

**Joint SDG Fund**  
 Template for the Joint Programme  
 Evidence-based Final Narrative Report  
**SDG FINANCING PORTFOLIO – COMPONENT 1**

## Cover page

**Date of Report:** 30 August 2023

<i>Programme title and Country</i>
<p><b>Country:</b> Republic of Belarus  <b>Joint Programme (JP) title:</b> Promoting new tools of sustainable development budgeting that prioritize vulnerable populations in Belarus; Development Emergency Modality – Response to the global crisis on food, energy, finance  <b>MPTF Office Project Reference Number<sup>1</sup>:</b></p>
<i>Programme Duration</i>
<p><b>Start date<sup>2</sup></b> (01/10/2020):  <b>Original End date<sup>3</sup></b> (30/09/2022):  <b>Actual End date<sup>4</sup></b> (30/06/2023):</p> <p><b>Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system: Yes/No</b>  <b>Expected financial closure date<sup>5</sup>:</b> 30/09/2023</p>
<i>Participating Organizations / Partners</i>
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<sup>1</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

<sup>2</sup> The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

<sup>3</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>4</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

<sup>5</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

**Programme Budget (US\$) (not including top-up component)**

**C1 Budget** (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): USD 993,104.00  
 DEM Top Up (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): USD 186,688.00  
 Total Joint SDG Fund Contribution: USD 1,179,792.00

**C1 Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding** (if applicable): PUNOs co-funding: USD 197,500.00  
**DEM Top Up Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding**: PUNOs co-funding: USD 4,500.00  
 Total PUNO Contribution: USD 202,000.00

Total Budget C1 and DEM Top Up (with co-funding): USD 1,381,792.00

**Joint SDG Fund Contribution<sup>6</sup> and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization, including top-up funds:**

Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
UNFPA	187'250 USD	24'500 USD	211'750 USD
UNICEF	368'695 USD	52'500 USD	421'195 USD
UNDP	468'103 USD	50'000 USD	518'103 USD
UN Women	155'744 USD	75'000 USD	230'744 USD
<b>Total</b>	<b>1'179'792 USD</b>	<b>202,000</b>	<b>1'381'792 USD</b>

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<sup>6</sup> Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

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## Abbreviations

Belstat	National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus
BelMAPO	Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DEM	Development Emergency Modality
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
DRG	Diagnosis-related groups
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoB	Government of Belarus
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
IFI	International Finance Institution
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
INFS	Integrated National Financing Strategy
JP	Joint Programme “Promoting new tools of sustainable development budgeting that prioritize vulnerable populations in Belarus”
LNOB	Leaving no one behind
MoE	Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus
MoH	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NSDS	National Strategy for Sustainable Social-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus
PUNOs	Participating UN Organizations
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
RCO	Resident Coordinator’s Office
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SME	small- and medium-sized enterprise
SOE	state-owned enterprise
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Populations Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

## Executive summary

The Joint Programme “Promoting new tools of sustainable development budgeting that prioritize vulnerable populations in Belarus” (JP) is the first joint programme related to SDGs financing implemented by UNCT in Belarus. Therefore, the experience of its implementation is of special value for planning future similar programmes, their coordination and evaluation.

The JP is structured upon outcomes and outputs of the agreed, draft United National Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Belarus for 2021-2025 (UNSDCF) and it is well-aligned with the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Belarus up to 2035 (NSDS-2035).

The UN agencies joined efforts to promote new financing tools for sustainable development in Belarus with a focus on vulnerable populations. The implementation of the JP let the country progress with the development of Integrated National Financing Framework for SDGs implementation – Assessment and diagnostic phase is completed; Financing Strategy, Monitoring and Review, Governance and Coordination phases are emerging.

The JP and joint efforts of Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) resulted in the establishment of the methodological framework of performance-oriented budgeting in such spheres as healthcare and social assistance. All guidelines were piloted in diverse locations and conditions proving the comprehensive, transparent and fit-for-all character of the proposed policy measures to advance with SDGs implementation in Belarus.

For the first time in the country, the budget planning process has been reviewed from gender equality perspective and the issue of gender-responsive budgeting was mainstreamed and obtained adequate feedback from the relevant national partners and national experts. Assessment of gender data available in the sphere of labour and social protection helped to identify gaps for further improvement of the system of data collection and use of gender disaggregated data for decision making. Duly-prepared and properly organized capacity building events led to raising knowledge and awareness of performance-oriented budgeting as well as gender issues in more than 500 local experts and representatives of governmental bodies. This trained staff will be directly involved in drafting state programmes for the next programming cycle of 2026-2030 and will use the acquired knowledge and experience in drafting the texts of programme documents.

Performance of Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of 24 state programmes enabled the national counterparts to see the degree of integration of SDGs in Belarusian state programming as well as identify the gaps and space for further improvement. RIA showed that current integration of SDGs into national state programmes of Belarus is 60% while SDG 5 is one of those that are underfinanced considering that Gender equality is a national accelerator. Development Finance Assessment undertaken in the framework of the JP invoke controversial discussions among the national partners as well as the intention to continue this work in the form of road mapping and further analysis of the available sources for SDG financing.

In spite of the challenging context, thanks to the UN, close cooperation among key stakeholders, including the Government, international organizations, and the PUNOs, ensured not only buy-in for JP interventions, but also managed to strengthen existing collaboration, while establishing new, long-term partnerships, which will allow replicability and scaling up of activities on SDGs financing beyond the JP implementation.

## Context

In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was agreed by the leaders of 193 UN member states. In Belarus, the national coordination structure for SDG implementation was established in 2016. The country has managed to create a proper institutional framework to support the process of the nationalization and localization of the SDGs.

The post of the National Coordinator on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (National SDG Coordinator) and the Council for Sustainable Development were established by Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of 25 May 2017 No. 181 (Decree 181). The National Coordinator on achieving SDGs organizes consideration of different aspects of SDGs achievement, comes up with recommendations on improvement of this process, initiates various activities on SDGs promotion and reports directly to the President on the progress made on the SDGs achievement. The National SDGs Coordinator represents the Republic of Belarus on the international arena reporting on SDGs. The Council for Sustainable Development under his leadership includes all relevant ministries and government institutions. In addition, a wider national institutional mechanism for achievement of SDGs – and a complement to the Council – also includes Parliamentary Group on the SDGs, seven regional groups on sustainable development to facilitate localization of the SDGs, and Partnership group for sustainable development, among others.

Under the aegis of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus the National platform for reporting indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been established. This makes a good instrument for monitoring and dissemination of information on the SDGs indicators.

The Republic of Belarus has been consistent and dedicated in the implementation of the SDGs, nevertheless in recent years the Government of Belarus has shifted some national priorities slowing down the work on SDGs achievement.

UNCT has been a reliable partner for Belarus helping the country to get access to international technical assistance, knowledge and capacity to attain the SDGs. The main instrument of cooperation between the UN and Belarus, defining the agreed priorities of the UN entities in Belarus jointly with the Government of Belarus, civil society, private sector, vulnerable groups, national and international partners is the United National Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025. The framework document aims to catalyze the achievement of SDGs using the accelerator platforms, dealing with bottlenecks and emerging challenges.

The Republic of Belarus programs its social-economic development in the National strategies of Sustainable Social-Economic Development (NSDS). The up-to-date version of such strategy is the National strategy of Sustainable Social-Economic Development up to 2035 (NSDS-2035). This document is very well aligned with SDGs.

Chapter 8.2 of NSDS-2035 envisions “improvement of the program-target method of public budget planning, including approaches to design and implementation of state programs, and evaluation of their outcomes. Special attention will be paid to introducing normative methods of public budget planning focused on the cost of a public service per consumer.”

Thus, the JP is fundamentally based on the priorities and challenges identified by two main strategic documents on SDGs implementation in Belarus – NSDS-2035 and UNSDCF 2021-2025. The JP results contribute to the fulfillment of the tasks of both documents. Moreover, the UN agencies enjoy the support of the national coordination structure for SDG implementation and the JP’s activities were carried out in close coordination with national government partners – members of the Council for Sustainable Development.

However, the evolving situation on the ground affected the JP’s implementation. Joint Programme was designed at the time when COVID-19 was seen as a major risk and a hampering element on the way to the SDGs achievement. In the course of the JP implementation, this risk has significantly diminished (WHO declared the end of the pandemics on May 5, 2023) and new challenges emerged – political and socio-economic disturbances triggered after the 2020 elections, the start of the war in Ukraine in 2022, the impact of economic sanctions by donor countries, which led to financial constraints. The liquidation of the CSOs that had been envisaged as partners for the JP has forced changes in the modality of JP delivery, while massive

outflow of expert personnel from Belarus posed additional risk to the JP implementation. To overcome all these challenges PUNOs reconsidered their approaches to hiring capacities, amended their communications strategies, strengthened the advocacy efforts and organized their work with the national partners in the ways that would avoid major sensitivities.

## Joint Programme Results

### 1. Overview of Strategic Final Results

#### 1.1. Overall assessment (max 100 words)

The UN agencies, funds, and programmes implemented their parts of the JP across various thematic areas to promote new financing tools for sustainable development, with a focus on vulnerable populations. Despite the changing political and economic environment, the JP addressed all challenges identified in the Programme document. PUNOs together with their expert teams have developed and piloted specific fit-for-purpose tools and instruments to finance the SDGs in the spheres of climate, social and gender policy agendas and created close partnerships with the profile ministries, cities' administrations, experts, international organizations as well as private sector and CSOs representatives.

