communications structure with clear directions, goals and envisaged tactics, as well as fragmentation of audiences and major objectives aligned with JP Activate programme goals. In order to meet the major outcomes, set in the programme, the scope of communications and advocacy interventions have been envisaged in two major clusters: a) support to policy forecast concept and b) enabling positioning of cutting edge-services and mobilizing NEETs, both of them further structured to five particular complementary objectives. In addition, the strategic communications framework clearly identified stakeholders and tailored approaches, as well as the overall, crosscutting communications component.

The framework has been designed to enable building up such structure throughout development of the programme, by programmatic and communications contributions from all participating agencies into the unique framework. Although functionally set in the initial phase of the programme, after the COVID outbreak and significant reshuffle of UN's work, the Strategic Communications Framework didn't see envisaged operational upgrade to the planned extent.

3.2. 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

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

The visibility of the outcomes has been increased through the interventions envisaged by the Strategic Communications Framework, but significantly less than expected due to disruption of the operational dynamics caused by COVID outbreak.

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

The Country Profile Page on the Joint SDG Fund website contributed to the visibility of JP Activate outreach mostly externally, at the global level, and especially after JP Activate managed to place human centered stories on the global Joint SDG Fund website.

3.5. 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: n/a

Explain briefly: n/a

3.6. 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: More than 10

Explain briefly:

Over 10 different communications items have been produced and published (excluding reports and publications) in regard to Joint SDG Programme Activate. These, inter alia, include three articles and opinion

pieces by ILO, two human centered stories by UNHCR, UN press release, three human centered videos by UNHCR, five webstories and blogs by UNICEF.

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

Yes

No

Total number: (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly:

The number of followers and engagement on UN Montenegro social media has been increased in time of programme implementation, but since the JP Activate content has been released along with various other UN content, it cannot be defined precisely to what extent the increase is result of JP Activate.

Multi-Media Faucets

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
The COVID-19 epidemic in Montenegro has deepened existing vulnerabilities and led to the emergence of new ones	10/2020	UN Coordination Office announced the key findings of the UN RSIA on the occasion of the International Day on Eradication of Poverty – in particular that the COVID-19 epidemic has led to a significant reduction in economic activity, which has affected the majority of people of Montenegro and exposed a number of households to an increased risk of poverty, deepening existing vulnerabilities and led to the emergence of new ones.
No cuts in public spending for children	10/2020	On the International Day of Eradication of Poverty, UNICEF called for the reduction of poverty for children being an urgent priority for Montenegro. Public expenditures focused on children are a crucial investment in the sustainable development of any country.
Activate! Youth in Montenegro		The joint action of the UN in Montenegro aims to have more young people on the labour market through better activation programmes and services. The ILO intervention will focus on youth and women, to increase their participation in employment and training to reduce their dependence on social protection schemes. Link 1 Link 2
Activation strategies targeting young welfare beneficiaries: An ILO 'how to' guide based on the ongoing experience in Montenegro (part 1)	2/2020	Part 1 reviews the rationale behind the political decision of undertaking this type of public intervention. It also tries to identify the crucial success factors that should guide policy-makers. Link 1 Link 2 Link 3
Blog on ratification of C182 tackling working youth (global ILO initiative)	08/2020	At the global level, the ILO launched call to action on the ILO blog, to celebrate the universal ratification of Convention 182. The blog is tackling the topic of working youth. The ILO International Training Centre (ITC) is developing an interactive platform, which aims to showcase how ILO constituents are responding to COVID-19. With this goal, the ILO organized a WebEx interview with the Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for economic policy and financial system.
Webstory "Opening Door of Opportunities"	07/2020	A human interest story " Opening door of opportunities " has been developed and featured on UN Montenegro channels, including the UN Country Team website, official Facebook page and official Twitter account. Besides this, the story from

		Montenegro has landed on the homepage of global Joint SDG Fund website.
Webstory "A New Beginning: Three refugees make a new life for themselves in Montenegro"	12/2020	A human interest story " A New Beginning: Three refugees make a new life for themselves in Montenegro " has been developed and featured on UN Montenegro channels, including the UN Country Team website, official Facebook page and official Twitter account.
Video "Soheil: For me, one part of paradise is in Montenegro"	12/2020	Video testimony " For me, one part of paradise is in Montenegro " of a refugee finding a home and job in Montenegro as a host country.
Video "Olesia: I've found my life in Montenegro"	12/2020	Video testimony " I've found my life in Montenegro " of a refugee finding a home and job in Montenegro as a host country.
Video "Kirill: UNHCR is a bridge between refugees and United Nations"	12/2020	Video testimony " Kirill: UNHCR is a bridge between refugees and United Nations " of a refugee finding a home and job in Montenegro as a host country.
Press release: "The COVID-19 epidemic in Montenegro has deepened existing vulnerabilities and led to the emergence of new ones"	10/2020	The press release of the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. On key findings of Rapid Social Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak in Montenegro. Link 1

