

## UNSDG-HRM MDTF

### Annex 8 B: Submission Form for Extension Request to the HRM MDTF Steering Committee

<b>Part A: Programme Summary</b> <i>(To be completed by the Participating UN Organization)</i>					
<b>Date of Submission:</b>	18 January 2021				
<b>From the Participating UN Organization:</b>	OHCHR				
<b>Contact:</b>	Marcella Favretto - mfavretto@ohchr.org				
<b>Programme Number:</b>	00120375				
<b>Programme Title:</b>	Scaling up specialised human rights country support for CCAs and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in 2020				
<b>Total Approved Programme Budget:</b>	US\$ 1,243,875				
<b>Amount and percentage of indirect costs requested:</b>	US\$ 81,375 - 7%				
<b>[Steering Committee] Approval Date:</b>					
<b>Programme Duration:<sup>1</sup></b>	12 months	<b>Starting Date:</b>	03.03.2020	<b>Completion Date:</b>	<b>Currently:</b> 31.07.2021 <b>Requested:</b> 31.12.21

#### 1. Type of Extension Requested

- ☒ Increase in budget<sup>2</sup>. **Amount requested: US\$ 599,053**  
☐ Change of scope in project objectives *(submit revised programme document)*  
☐ Request for timeline extension of over 6 months

<sup>1</sup> If the project has previously been extended and this is an additional extension request, please provide the original programme duration  
<sup>2</sup> For any change in the budget, provide revised budget.

**Programme Expenditure to date: as of 18.01.2021**

☒ Total Commitments: US\$ 1,086,817

☒ Total Disbursements: US\$ 717,732

## **2. Reason for the request of an extension in the project budget, scope or timeline duration of over 6 months**

### **Context:**

When initially conceptualised, the Surge Initiative – composed of heterodox macroeconomists – was to address the upsurge of social protests in late 2019, sparked by growing frustrations at the snail-paced realisation of economic and social rights and SDGs. The main objective was to step up operational advice on economic and social rights as well as inequalities in support of UN country development strategies and plans. The launch of the ‘Accelerated Decade of Action’ and a revived Common Country Analysis and Country Frameworks were key pieces in shaping the Surge Initiative’s vision. The outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic in early 2020 made the Surge’s objectives and functions even more relevant. The ensuing socioeconomic crisis, which sunk low-, middle-, and high-income countries across the globe into the worst recession since World War II is exacerbating pre-existing patterns of discrimination and inequalities, threatening lives, eroding livelihoods and pushing over a hundred million more people into poverty and increased vulnerability. It highlighted how broken public services are in relation to public health, water and sanitation, food and other economic and social rights, everywhere. It underscored the urgency for increased public investments in health, social protection and other rights, thereby strengthening the case for human rights based economies that work for everyone and reduce inequalities.

### **Achievements to date:**

The Surge field-facing nature and its specialised knowledge and skill sets have been instrumental in turning human rights standards and mechanisms’ recommendations into practical advice, while breaking substantive and organisational silos at all levels and forging new partnerships both within the UNCTs and outside on cutting-edge issues including on macroeconomic issues, economic and social rights and SDGs implementation. By working closely with HRAs and other RCO staff, notably the economists, as well as RCs and UNCTs, the Surge provided specialized analytical contents and operational advice through key UN development processes, including CCAs, CFs (in 65 countries) and SEIAs and SERPs in (39 countries). For instance, the team provided country tailored advice on enhancing access of disadvantaged and marginalized groups to health, social protection, housing, water and other rights (e.g. Peru, Paraguay, Ukraine, Cambodia); made policy suggestions on human rights based budgeting and fiscal policy reviews (e.g. Ecuador, Cameroon, Colombia); advised on the human rights and equality implications and opportunities of stimulus packages and economic policies and reforms (e.g. Argentina, Liberia); and supported the building of disaggregated datasets on disadvantaged groups to inform policy making (e.g. Serbia, Kenya, Moldova). The surge has also reviewed IMF loans in light of states’ obligations on economic and social rights and supported the development of human rights-based UNCT positions (e.g. Ukraine, Lebanon, Costa Rica).


In response to the MPTF Steering Committee request in Aug 2020 request to reinforce its knowledge management component, the surge is finalising a good practice and lessons learned report and is planning a meeting in February 2021 with colleagues from other UN entities to review entry points and lessons coming out of the project in order to share lessons and experiences. In March 2021, the surge is also planning to convene a meeting with economists from other UN entities to share on impactful practice and approaches.

**Reasons for the 5 month extension request and increase in project budget:**

The dramatic socio economic effects of the COVID19 pandemic will further intensify in 2021, with far reaching and disproportionate consequences on the most disadvantaged groups, including low income households, indigenous groups and racial and ethnic minorities. The crisis will further erode the social fabric and increase risks of instability. In keeping with the S-G Call to Action for Human Rights, the UN has positioned itself to place human rights at the centre of COVID19 responses and recovery, play a pivotal role to build back better and advocate for a 'new social contract' and a 'new global deal'. As highlighted in the landmark S-G Nelson Mandela lecture, 'the vision and promise of the United Nations is that food, health care, water and sanitation, education, decent work and social security are not commodities for sale to those who can afford them, but basic human rights to which we are all entitled'. The S-G promised that the UN system would design 'targeted policies to address and redress historic inequalities in gender, race or ethnicity' while highlighting the urgency to increase the fiscal space for SDG implementation (e.g. 'everyone – individuals and corporations – to pay their fair share'). Implementation of this vision will draw on leveraging states' human rights obligations and the wealth of advice and recommendations from the HR mechanisms. In this regard, continuing the Surge throughout 2021 and sustaining its ability to integrate specialised human rights/economic expertise into UN country analysis, policy options and strategies will be essential. The Surge will continue to advise UNCTs on reinforcing economic, social and other rights outcomes in implementing UN COVID19 socio economic response plans and will support the development of the over 40 new CCAs and CFs planned in 2021. The Surge will also contribute to implementing the human rights component of the EC decision of Nov 2020 on UN-IFI renewed partnership at the global and country level.

**3. Documents Attached:**

- ☒ Revised Budget (*for change in programme budget*)  
☐ Revised Programme Document (*for change in programme scope*)

<b>Part B: Signature</b> (To be completed by the Participating UN Organization)			
<b>On behalf of Participating UN or Non-UN Organization:</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name/Title</b>
OHCHR		11/02/2021	Todd Howland, Chief of DESIB, OHCHR

<b>Part C: Administrative Review</b> (To be completed by the HRM MDTF Secretariat)	
<b>4. HRM MDTF Secretariat Comments:</b>	Approved.
<b>5. HRM MDTF Secretariat Recommendation:</b>	Approved.

Part D: Decision of the Steering Committee	
7. Decision of the UNSDG Steering Committee	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approve
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approve with modification/condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer
Comments (if any):	
..... Chair of the Steering Committee	
Confirmation of the Chair was provided by email dated 27 February 2021	
..... Signature	..... Date