- Above expectations (fully achieved expected JP results and made additional progress)
- In line with expectations (achieved expected JP results)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected JP results achieved, but with some limitations/adjustments)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected JP results not achieved due to unforeseen risks/challenges)

In accordance with the Results Framework Matrix, the expected JP results were achieved.

#### 1.2 Key results achieved (max 500 words)

The JP addressed a number of challenges to assist the Government of Belarus to invigorate public finance reform in social, health and environment sectors to expedite the achievement of SDGs. Profound analytical and research work was done to support performance-based budgeting based on the cost of budget services per consumer in social protection, healthcare and environment protection spheres. The methodological framework was created to incorporate SDGs performance-based expenditure tagging systems at the national, regional and municipal levels with a focus on environmental issues and social protection for prioritized vulnerable groups. The national dialogue on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) was initiated in 2022 for the first time in the country, along with thematic capacity building for representatives from profile ministries. A comprehensive gender analysis of the state programme "Employment and Labour market 2021-2025" was also performed for the first time, based on the methodology specially adapted for the programming peculiarities of the Republic of Belarus. The alignment of the state programmes in social sector with the SDGs was assessed and the dynamics of incorporation of SDGs in the national sustainable social-economic development was traced. At the time when a number of IFIs (World Bank, IMF, EBRD) and donors (EU, GEF, bilateral donors such as SIDA, USAID and others) suspended ongoing and future programmes and projects reducing dialogue and cooperation with the Government of Belarus, UN Agencies, headed by RCO, adapted to the external changes and kept supporting the national partners on the way to achievement of the SDGs. This considerable effort resulted in enhancement of the existing and creation of new horizontal networks and partnerships within the country, which are essential for the establishment of the integrated national financing frameworks.

Thus, the main catalytical and transformational changes that the JP invoked are as follows:

- Creation of methodological and substantive basis for SDGs tagging in the state programming as well as implementation of the performance-based budgeting;
- Catalyzing enhancement of horizontal networking and partnerships to roll out the integrated national financing framework.

- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the process of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.

[1.3. Results achieved on Integrated National Financing Framework/SDG financing building blocks \(max 2 pages\)](#)

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

In the course of the **Inception Phase**, the INFF Roadmap was developed and reviewed by the stakeholders along with the results of DFA at the final JP event in June 2023.

The INFF Roadmap's recommendations for Belarus include the following milestones:

1. Calculation of the cost of meeting the sustainable development goals
2. Preparation of a roadmap and concept for state-owned enterprise reform.
3. Drafting an integrated national financing strategy.
4. Monitoring, governance and coordination of the integrated national financing strategy.

### **Assessment and Diagnostic stage**

The RIA and DFA assessments, as main parts of the INFF study, were identified as priority areas for cooperation with the national stakeholders. To estimate the cost of implementing national sustainable development priorities, the JP experts analyzed the list of state programmes for 2021-2025 (32 programmes) and selected 24 (accessible and not related to law enforcement and defense issues) for subsequent analysis for compliance with global and national SDGs. 24 state programmes were analyzed by the JP experts and results were submitted for consideration of the responsible profile ministries. Although the feedback from the governmental officials was rather limited (which is explained by the reprioritization within the Government of Belarus and weakening of official cooperation with the international organizations in general), RIA results will be used by the national experts from state research institutes who will work on the development of state programmes for the 2026-2030 cycle. In addition, the DFA was performed to analyze existing financing trends and assess future spending needs which would help the Government of Belarus determine the financing gaps. The Development Finance Assessment report was presented at the final JP event to the stakeholders.

Furthermore, costing analysis of Belarus position in the GGEI Index was performed for Belarus to develop alternative forms of SDGs financing, especially from private sector to expedite climate financing, green financing instruments, biodiversity financing and eco-system services. A roadmap to improve Belarus' position in this index and increase its green financing was also developed.

### **Financing Strategy stage**

The Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated December 23, 2015 N 1080 defined the strategy for reforming the public finance management system of the Republic of Belarus, and also established an interdepartmental council for the implementation of the strategy for reforming the public financial management system of the Republic of Belarus.



One of the directions of the Strategy is the introduction of performance-based budgeting. The Strategy recognizes that the current budgeting system has limited knowledge of the consequences of the decisions taken. The result of this approach is the limited ability of state bodies to manage their resources and the insufficient efficiency of their activities.

Among the activities envisaged by the Strategy:

- creation of interdepartmental working groups on state programs, improvement of relations between ministries, both among ministries and with local authorities, in order to avoid duplication of financing of the same expenses;
- determination in state programs of methods for calculating target indicators characterizing the fulfillment of tasks.

These activities have been vastly supported by the JP. Consolidated efforts of UN Agencies on capacity building for the civil servants and workers of the state research organizations favored creation and strengthening of interdepartmental working groups, as well as the improvement of the relationships between the ministries (the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the Ministry of Health, the National Statistical Committee, the Ministry of Environment). Methodological work of the UN agencies provided firm ground for the determination of the methods for calculating target indicators in the state programmes. These included work on the formation of the children's budget, gender-responsive budgeting; expenditure standards per patient in inpatient settings by diagnosis-related groups on the budgets of healthcare organizations; gender-oriented distribution of resources in the health sector; normative budgeting in terms of specially protected natural territories; among others.

### **Monitoring and Review stage**

The activity of the JP was in line with indicator 73 "Participation in activities, initiatives, project and programmes of international organizations" of Task 2 "Promoting initiatives and favouring socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus through interaction with international organizations" of State Programme "Public Financial Management and Financial Market Regulation for 2020 and for the period until 2025", approved by Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 12 March 2020 No 143. Activities of the same state programme (such as 7-6, 7-11) dedicated to the development of approaches and testing of budget expenditure planning, using expenditure standards per consumer in the specific sphere (healthcare, social protection), have been strongly supported by the relevant activities of the JP. This support leads to further development of the consolidated financial strategy under the launched work on NSDS-2040 and the state programmes of the 2026-2030 programme cycle. Moreover, activities align with the objectives of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025 and one of its goals to introduce gender analysis into developing legislation and shaping state programs, thus ensuring greater gender equality and contributing to the achievement of SDG 5 and indicator 5.c.1 in particular.

PUNOs at the end of the JP implementation have formalized agreements with their national partners on continuation of the relevant activities beyond the JP.

**Governance and Coordination** is the least advanced stage on the way of the INFF implementation, whereas there are some promising prerequisites to complete this stage smoothly when a high-level political decision on the implementation of the INFF is made.

The UNCT in Belarus, under the leadership of the RC, actively supports the Council for Sustainable Development, which is headed by the National SDGs Coordinator. The Council is a consultation body, which makes part of the national institutional mechanism for the achievement of SDGs. The Council comprises representatives on the level not lower than the deputies of the heads of the governmental bodies and organizations of the Republic of Belarus. Representatives of business, non-governmental organizations and international organizations can be involved in the work of the Council, while the National SDGs Coordinator defines who can be invited to a meeting of the Council based on the agenda and the issues to be tackled.

Other bodies of the wider national institutional mechanism for the achievement of SDGs can also be the platforms for SDGs financing dialogue and coordination at different levels (for example, regional groups on sustainable development and the Partnership group for sustainable development).

The JP interventions created strong partnerships, in particular in the course of capacity building events and round tables on the methodological framework discussions. The work of the expert teams, which comprised

specialists of the state research institutions, regional and local experts and were led by international experts, enhanced horizontal interaction of stakeholders and brought the SDGs budgeting agenda to a cross-sectoral level beyond the existing and described above institutional structures.

All this makes a promising background for the formation of governance and coordination structure of the INFF oversight body in the future. The UN in Belarus is in active support of these coordination mechanisms.

#### 1.4. Contribution to SDG acceleration

<b>SDGs indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Expected target</b>	<b>Actual results achieved/to be achieved in the near future</b>	<b>Reasons for deviation from targets, if any</b>
3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income (per cent)	Baseline: 10.0 (the proportion with expenses over 10%, 2018); 0.5 (the proportion with expenditure of more than 25%, 2018)	N/A	17.2 (2022) 1.3 (2022)	The JP supported the Ministry of Health and its healthcare institutions to improve the efficiency in the use of public finance in healthcare, in particular with regards to reproductive health services, by introducing results-oriented budgeting, in particular normative cost-based budget planning methods per one consumer.
SDG 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	Baseline: 2019: 59.4 (urban) 53.2 (rural)		59.4 (urban) 2022 54 (rural) 2022	JP work in the framework of Goal 5 was contributing by promoting universal access to healthcare with the focus on sexual and reproductive health and identifying cost effective ways to provide equitable services.
5.c.1.1 Systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's	No data available on the national level as the methodology has not been officially adopted yet.		No data available at the national level	The JP accelerated the progress towards SDG 5.c.1 through raising capacity of representatives from profile Ministries on mainstreaming

empowerment are in place.				gender equality in state programmes and budgets. The data gap assessment and the first ever gender budget analyses of the State programme on “Labour market and Employment” were made.
17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	Baseline: 2018, 74 (the number of global indicators formed to monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (units))		123 (2022)	Due to JP analytical work, it was found out that the level of SDG alignment between national and global SDGs was of 39% (66 versus global 169 targets). The following SDGs showed a low percentage of target alignment: SDG 5 Gender (11 %), SDG 13 Climate change (20%); SDG 16 Peaceful and inclusive societies (17%) and SDG 17 Partnerships (11%).