Social Media Campaigns

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Child Poverty in Montenegro	Instagram Facebook	UNICEF called for the reduction of poverty for children being an urgent priority for Montenegro. Instagram 1 Instagram 2 Instagram 3 Facebook 1 Facebook 2
Looking into activation of vulnerable young people through #sdg (ILO kick off workshop)	Twitter	Link 1
Youth's transitions to the World of work in the times of Covid-19	Flickr	Link 1
Story and photo gallery detailing UNHCR's cooperation with the Embassy of Kosovo in providing documentation to ex-Yugoslav refugees, with photos	Facebook	Link 1
Webstory "Opening Door of Opportunities"	Twitter	Link 1
	Facebook	Link 1
Webstory "A New Beginning: Three refugees make a new life for themselves in Montenegro"	Facebook	Link 1
	Twitter	Link 1
Video "Kirill: UNHCR is a bridge between refugees and United Nations"	YouTube	Link 1
Video "Olesia: I've found my life in Montenegro"	YouTube	Link 1

Video "Soheil: For me, one part of paradise is in Montenegro"	YouTube	Link 1
Press release: "The COVID-19 epidemic in Montenegro has deepened existing vulnerabilities and led to the emergence of new ones"	Facebook	Link 1
	Twitter	Link 1

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					
Due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 poverty, inequality and unemployment are very likely to increase significantly in Montenegro. This could considerably slow down SDG achievement	16	4	4	All programmes will continued to be adapted to take into account the impact of COVID-19. Innovative tools to be rolled out by the JP – policy simulation, women’s empowerment and human centred design activities – may lead to acceleration of the programme. Key mitigation measures used by the UNCT are to ensure strong ownership and support by the new Government for the tools and services piloted through the Joint Programme that can improve policy development and service implementation	UNDP UNICEF ILO IOM
COVID -19 may continue to impose restrictions on programme delivery and thus cause delays	16	4	4	All programmes will continue to be adapted to the new normal. Some of the programmes have been adapted for online delivery such as the social emotional skills programme and the mental health app	UNDP UNICEF ILO IOM
The on-going process of political transition (first change of Government in 30 years) may lead to delays in the policy processes that could impact on JP implementation.	12	3	4	a) Detailed and regular engagement at the Minister, State Secretary, Deputy Minister level, to ensure strong commitment and buy in b) Engaging members of Parliamentary Working Committees who focus on SP, human rights, education, and youth.	RC UNDP UNICEF
Changes in the migratory flows resulting in larger or smaller volume, changes in structure and age/gender.	12	3	4	To change consequences of the risk by modifying envisaged activities as per current needs/interests	IOM
Programmatic risks					
The JP aims to leave no one behind. However, risks stem from the fact that these are hardest to reach groups, who sometimes feel disenfranchised, may distrust the SP system, be invisible to it, or live in remote areas.	8	2	4	a) UNCT will work closely with CSOs and local partners who have established links with marginalized and vulnerable groups, b) Mobile delivery of support will be applied for services around mental health, issues around stigma and geographical barriers (rural, remote areas) and c) HCD will be a critical tool to catalyze and encourage participation of vulnerable groups, serving as a	ILO

				vehicle to build trust and a shared sense of achievement.	
Some of the JP's target groups might be challenging in terms of labor activation.	12	3	4	a) The JP will employ NEET-profiling to uncover specific barriers to employment, b) Co-production of innovative services for employability and labor activation with the target population.	ILO
Institutional risks					
Introduction of a policy forecasting tool might be hampered by low capacities in the MFSW	9	3	3	a) Securing world-class technical input from renowned experts or other governments which rely on policy impact simulations, b) Designing a user-friendly tool which harnesses the power of digital technologies, c) Training a critical mass of civil servants across the public administration to tackle potential turnover, d) Engagement of the General Secretariat policy planning unit is a key step as they are at the heart of Government's longer-term policy making. UNCT already has a working relationship with this unit.	UNDP UNICEF
Support for the regularization of legal status of ex-Yu refugees/persons at risk of statelessness or stateless persons may be hampered by a shift in MoI strategic approach to legal status provision	8	2	4	A) maintain programmatic approach, already agreed with the MoI, in categorizing the legal status of persons of concern based on their needs related to legal status and the consequent use of legal pathways	UNHCR
Partners are not available to attend meetings/trainings	6	2	3	To adjust the timeframe of activities as per the beneficiaries' availability	IOM
Fiduciary risks					
The achievement of JP's substantive, system level results might be hindered by an already constrained fiscal space.	6	3	2	a) Demonstrating the ability of the policy forecasting tool to support creation of cost-effective policies by trained policy makers. This will lead to proposing affordable but impactful policies, informed by poverty and social exclusion data, b) Working together with the MLSW and other key partners on annual budget planning to leverage national budget's support for both policy and service level results, uptake and sustainability, c) Proactively and regularly coordinating with the World Bank in Montenegro, to leverage multiple opportunities to support the country's optimal development.	UNDP UNICEF ILO IOM