### 1.5. Contribution to SDG financing flows *(max 500 words)*

The JP provided the Government of Belarus with both objective data on the analysis of the state programs, as well as practical recommendations on what to do to intensify SDG funding in the medium term.

In the course of RIA, 24 state programs of the Republic of Belarus for 2021–2025 were analyzed. It was revealed that, in general, SDGs are integrated into government programs at a fairly high level, but not all SDGs are fully reflected.

The RIA financial analysis showed that the financial flows in the programs are organized in the context of the most important areas of sustainable development. Gaps in the financing of specific goals were also identified, which is recommended to be taken into account when planning activities, volumes and sources of funding in the future programme cycle, including by attracting alternative sources of funding.

Financial planning for the implementation of the SDGs will be more successful if the Government of Belarus treats the 2030 agenda as a whole and strives to segregate data as much as possible (by gender, age, disability, place of residence) both in planning and defining indicators, as well as in monitoring and performance evaluation. It is also important to ensure a gender-responsive approach when tracking government spending.

The national partners could also consider the possibility of creating a mechanism for tracking all financial flows directed by the state to ensure social policy in order to successfully implement the SDGs, since it is not possible to evaluate this contribution within the framework of the state programmes.

In addition, JP has taken concrete steps to improve the efficiency of SDG financing in the near future. Activities on child budgeting – development of the methodological base and its piloting - equipped the local authorities with the budgeting instrument that they can use to make their child spending more efficient already now. Thanks for the JP Child friendly cities will have development plans that consolidate the available funding to direct it at social development.

JP achievements on recommendation of restructuring of medical assistance in in-patient facilities with the relevant piloting; the digitalization of the medical sector based on the electronic prescription; the implementation of performance-based budgeting in healthcare – all this may have a tangible financial effect even before the new programming cycle starts.

In the framework of the activities on GGEI, a roadmap was proposed to the Ministry of Environment and other stakeholder national partners on improving the Belarus position in the ranking and enhancing the country situation in the field of green financing. If the roadmap is adopted and followed, Belarus can considerably draw on alternative forms of financing, especially from the private sector (including setting up SDG social impact funds), harnessing climate finance, low carbon development, green financial instruments. All these steps will also contribute to the achievement of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of Belarus, the updated version of which was approved in October 2021, and which promises to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 35 % by 2030 without additional financing.

#### **1.6. Results achieved on contributing to UN Development System reform (max 500 words)**

The JP was designed based on the agreed, draft UNSDCF 2021-2025. The Joint programme is the most appropriate form of the technical assistance to Belarus to promote new tools of sustainable development budgeting with a special focus on vulnerable groups. The programme was designed to focus on policy advice and presupposed an integrated programmatic support to the Government of Belarus. The management structure of the JP was arranged in the way that the RCO played a coordinating role while the other UN agencies were responsible for concrete components implementation with UNDP being the lead agency. All agencies admitted an important advocacy role of the RCO in the situation when the Government of Belarus reprioritized the work on SDGs and the active international cooperation on the SDGs acceleration slowed down.

UN Women being a non-resident agency nevertheless, managed to create new partnerships and enhance the former ones to promote gender-responsive budgeting, exposing this topic to some of the national partners for the first time in Belarus.

The results of the JP activities considerably increased the SDG knowledge database and raised the capacities of the local experts and specialists who deal directly with performance-based budgeting in the social sphere. JP spurred further methodological work of the Belstat on the national SDG indicators, encouraged the MoH to continue the reform of the digitalization of the healthcare system and the MLSP to reinforce feedback from the vulnerable groups on the budgeting measures.

At the time of sanctions and social and political tumult, the UN agencies led by the RC, still maintain cooperation with the country being in a dialogue with the Government of Belarus and civil society, fulfilling their commitments under the UNSDCF.

Due to joint and cooperative work of all PUNOs at once the results of the programme components have a catalytic effect on the enhancement of SDGs financing – several social spheres in Belarus at once were covered by financial reform implementation. Simultaneous and well-coordinated work with unified planning, monitoring and reporting excluded duplication of the efforts of the PUNOs.

Results of the JP met the expectations and will be used for the drafting of next UNSDCF.

#### **1.7. Results achieved on cross-cutting issues (max 200 words)**

UN agencies, which implemented the JP and were led by UNDP, have delivered cross-cutting results with a special focus on gender equality, decent work, inclusion and leaving no one behind.

All UN agencies admit that the UN Women's support in mainstreaming gender issues in SDGs financing and budgeting in social spheres (health, social protection) and environment was crucial.

A dialogue with the governmental bodies on gender-responsive budgeting was initiated. When developing a roadmap to support the Belarus' Global Green Economy Index, UNDP focused on the creation of "green" jobs to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological innovation ensuring decent work and equal opportunity for all.

Gender-sensitive approach was applied in the research studies conducted for the healthcare system and child multidimensional poverty.

Cooperation between UNDP and UN Women in the process of RIA revealed the need of establishing the system of tracking allocations for gender equality as per national SDG 5.c.1.1. It also resulted in the assessment of the availability of gender data in the sphere of labour and social protection. The overall disbursed funds that was spent on gender equality or women's empowerment in the JP makes more than 50 %.

### **1.8. Results achieved on COVID-19 recovery *(max 200 words)***

COVID-19 did not affect the implementation of the JP and did not shift any of its priorities. JP provided the national partners with recommendations on ensuring the financial sustainability of the health care system of the Republic of Belarus in crisis conditions and amid the COVID-19 recovery. These recommendations can also be used to strengthen ways to finance the recovery from the pandemic or in case the pandemic situation aggravates.

### **1.9. Strategic Partnerships *(max 500 words)***

The JP was implemented in a complicated political context, at the time when cooperation of Belarus with a number of international organizations and international donors had decreased. This circumstance could imply little national responsibility and country ownership. However, in the course of the JP implementation the existing SDG partnerships were strengthened (including with key counterparts - the Council for Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Economy, Belstat) and new partnerships were established.

In particular, UNDP has enhanced the strategic partnership with the Ministry of Economy, a key government partner in the SDG financing space. Agreements were reached on holding a series of trainings with presentation of available UNDP tools in the field of SDG Financing. A new partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has been launched due to work on DFA and capacity building in agricultural sector in the framework of DEM implementation.

UNFPA has reinforced its traditional liaison with the Ministry of Health through engagement of such state medical institutions as the Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Medical Technologies and BelMAPO. These partnerships contributed to the results by providing pro bono the institutions' facilities and staff consultancy services for training and educational activities for the healthcare system.

UNICEF continued to build strategic partnerships with MLSP and its subordinate research Institute of Labour and the Retraining Institute as well as with local authorities that were involved in C-PEM and child budgeting work. Due to this cooperative work a number of additional round tables in the regions were held, which in their turn attracted even more local actors, such as Youth parliamentarians, social assistance workers and others.

UN Women developed a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection as a key Ministry responsible for achieving SDG 5.c.1. Commitment from the Ministry contributed to building strategic partnership with the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus and creating an interagency team of experts from two sectors to implement the Roadmap for GRB introduction and identification of the entry points for its incorporation into the next cycle of state programmes for 2026-2030.

### 1.10. Additional financing mobilized *(max 300 words)*

Source of funding	Yes	No	Type of co-funding/co-financing	Name of organization	Amount (USD)	Comments
Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Donors/IFIs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Top-up resources	Joint SDG Fund (DEM)	191,188	
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
PUNOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash and in-kind co-financing	UNDP UNICEF UNFPA UN Women	197,500	
Other partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

PUNOs provided cash and in-kind co-financing to the JP implementation. In-kind contribution that was provided on behalf of PUNOs covered time of PUNOs representatives from Programme and Operations staff supporting project implementation, coordination of the study visits and events, development of the resource packs that were provided for translation and use during the capacity building events. The Top-up resources were allocated by the SDG Joint Fund as a response to crisis that had emerged after the war in Ukraine break-out. The top-up resources were used to accelerate progress towards advancement of SDGs in the priority areas, such as food security and overcoming financial crises.

## 2. Results by JP Outcome and Output

### 2.1. Results achieved by Fund's global results *(max 500 words)*

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of 23 December 2015 No. 1080 approved the Strategy for reforming the public financial management system of the Republic of Belarus. This Strategy presupposes implementation of the performance-based budgeting. The essence of the transition to performance-based budgeting is to shift the focus from managing budget expenditures to managing results by increasing the responsibility and autonomy of participants in the budget process within clear medium-term targets.

The JP had launched a comprehensive work on the performance-based budgeting in several sectors – health and social protection particularly. The Methodological framework for child budgeting was formed; the piloting of performance-based budgeting in health sector with the focus on the cost per consumer was done. Led by UNDP the PUNOs could also provide the national partners with tangible results on the analysis of the extent to which the SDGs are interwoven in the state programming, how the financial flows are distributed where the financing and activities gaps are.

The PUNOs efficiently relied on the existing partnerships, such as the National SDG coordinator and SDG Council as well as reinforced it with new partners, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social protection (it is worth noting that this Ministry important for the SDGs implementation on the LNOB basis was not a member of the interdepartmental council made in for the realization of the Strategy for reforming the public financial management system of the Republic of Belarus).

### 2.2. Results achieved by Joint Programme Outcome *(max 500 words)*

The progress towards improvement of access and quality of the healthcare services is provided by the work that was performed by UNFPA in the framework of Outcome 1 of the JP.

A change of budgeting practices at a local and national level is ensured by profound research and analytical work on performance based budgeting in health financing system, review of the cervical cancer screening program and the national vaccination calendar, review of obstetric care. The proposed better financing practices in the health sector will find relevant feedback due to an implemented capacity building programme

for healthcare managers and introduction of the performance-based budgeting in a permanent training programme of BelMAPO.

In the framework of Outcome 2 UNICEF created methodological framework on child poverty and child budgeting as well as raised awareness of the specialists responsible for children's budgets on the national and local levels. A special attention was given to the families with children – the methodology on the formation of the children's budget includes the component that allows to receive feedback from parents and children concerning the social services they need. Pilot locations for testing children's budgets were chosen on the LNOB basis representing not only the city of Minsk but also district centers and rural areas. Comprehensive analysis of the child multidimensional poverty with the concrete recommendations how to prevent it provides the stakeholder governmental bodies with the means of further improvement in the targeted social assistance, school feeding.

Under Outcome 3, UNDP producing DFA as an important milestone towards the INFF revealed insufficient and timid steps towards performance-based budgeting and gender responsive budgeting. In the conditions of restrained external funding for the SDGs achievement, identification of alternative sources of SDGs financing, turning better environmental performance into potential "green" financing may precipitate the increase of the quality of life of men and women of all ages.

For the first time in Belarus in the framework of Outcome 4 UN Women mainstreamed Gender Responsive Budgeting. The relatively low awareness of the civil servants was raised due to a comprehensive training programme. Proper methodological support to the stakeholder ministries resulted in their request for the follow-up on continuing working on the Gender Responsive Budgeting and its implementation in the next programme cycle.

The data on the Programme outcome results were collected by means of the Programme reports analysis, monitoring of Programme publications – both on behalf of the PUNOs and the on behalf of the national partners as well as mass media publications. An important means of information verification was a series of live interviews with the PUNOs and the representatives of the national partners. A number of national legal documents, which were enhanced by JP activities and those, which were consequently endorsed by the Government of Belarus to continue the work on JP results, were also studied and analysed.

### **2.3 Results achieved by Joint Programme Output *(max 500 words)***

Under Output 1, UNFPA strengthened capacities of the healthcare facilities management through identifying their needs on results-based budgeting. 97 medical organizations of Belarus participated in the relevant survey. The survey laid the basis for the follow-up training of 39 healthcare managers and economists. The JP ensured sustainability of this training - the relevant curricula became part of the regular training plan of BelMAPO.

A methodology of the efficient use of bedspace was developed. The results-based budgeting in healthcare sector was piloted in the Grodno region and the city of Minsk. Based on the results of these pilots the MoH decided to continue testing of the results-based budgeting in the hospitals of the Gomel region.

Comparative medical and economic analysis of cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination programs resulted in the development of a new cervical cancer screening program; revision of the state vaccination program at the level of the MoH.

In the framework of Output 2, UNICEF advanced on the way to identification, analysis and monitoring of the needs of the vulnerable groups, especially children and families with children. The main deliverables of this work will be used by Belstat for the development of the methodology of calculation of the index of multi-dimensional poverty (1.2.2.1) in 2023. The methodology of child budgeting, created under UNICEF component of the JP, is unique as it allows to have a feedback from the direct beneficiaries of the budget – parents and children. It is straightforward, transparent and standardized to be used both on the local level and country-wide.

Under Output 3 UNDP in partnership with UN Women undertook the RIA analysis of 24 state programmes. It was found out that mainstreaming of the SDGs into government programs is generally at a fairly high level, however, certain areas of sustainable development are under-represented. RIA recommends to use disaggregated data in the government programs and their progress reports, and to establish a mechanism for tracking the government allocations aimed to ensure gender equality.

DFA work implemented by UNDP with the support of UN Women, work on Global Green Economy Index (GGEI) presupposed the use of the vast SDGs related data. The considerable part of them can be taken from Belstat informational resources including National SDG, but the access to some of the data has been restricted in recent years. This became an additional challenge to the experts' teams.

In the framework of Output 4, UN Women increased the capacity of UN agencies in gender mainstreaming in programming and supported development of recommendations through the gender lens. The gender analysis of the State Programme "Labor Market and Employment Promotion" was made. A series of online and offline trainings in GRB was implemented. The national partners expressed their intention to continue the work on the GRB. To implement this intention a working group of the specialists of the profile research institutes was formed and a plan of activities to implement GRB was approved.

### 3. Challenges and Changes

#### 3.1. Challenges faced by JP *(max 300 words)*

The JP began at the time when COVID-19 was still in place. Recent outflow of experts and specialists who had been traditionally involved in the work on SDGs as well as growing economic sanctions posed a threat to the smooth procurement and hiring of consultants for the Programme. Some key international partners, such as the World Bank, withdrew from the country after the war in Ukraine in 2022 began. Cooperation with some traditional donors was suspended or terminated.

To sustain the national partner commitment to the JP tasks and strengthen the UNCT support, PUNOs kept constant communication (meetings, letters exchange) with the relevant ministries and governmental bodies. They managed to ensure that the JP remained a priority for the national partners and created favorable conditions to continue the implementation of the JP.

JP implementation faced the following constraints:

- significant changes of personnel in the key partners' organizations, which led to additional time and efforts for engaging the new counterparts;
- the number of available local and international experts to engage in consultancy services has been reduced, which created delays and slowdown in the implementation of some JP's activities;
- emerged limited access to certain official statistical data and financial information.

The misconceptions on gender equality, despite the existing National Action Plan on gender equality, required months of negotiations with research institutes for the involvement of local experts which ended with no success and required re-adjustment of the approach with international experts. To ensure further implementation of GRB in developing normative framework, special advocacy efforts were required for capacitating senior management on GRB and its benefits.

COVID-19 risk was minimal in the course of the JP implementation as by the time the JP started the UN agencies had acquired sufficient experience and capacity to minimize the risk of infection.

#### 3.2. Changes made to JP (if applicable) *(max 200 words)*

To respond to the impact of the Ukrainian crisis on food security, the proposal on a top up of the JP was prepared and consequently agreed. This additional funding allowed the JP to deal with overcoming crises and



continue efforts aimed at results-based budgeting. In particular, UNDP undertook disaggregated analysis of agricultural sector in line with DFA methodology, prepared recommendations to overcome food sustainability challenges, including improvement of trade chains of agricultural products, especially during the harvest season, development of effective mechanisms to support agricultural start-ups in the context of ensuring sustainability of rural areas and their further development, and developed educational activities for Belarusian farmers. UNICEF completed a study on Commitment to Equality for Children and provided Belstat with technical assistance on multidimensional child poverty methodology, including the relevant workshop conducted in June 2023. Belstat made a valuable contribution by providing data on households, even on children's nutrition. UNFPA developed evidence-based proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of the national health care system.

The JP received a 6-months' no-cost extension, which let PUNOs complete their on-going activities to the full extent as planned. The extended timeline was duly recorded in the revised Work Plans for C1 and DEM.

## **4. Sustainability and Country Ownership**

### **4.1. Sustainability and country ownership** *(max 500 words)*

Work on SDG financing strategy will continue in line with the existing imperatives of the national legislation - strategies and state programmes. Almost all PUNOs received a request from their national partners to continue working on the pillar topics of the JP – performance-based budgeting, gender-responsive budgeting, SDG data segregation, input to the new programme cycle and NSDS-2040, boosting "green growth".

The UN agencies in Belarus remain committed to the implementation of the UNSDCF for 2021-2025 with the respective four "accelerator platforms", such as: 1) Green transition for inclusive and sustainable growth; 2) Future generation orientation: adolescence and youth; 3) Digital transformation and social innovation; and 4) Gender equitable society. The JP Strategy and results framework are built upon selected UNSDCF outcomes and outputs and contribute the SDG implementation in Belarus.

The Joint Programme was not registered at the national level in accordance with the legislation on international technical assistance, which is nevertheless a possible way to implement international technical assistance programmes in Belarus. According to the UN agencies' evidence, the timeframe of international technical assistance project registration (up to 1 year in Belarus) would put at risk the implementation of the JP. This circumstance lowered the degree of involvement of the main national partner – the Ministry of Finance.

Nevertheless, as far as the JP strategy is based on the UNSDCF 2021-2025 and aligned with the NSDS-2035, which is approved by the GoB, the profile ministries including the Ministry of Economy (which is responsible for the development of strategies and state programmes of social-economic development and their monitoring, analysis and evaluation) engaged themselves in the implementation of the JP components in close coordination with UN agencies on the basis of mutually agreed work plans and in accordance with the CPDs and national regulations prescribing cooperation with international organizations on the issues of social-economic development.

With regards to GRB, gender mainstreaming in policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation is a new area for Belarus, therefore significant efforts were dedicated to capacity building of key stakeholders from profile Ministries and research institutions from economy, labour and social protection spheres. That created a buy-in from the Ministries, creation of the interagency group to further work on GRB introduction into the next cycle of state programmes based on the results of analyses conducted within JP.

## **5. Communications**

### **5.1 Communication products** *(max 300 words)*

Informing the public and partners on the JP activities as well as ensuing proper visibility of the JP a Communication Strategy and Action Plan were developed to provide clear guidance on how to effectively

communicate about the PUNOs’ activities and the Joint SDG Fund’s role as a donor within the Joint Programme.

The joint Communication Strategy and Action Plan laid the general background and the principles on which each implementing UN agency – UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women – had to develop their own specific Communication Action Plans for their components of the Joint Programme. Additional specific communications objectives tailored by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women. Target audiences were defined.

Within the JP implementation the communications were harmonized, led by UNDP and implemented through the joint Communications Group represented by the communication focal points of the PUNOs and the UN RCO.

The UNCT system logo and the logos of each PUNO and the donor – the Joint SDG Fund – were included in the branded communication materials to ensure their individual visibility. The design of the JP universal roll-up and the project brief with the visual elements in line with the Joint SDG Fund’s brand-book guidelines were produced and used by the PUNOs for their communications purposes throughout the programme.

Throughout the JP the UN agencies jointly produced:

the total of 52 publications at their online resources, including 16 publications at their websites and 16 posts in social media channels;

12 media publications were published by the national media.

12 publications were generated by the national partners.

The total communications budget made – about 18 500 USD.

## 5.2 Events

Type of event	Yes	No	Number of events	Brief description and any highlights
JP launch event (mandatory)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		On 24 Sept 2021, the PUNOs’ Joint Programme launch event was organized in the online format (due to COVID-19 restrictions)
Annual donors’ event* (mandatory)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Such an event could not be organized as, beginning from 2020, there have been certain limitations on the participation of the Western countries’ representatives in the events with the Belarusian governmental officials
Partners’ event ** *(optional)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Meeting of interdepartmental working group on ecology with the involvement of all UN agencies and strategic partners on 6 October 2022, thematic meeting of the Council for Sustainable Development on 18 November 2022, joint final event with key national partners on 27 June 2023

## 6. Lessons and Best Practices

### 6.1. Key lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations on SDG financing *(max 300 words)*

Written evidence as well as interviews show that the JP national partners unanimously support continuation of the SDG financing activities and development of its results.

The work on child budgeting proved the success of “bottom-up” approach. The local authorities received the instruments and capacity to deal with social demands in the conditions of shrinking financing. Follow-up work in child financing could continue with raising capacities of decision-makers.

UNFPA has extensively worked on performance-based budgeting in healthcare sector. The national partners of UNFPA especially highlight the need to enhance the work on digitalization of the healthcare system as well as revision and development of new standards and indicators in healthcare performance-oriented budgeting.

UNDP work on DFA, RIA and environmental financing definitely has to be continued – it evoked controversial discussions among the national partners on the one hand and the desire for the follow-up on the other hand. The results of these activities could lay the basis for outputs of the future joint programmes.

The representatives of the national partners of the UN Women note that gender becomes essential for efficient budgeting when it comes, for example, to dealing with the problem of life expectancy gap of more than ten years in men and women in Belarus. One of the conclusions of the JP on gender is that the level of awareness of this important social factor is still low.

The JP proved the catalytic effect of the undertaken activities on financial reform for SDGs implementation. Joint work of the UN agencies helped to deal with the scope of budgeting for SDGs issues going far beyond the scope of work of one agency. All PUNOs acknowledged important contribution of RCO in advocating the JP goals and tasks, their role in strengthening the outcomes of the JP and its connection with the UNSDCF.

## **6.2. Key lessons learned and best practices, and recommendations on Joint Programming** *(max 300 words)*

In the course of implementation of the JP a number of CSOs, cooperation with which was presupposed by the JP, were liquidated. Thus, PUNOs directed their efforts to working with the governmental bodies, local authorities and state research organizations. This approach proved to be quite productive, since the national partners expressed their intention to continue capacity building events on SDG financing and gender-responsive budgeting in particular. It is worth mentioning that further gender work could be planned taking into account the remaining CSOs, for example, Belarusian Union of Women. Furthermore, the representatives of active CSOs could be involved in education and capacity building events on gender of the future joint programmes.

It is advisable to consider official national registration of further work as international technical assistance. This would allow to ensure the appointment of a responsible ministry, which would coordinate the work at the national level, including results implementation. The registration of the programme also gives such benefits as direct organization of public events without their additional registration as it had to be done in case with the offline event of UN Women.

Cooperation between UN agencies and synchronization of strategies is critical for ensuring sustainable changes and change the approach to financing strategies.

For coordination on cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, commitment from lead ministries is key. MLSP undertook the leading role in coordinating with other line ministries and ensured engagement of the specialists from different sectors in capacity development programme on GRB that helped not only to increase their knowledge on GRB but to create a network of partners further engaged in gender analyses of the state programme, and further incorporation of GRB into state programme development to ensure sustainability.

## Annex 1: Consolidated results framework

### 1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (full programme duration)

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

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Target (end of JP)	Result (end of JP)	Notes
2.1: US\$ & Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged disaggregated in terms of public and private sector funds	n.a. in accordance with the Programme document	n.a. in accordance with the Programme document	n.a. in accordance with the Programme document	n.a. in accordance with the Programme document

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

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Targets (end of JP)	Results (end of JP)	Notes
4.1: #of integrated financing strategies/instruments that were tested	1	1	1	
4.2: #of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead	1	1	1	
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate SDG progress	1	1	1	

### 2. Selected global operational effectiveness indicators (full programme duration)

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

- Yes, considerably contributed  
 Yes, contributed  
 No

Explain briefly: The UNCT implementing the JP demonstrated well-coordinated, harmonized work to achieve the goals and tasks of the JP. All PUNOs had appointed Focal Points, dedicated communications specialists who were in contact and coordinated their steps on JP. UNDP as a leading agency hosted a PIU with the SDG Budgeting Thematic Coordinator and a Communications specialist. RCO advocacy and coordinating role as well as proper branding and visibility of the programme let the UN agencies act concurrently. All PUNOs admit that mutual work let not only fulfill the relevant Programme components but also cope with the operations especially taking into account the new UN digital platform. Being in working contact with each other also helped to deal with the lack of international experts. Because of sanctions and the war in Ukraine PUNOs had difficulties with hiring

international experts (many of them just refused to work for the JP), so PUNOs would share the information and rosters with each other to facilitate hiring.

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to avoiding duplication of efforts for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities?

Yes,

No

N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly: Duplication of the efforts of the UN agencies at the implementation of the JP was excluded due to proper programme arrangement - each programme component was dedicated to the concrete UN agency. All PUNOs have their own appointed partners on the national level but very often the implementation of the activities required liaison with other governmental bodies, local authorities or representatives of the research institutes. In this case duplication was avoided due to proper planning, formulation of tasks and acting in concord with each other.

### 3. Results as per JP Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Original Target (as per ProDoc)	Revised Target (if applicable)	Result (end of JP)	Reasons for variance from original target (if any)
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					
Output 1.1 indicator - Number of capacity building activities (trainings, conferences) on normative budgeting based on expenditures per consumer in the healthcare system is undertaken for healthcare managers and local government with focus on reproductive health and gender-sensitive services.	0	7		10	UNFPA organized a number of capacity building activities (seminars, trainings, conference) on normative budgeting in the healthcare system for managers and economists with a focus on reproductive health and gender-sensitive services (i.e. 24 February; 7, 8 and 26 April; 25 May; 21 June, 20 December ; in 2023: 20 January; 14 March; 26-29 March - a study visit to Russia).

<p>Output 1.2 Indicator - Number of curricula for healthcare managers on results-based budgeting in healthcare</p>	0	1		<p>1</p> <p>Curriculum for healthcare managers dedicated to the results-based budgeting were done and approved by the Rector of BelMAPO on 15 August 2022. In addition, a curriculum for economists dedicated to the results-based budgeting were done and approved by the Rector of BelMAPO on 12 September 2023.</p>
<p>Output 1.3 Indicator - A conceptual and methodological framework to integrate SDGs in budget planning based on the cost of services per consumer in healthcare is developed</p>	0	1		<p>1</p> <p>1 – stands for the conceptual and methodological framework as a whole while it was made by the following documents approved by the national partner – MoH: 1. Calculation of norms (standards) of the budget in accordance with diagnosis-related groups, including gender-oriented distribution of resources in the health sector, which was approved for piloting by the Order of the MoH on 28 November 2022 No. 1663/ 2. Comparative medical and economic analysis of cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination programs with recommendations on approach to funding, policy development and implementation, which resulted in the development of a new cervical cancer screening program (order of the MoH of April 6, 2023 No. 485); revision of the state vaccination program (National Immunization Calendar) at the level of the MoH. 3. Comparative medical-epidemiological and financial-economic analysis of methods of obstetric care: caesarean section and physiological childbirth; calculation of cost-benefit ratios for caesarean section using the Robson classification – presented to the national partners at the SDGs related round table. 4. Policy brief “Performance-Based Budgeting in the Health Financing System: International Approaches and National Experience” and Recommendations for the Development of PBB in the Republic of</p>

					<p>Belarus was prepared and presented to the national partners at the SDGs related round table.</p> <p>5. The system of health accounts of the Republic of Belarus as a tool for managing public resources and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was developed and presented to the stakeholders at the SDGs related round table.</p>
Output 1.4 Indicator- Feasibility study and testing of the conceptual and methodological framework in a pilot region is undertaken.	0	4		6	<p>Analysis of the impact of the introduction of a budget expenditure planning system based on the use of expenditure standards per patient in inpatient settings by diagnosis-related groups on the budgets of healthcare organizations", including a Comparative analysis of model budgets and actually used budget funds of <b>6 healthcare organizations</b> in the Grodno region, which led to <b>continuation of piloting</b> by the national partner – MoH in accordance with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 23 February 2023 No. 146.</p>
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					

Output 2.1 Indicator - The costed policy simulation tool of the targeted social assistance is developed by the end of 2021	0	1		1	The indicator is completed in the framework of the research work "Child poverty and fiscal redistribution in Belarus"
Output 2.2 Indicator - Child-focused budgets (child budgets) are developed at the local level in 3 (three) municipalities by the end of 2021. By 2022 the new methodology guidelines (manual) for child budgeting will be developed for national and local levels and 4 municipalities will prepare comprehensive child budgets in line with the updated methodology.	0	5		5	Guidelines for the formation of the children's budget have been developed as a single tool for possible use both at the republican and local levels. They also include recommendations for analyzing and evaluating the children's budget and preparing budget briefs, as well as a sociological survey to assess the individual needs and living conditions of children and families with children. The methodology has been tested in pilot cities: Minsk, Novopolotsk, as well as in Borisov and Molodechno districts. Budget briefs were developed for spending on children in the Republic of Belarus, including in the sectors of education, healthcare, social protection, as well as budget briefs for spending on children in Minsk, Novopolotsk, Borisovsky and Molodechno districts (All in all 5 budgets).
Output 2.3 Indicator - A thematic plan for advanced training and retraining of civil servants is developed for the 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	1		1	A thematic plan for advanced training and retraining of social workers and LGs civil servants (set of 7 trainings) was developed in June 2023 for trainings to be conducted in Brest, Gomel Oblasts, and other regions across the country.
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.					
Output 3.1 Indicator - The Finance Assessment in the area of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources (FA), Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA), Green Growth Economy Index assessment (GGEI) are carried out, the draft reports and the developed recommendations shared with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Economy.	0	1		1	The assessment started in 2021 in partnership with the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Environment and it was finalized in 2023.
Output 3.2 Indicator - 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	1 conference		1 conference	The final report was presented during last national event in June 2023.
Output 3.3 Indicator - 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, Ministry of Economy.	0	1		1	The assessment started in 2021 in partnership with the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Environment and it was finalized in 2023.
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					

Output 4.1 Indicator - Assessments of the availability of gender data in the sector of labour and social protection, based on mapping of SDGs alignment	0	1		1	Report "Indicators of gender statistics in the field of employment and social protection in the Republic of Belarus and the possibility of using them to form a gender-oriented approach to assessing the results and monitoring the state programs "Labor Market and Employment Promotion" and "Social Protection" 2021-2025"
Output 4.2 Indicator - 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	1		1	State Programme "Labor Market and Employment Promotion" for the period 2021-2025 was analyzed
Output 4.3 Indicator - Trainings are undertaken for the budget and strategic planning unit of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.	0	6		11	1 introductory meeting and 8 online training sessions on GRB conducted for representatives from stakeholder Ministries. An offline workshop was held in February 2023. A study visit to Serbia - in March 2023.

## Annex 2: List of strategic documents

### 1. Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
The Strategy for the development of the circular economy for the period up to 2035 (only first draft is under development, not for distribution).	Draft was finalized in December 2021	Strategy	The document is being in the process of the national approval by the stakeholder ministries. After their approval the Strategy will be approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus
Methodology for Gender Analysis of State Programs/Subprograms in the Context of Gender-Based Budgeting (GBB)	January 2023	Methodology	<p>The main purpose of this document is to propose a methodology for conducting gender-responsive analysis aimed at improving the gender outcomes of funded policies and programs. This is a methodological guide for approbation and testing before being finalized by the Ministry of Economy/Ministry of Finance and other relevant institutions.</p> <p>The proposed guide is based on available methodologies and practices developed and used by UN Women, and is also adapted for the analysis of government programs and subprograms that are part of the planning and budgeting stages in public financial management practice in the Republic of Belarus. This methodology should be reviewed after the pilot phase with appropriate adjustments.</p>
Gender analyses of the State Programme "Labour Market and Employment" for 2021-2025	June 2023	Report	The report provides to provide a gender-responsive budgeting analysis of the State Program " Labor Market and Employment" for 2021-2025 in Belarus, aiming to improve the gender

			outcomes of the program based on the developed methodology.
Assessment of the availability of gender data in the sphere of labour and social protection	June 2023	Report	The report identify key gaps in gender data in the sector of labour and social protection and provides recommendations for mitigation to be further used for policy development.
Guidelines for the formation of the children's budget at the republican and local levels		Guidelines	Guidelines for the formation of the children's budget have been developed as a single tool for possible use both at the republican and local levels. They also include recommendations for analyzing and evaluating the children's budget and preparing budget briefs, as well as a sociological survey to assess the individual needs and living conditions of children and families with children. Feedback from the Ministry of Finance and the Main Financial Department of the Minsk City Executive Committee was received on these methodological recommendations. The methodology for the formation of children's budgets has been tested in pilot cities: Minsk, Novopolotsk, as well as in Borisov and Molodechno districts.
Curriculum for advanced training "Performance-oriented budgeting" (for heads of healthcare organizations, their deputies, heads of separate divisions and departments of healthcare organizations).	05.08.2022	Curriculum	The curriculum comprises lectures, thematic discussions and practical exercises on performance-based budgeting as a system of the budgeting process, in which expenditure planning and execution are interconnected with results, gender-based budgeting, cost recovery based on the model of diagnosis-related groups, etc.
Curriculum for advanced training "Managing the performance of an organization (department, employee) by integrating budget management with performance (for economists)	12.09.2022.	Curriculum	Same as above but with the focus on the scope of work of the economists of the medical organizations.
Development Finance Assessment for the Republic of Belarus (including Road map for integrated national financing framework roll-out)	March 2023	Assessment and a road map	The document suggests an integrated national financing framework roll-out in Belarus to enlist more financing for

			SDGs, making its use more efficient on a LNOB basis. This document precedes the development of an INFF Action Plan and opens a discussion of different sources and forms of the development financing that will contribute to the achievement of SDGs.
RIA – Financing of SDGs in the Government Programmes of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025	November 2022	Assessment	24 Government Programmes for 2021-2025 were analysed using the RIA methodology. The national partners, particularly the Ministry of Economy advised the use of the RIA methodology for the preparation of the next programme cycle, along with incorporation of an innovative digital solution (RIA Dashboard) into the official web portal of ministry.
DFA in Agricultural sector	March 2023	Assessment	As a response to food crisis that had emerged after the war in Ukraine break-out the analysis of the agricultural sector of Belarus was made from the point of view of its resistance to crisis and SDGs achievement. Concrete recommendations for the possible scenarios for the development of the sector were given to the national partner – the Ministry of Agriculture of Belarus.

## 2. Strategic documents to which the JP directly contributed to

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date (month; year) when finalized</b>	<b>Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)</b>	<b>Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it</b>
UNCT Belarus_The National Action Plan on the Green Economy for 2021-2025	December 2021	Action Plan	<a href="https://economy.gov.by/ru/nac_plan-ru/">https://economy.gov.by/ru/nac_plan-ru/</a>

## Annex 3. Communications materials

### 1. Human interest story

The JP was successful in mainstreaming gender for the development of state programmes, budgeting and monitoring. For the first time the issue of the Gender responsive budgeting was brought to the light and widely discussed by a experts and representatives of the national partners. Here is the story of the national expert, Head of the Center for Social and Demographic Research of the Research Institute of Labour, Ph.D. in Economics, Victoria Yodeshko.

“JP provided us with the opportunities to meet and communicate with the international and national experts on gender-related budgeting as this concept is new in our country but – as it has appeared – indispensable for the efficient resources allocation for SDGs achievement. It was especially useful to have to opportunity to go on a study tour to Serbia. As the prover says - words are but wind, but seeing is believing – witnessing how gender-responsive budgeting is inculcated in the state budgeting and leads to advancement in the SDGs achievement changes one’s perception of this concept forever. It was thrilling to talk to the people who were bringing the GRB in life and institutionalizing it in Serbia. It was very reassuring that this process is multi-stage and does not always go smoothly so it made us all hopeful that the same can be done in Belarus. The practical experience and knowledge gained in the study tour are just in time – as in 2024 a new programming cycle starts in Belarus and we (as experts participating in drafting the state programmes) will be able to suggest concrete actions to attain the GR budgeting in Belarus. To achieve mutual understanding of the theme of GRB inside the Ministry of Labour it is necessary to continue information and capacity building of the ministry’s workers; mutual research, data collection and sharing; to enhance interministerial cooperation meetings and brainstorming on the level of decision makers – at least relevant Deputy Ministers of Labour, Economy, Finance, Education and Health could be organized.”

### 2. Communication products

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
<b>Thematic webpage dedicated to child budgeting</b>	2021	A thematic webpage was launched by UNICEF <a href="https://unicef.by/en/childbudgeting/">https://unicef.by/en/childbudgeting/</a>
<b>Revised dashboard on child poverty</b>	2021	UNICEF revised the dashboard on child poverty and coverage of children with benefits in 2021. <a href="https://unicef.by/en/poverty/">https://unicef.by/en/poverty/</a>
<b>UNDP press-release “Belarus to define areas of green growth for acceleration in reaching SDGs with the help of specialized assessments and methodologies”</b>	2022	UNDP website: <a href="https://www.by.undp.org/content/belarus/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/Belarus%20to%20define%20areas%20of%20green%20growth%20for%20acceleration%20in%20reaching%20SDGs%20with%20the%20help%20of%20specialized%20assessments%20and%20methodologies.html">https://www.by.undp.org/content/belarus/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/Belarus to define areas of green growth for acceleration in reaching SDGs with the help of specialized assessments and methodologies.html</a> (English) <a href="https://www.by.undp.org/content/belarus/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/Belarus%20to%20define%20areas%20of%20green%20growth%20for%20acceleration%20in%20reaching%20SDGs%20with%20the%20help%20of%20specialized%20assessments%20and%20methodologies.html">https://www.by.undp.org/content/belarus/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/Belarus to define areas of green growth for acceleration in reaching SDGs with the help of specialized assessments and methodologies.html</a> (Russian) UNDP social media:

		<p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/1460662044223078/posts/3206022936353638/">https://www.facebook.com/1460662044223078/posts/3206022936353638/</a> (Facebook)</p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1481271481946583044">https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1481271481946583044</a> (Twitter)</p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1481891394801254402">https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1481891394801254402</a> (Twitter)</p> <p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CYn9CxCK7ld">https://www.instagram.com/p/CYn9CxCK7ld</a> (Instagram)</p> <p>Media coverage: The press release distribution ensured 6 pieces of media coverage – in Belarusian media and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-otsenivaet-vozmozhnosti-uskorit-razvitie-zelenyh-tehnologij-479154-2022/">https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-otsenivaet-vozmozhnosti-uskorit-razvitie-zelenyh-tehnologij-479154-2022/</a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://lesgazeta.by/news_feed/belarus/belarus-ocenivaet-vozmozhnosti-uskorit-razvitie-zelenyh-tehnologij">https://lesgazeta.by/news_feed/belarus/belarus-ocenivaet-vozmozhnosti-uskorit-razvitie-zelenyh-tehnologij</a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://minpriroda.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/belarus-opredelit-tochki-zelenogo-rosta-dlja-uskorenija-dostizhenija-tsur-s-pomoschiju-spetsialnoj-otsenki-i-3987/">https://minpriroda.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/belarus-opredelit-tochki-zelenogo-rosta-dlja-uskorenija-dostizhenija-tsur-s-pomoschiju-spetsialnoj-otsenki-i-3987/</a></li> <li>4. <a href="https://news.sb.by/articles/minprirody-belarus-opredelit-tochki-zelenogo-rosta-dlya-uskoreniya-dostizheniya-tsur-s-pomoshchyu-sp.html">https://news.sb.by/articles/minprirody-belarus-opredelit-tochki-zelenogo-rosta-dlya-uskoreniya-dostizheniya-tsur-s-pomoshchyu-sp.html</a></li> <li>5. <a href="https://sdgs.by/news_events/news/f933f02b28f5e27.html">https://sdgs.by/news_events/news/f933f02b28f5e27.html</a></li> <li>6. “Rodnaya Pryroda” (<i>Native Nature</i>) magazine issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, January issue, 2022, page 13.</li> </ol> <p>The news was covered by the Joint SDG Fund resources: Website: <a href="https://jointsdgfund.org/article/belarus-define-areas-green-growth-acceleration-reaching-sdgs-help-specialized-assessments">https://jointsdgfund.org/article/belarus-define-areas-green-growth-acceleration-reaching-sdgs-help-specialized-assessments</a> Social media: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6886683275780214785/">https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6886683275780214785/</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/JointSDGFund/status/1480565793846923266">https://twitter.com/JointSDGFund/status/1480565793846923266</a> Joint SDG Fund monthly newsletter (January) <a href="#">Link</a> – featured the news on UNDP component</p>
<p><b>The joint announcement on the JP Top-up (“The UN agencies in Belarus join forces for crisis response”)</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Developed by UNDP, coordinated and cleared with all the PUNOs and UN RCO and published online at UNDP Belarus website in the English and Russian languages, as well as UNDP social media channels, followed by the RCO online resources. Special focus on partnerships was done in the joint Top-up announcement highlighting the expected contributions of all the PUNOs within the Top-up component.</p> <p>UNDP website: <a href="https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/agentstva-oon-v-belarusi-obedinyayut-usiliya-po-reagirovaniyu-na-krizis">https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/agentstva-oon-v-belarusi-obedinyayut-usiliya-po-reagirovaniyu-na-krizis</a> (Russian) <a href="https://www.undp.org/belarus/press-releases/un-agencies-belarus-join-forces-crisis-response">https://www.undp.org/belarus/press-releases/un-agencies-belarus-join-forces-crisis-response</a> (English)</p>

		<p>UNDP Social media:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinBelarus/posts/pfbid0XW8XHVRBWchiebkwHwWc2TfXaWGYbEqYFY7MB1kjcVMETHZVSwW76o93ym9ydVHDI">https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinBelarus/posts/pfbid0XW8XHVRBWchiebkwHwWc2TfXaWGYbEqYFY7MB1kjcVMETHZVSwW76o93ym9ydVHDI</a> (Facebook)  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinBelarus/photos/a.1461696914119591/3443119202644009/">https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinBelarus/photos/a.1461696914119591/3443119202644009/</a> (Facebook)  <a href="https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1583448588226478080">https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1583448588226478080</a> (Twitter)  <a href="https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1585904531942084608">https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1585904531942084608</a> (Twitter)  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj-iFYIo6no/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=">https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj-iFYIo6no/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=</a> (Instagram)</p>
<p><b>Presentation of the results of the RIA Assessment at the National Council for Sustainable Development meeting</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>The Joint Programme and the activities held by PUNOs were mentioned by UNDP Belarus Resident Representative in her welcome address at the event:</p> <p>UNDP website:  <a href="https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/speeches/mekhanizmy-finansirovaniya-celey-ustoychivogo-razvitiya">https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/speeches/mekhanizmy-finansirovaniya-celey-ustoychivogo-razvitiya</a> (Russian)</p> <p>The key milestones of the RIA Assessment were also highlighted in the press-release:          UNDP website:  <b>The opportunities for SDG-budgeting in Belarus were presented in Minsk</b>  <a href="https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/v-minske-predstavili-vozmozhnosti-finansirovaniya-cur-v-belarusi">https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/v-minske-predstavili-vozmozhnosti-finansirovaniya-cur-v-belarusi</a> (Russian)</p> <p>The UNDP activities on SDGs budgeting were mentioned in the posts following the National Council for Sustainable Development:</p> <p>UNDP Social media:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/1460662044223078/posts/pfbid02fcrGNeAbtRU4oDQLxkaotdohbgAb9BNT5SqdZzWEwec5xnPaKoco4scggQNxmXHZI">https://www.facebook.com/1460662044223078/posts/pfbid02fcrGNeAbtRU4oDQLxkaotdohbgAb9BNT5SqdZzWEwec5xnPaKoco4scggQNxmXHZI</a> (Facebook)  <a href="https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1593620600731451394?t=DXyGosh9O_AU8V1M1XwrVQ&amp;s=19">https://twitter.com/UNDP_Belarus/status/1593620600731451394?t=DXyGosh9O_AU8V1M1XwrVQ&amp;s=19</a> (Twitter)  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/ClGzz5GIBCy/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=">https://www.instagram.com/p/ClGzz5GIBCy/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=</a> (Instagram)</p>
<p><b>The joint announcement on the JP Top-up (“The UN agencies in Belarus join forces for crisis response”)</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Published by RCO to maximize the audience outreach          UN RCO website:  <a href="https://belarus.un.org/en/210248-un-agencies-belarus-join-forces-crisis-response">https://belarus.un.org/en/210248-un-agencies-belarus-join-forces-crisis-response</a> (English)  <a href="https://belarus.un.org/ru/210248-agentstva-oon-v-belarusi-obedinyayut-usiliya-po-reagirovaniyu-na-krizis">https://belarus.un.org/ru/210248-agentstva-oon-v-belarusi-obedinyayut-usiliya-po-reagirovaniyu-na-krizis</a> (Russian)</p>



<p><b>“UN Resident Coordinator in Belarus took part in the National Council for Sustainable Development meeting”</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>The JP and the activities held by PUNOs were mentioned in the speech by the UN Resident Coordinator in Belarus who took part in the National Council for Sustainable Development meeting. UN RCO website: <a href="https://belarus.un.org/ru/208181-postoyannyy-koordinators-oon-v-belarusi-prinyala-uchastie-v-zasedanii-nacionalnogo-soveta-po">https://belarus.un.org/ru/208181-postoyannyy-koordinators-oon-v-belarusi-prinyala-uchastie-v-zasedanii-nacionalnogo-soveta-po</a> (Russian) <a href="https://belarus.un.org/en/208181-un-resident-coordinator-belarus-took-part-national-council-sustainable-development-meeting">https://belarus.un.org/en/208181-un-resident-coordinator-belarus-took-part-national-council-sustainable-development-meeting</a> (English) UNDP social media: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/221233977939768/posts/pfbid02ixv7cnL7bhYPYTJKznTVSBiiu2Dv4xioYBSrZiHqVzEtfkwB2DJBD2GS5JRs6XnQl">https://www.facebook.com/221233977939768/posts/pfbid02ixv7cnL7bhYPYTJKznTVSBiiu2Dv4xioYBSrZiHqVzEtfkwB2DJBD2GS5JRs6XnQl</a> (Facebook)</p>
<p><b>Webinar "Results-based budgeting in healthcare"</b></p>	<p>24 February 2022</p>	<p>The webinar was organized by UNFPA and RSPC MT within the JP and gathered national and international speakers with practical cases on the implementation of financial frameworks in healthcare. Links to the news articles published by the national partners following the event:</p> <p>Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education <a href="https://belmapo.by/uchastie-belmapo-v-seminare-%E2%80%9Cbyudzhetrovanie,-orientirovanoe-na-rezultat,-v-zdravooxranenii%E2%80%9D.html">https://belmapo.by/uchastie-belmapo-v-seminare-%E2%80%9Cbyudzhetrovanie,-orientirovanoe-na-rezultat,-v-zdravooxranenii%E2%80%9D.html</a></p> <p>The Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Medical Technologies, Informatization, Management and Economics of Public Health <a href="https://www.belcmt.by/ru/31/article">https://www.belcmt.by/ru/31/article</a></p>
<p><b>Promotional video “Results-based budgeting in healthcare”</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Published by UNFPA <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_L7iJBD2_Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_L7iJBD2_Q</a> <a href="https://belcmt.by/docs/Bejin_2402_v5_720p.mp4">https://belcmt.by/docs/Bejin_2402_v5_720p.mp4</a></p>
<p><b>The capacity building activities implemented by UNFPA in 2022 on the normative budgeting in the healthcare system with a focus on reproductive health and gender-sensitive services</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education: <a href="https://belmapo.by/na-baze-belmapo-zavershenyi-obrazovatelnyie-meropriyatiya-po-byudzhetrovaniyu,-orientirovannomu-na-rezultat,-genderno-chuvstvitelnomu-byudzhetu,-kliniko-zatratnyim-gruppam.html">https://belmapo.by/na-baze-belmapo-zavershenyi-obrazovatelnyie-meropriyatiya-po-byudzhetrovaniyu,-orientirovannomu-na-rezultat,-genderno-chuvstvitelnomu-byudzhetu,-kliniko-zatratnyim-gruppam.html</a></p> <p>Belarusian State Medical University: <a href="https://www.bsmu.by/allarticles/rubric1/page1/article4201/">https://www.bsmu.by/allarticles/rubric1/page1/article4201/</a></p> <p>Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education <a href="https://belmapo.by/uchastie-belmapo-v-kruglom-stole-po-voprosam-dostizheniya-czelej-ustojchivogo-razvitiya.html">https://belmapo.by/uchastie-belmapo-v-kruglom-stole-po-voprosam-dostizheniya-czelej-ustojchivogo-razvitiya.html</a></p> <p>Grodno University Clinic</p>

		<p><a href="http://gocb.by/ru/news/item/1826-seminar-soveshchanie-byudzhetrovanie-raskhodov-po-modeli-kliniko-zatratnykh-grupp-i-mezhdunarodnyj-opyt-finansirovaniya-zdravookhraneniya-dlya-dostizheniya-tselej-ustojchivogo-razvitiya.html">http://gocb.by/ru/news/item/1826-seminar-soveshchanie-byudzhetrovanie-raskhodov-po-modeli-kliniko-zatratnykh-grupp-i-mezhdunarodnyj-opyt-finansirovaniya-zdravookhraneniya-dlya-dostizheniya-tselej-ustojchivogo-razvitiya.html</a></p> <p>The Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Medical Technologies, Informatization, Management and Economics of Public Health <a href="https://belcmt.by/ru/33/article">https://belcmt.by/ru/33/article</a></p> <p>Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education <a href="https://belmapo.by/obuchayushhij-seminar-soveshhanie-%C2%ABbyudzhetrovanie-rasxodov-po-modeli-kliniko-zatratnyix-grupp-i-mezhdunarodnyij-opyit-finansirovaniya-zdravooxraneniya-dlya-dostizheniya-czelej-ustojchivogo-razvitiya%C2%BB-proshel-na-baze-belmapo.html">https://belmapo.by/obuchayushhij-seminar-soveshhanie-%C2%ABbyudzhetrovanie-rasxodov-po-modeli-kliniko-zatratnyix-grupp-i-mezhdunarodnyij-opyit-finansirovaniya-zdravooxraneniya-dlya-dostizheniya-czelej-ustojchivogo-razvitiya%C2%BB-proshel-na-baze-belmapo.html</a></p> <p>The Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Medical Technologies, Informatization, Management and Economics of Public Health <a href="https://www.belcmt.by/ru/35/article">https://www.belcmt.by/ru/35/article</a></p> <p>The Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Medical Technologies, Informatization, Management and Economics of Public Health: <a href="http://rnpamt.by/%D0%BE-%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B5/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/document-70363.html">http://rnpamt.by/%D0%BE-%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B5/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/document-70363.html</a></p>
<p><b>The final event summarizing the results of UNFPA activities within the JP in 2022</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>UNFPA Belarus website: <a href="https://belarus.unfpa.org/en/news/performance-based-budgeting-health-sector-outcomes-2022">https://belarus.unfpa.org/en/news/performance-based-budgeting-health-sector-outcomes-2022</a> (English) <a href="https://cutt.ly/K2BTa8j">https://cutt.ly/K2BTa8j</a> (Russian)</p> <p>UNFPA Belarus Facebook channel: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UNFPABelarus/posts/pfbid033ba5MU8t7hS2xr8JD bmvDThcz12cVjc6u9z1WnkfrXS18WM61tAiWnG4tvHBw464I">https://www.facebook.com/UNFPABelarus/posts/pfbid033ba5MU8t7hS2xr8JD bmvDThcz12cVjc6u9z1WnkfrXS18WM61tAiWnG4tvHBw464I</a></p> <p>The agency produced and distributed visibility items at the event: the branded notebooks, power banks and bags.</p>
<p><b>Capacity building on GRB</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p><a href="https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-ministerstva-ekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-nedelju-47013-2022/">https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-ministerstva-ekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-nedelju-47013-2022/</a></p> <p><a href="https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-minekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-za-nedelju-46867-2022/">https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-minekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-za-nedelju-46867-2022/</a></p> <p><a href="https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-minekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-za-nedelju-46460-2022/">https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-minekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-za-nedelju-46460-2022/</a></p>

<b>UNFPA joint final event "Finance in Healthcare: sustainability, new approaches and tools"</b>	2023	<p>UNFPA: <a href="https://fb.watch/jthSX2U90V/">https://fb.watch/jthSX2U90V/</a></p> <p>RSPC MT: <a href="https://rnpcomt.by/%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%80/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/document-71663.html">https://rnpcomt.by/%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%80/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/document-71663.html</a></p> <p>Research Economic Institute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus: <a href="https://niei.by/ru/news-ru/view/14-marta-2023-q-sotrudniki-instituta-prinjali-uchastie-v-nauchno-prakticheskome-seminare-finansy-v-201/">https://niei.by/ru/news-ru/view/14-marta-2023-q-sotrudniki-instituta-prinjali-uchastie-v-nauchno-prakticheskome-seminare-finansy-v-201/</a></p>
<b>UNICEF Belarus publications on child budgeting</b>	2022	<p><a href="https://unicef.by/press-centr/500.html">https://unicef.by/press-centr/500.html</a> (Russian)</p> <p><a href="https://www.unicef.by/press-centr/488.html">https://www.unicef.by/press-centr/488.html</a> (Russian)</p> <p><a href="https://unicef.by/en/press-centr/488.html">https://unicef.by/en/press-centr/488.html</a> (English)</p> <p><a href="https://unicef.by/en/press-centr/500.html">https://unicef.by/en/press-centr/500.html</a> (English)</p> <p>Workshop on multidimensional child poverty for the National Partners (DEM/Top up):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">unicef by on X: "@belstat by &amp; @MintrudRB enhanced skills in measuring child vulnerabilities at @UNICEF ECA offered workshop this week. Proper measurement of child deprivations will enable better allocation of public spending toward child-focused priorities in #Belarus. #Equity #ForEveryChild https://t.co/9nG3MoDSEx" / X (twitter.com)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Вопросы разработки официальной статистической методологии измерения многомерной детской бедности обсуждены в Белстате (belstat.gov.by)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Economic Policy Research Institute on LinkedIn: #multidimensionalpoverty #sdgs #socialprotection #poverty #inclusivegrowth...</a></li> </ol> <p>UNICEF Social media (Jan 2022) – 2021 highlights of child-budgeting: <a href="https://twitter.com/MeganUNICEF/status/1481638435035049988">https://twitter.com/MeganUNICEF/status/1481638435035049988</a>  <a href="https://twitter.com/AndresUnicef/status/1481713855961124876">https://twitter.com/AndresUnicef/status/1481713855961124876</a></p> <p>2 media publications were published: <a href="https://mgazeta.by/regionalnyj-aktsent/item/15833-v-interesakh-detej-i-ikh-garmonichnogo-razvitiya.html">https://mgazeta.by/regionalnyj-aktsent/item/15833-v-interesakh-detej-i-ikh-garmonichnogo-razvitiya.html</a>  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/ClnrAvaMvID/?igshid=YzdkMWQ2MWU%3D">https://www.instagram.com/p/ClnrAvaMvID/?igshid=YzdkMWQ2MWU%3D</a></p>
<b>UNDP - New solutions to improve food security</b>	22 February 2023	<p><a href="https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/novye-resheniya-po-povysheniyu-prodovolstvennoy-bezopasnosti">https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/novye-resheniya-po-povysheniyu-prodovolstvennoy-bezopasnosti</a></p>

<b>UNDP - Helping new farmers</b>	26 July 2023	<a href="https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/pomogaem-nachinayuschim-fermeram">https://www.undp.org/ru/belarus/press-releases/pomogaem-nachinayuschim-fermeram</a>
<b>Study visit on GRB</b>	March 2023	<a href="http://niei.by/ru/news-ru/view/27-28-marta-2023-g-sotrudniki-nauchno-issledovatel'skogo-ekonomicheskogo-instituta-i-ministerstva-ekonomiki-208/">http://niei.by/ru/news-ru/view/27-28-marta-2023-g-sotrudniki-nauchno-issledovatel'skogo-ekonomicheskogo-instituta-i-ministerstva-ekonomiki-208/;</a> <a href="https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-minekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-nedeli-47473-2023/">https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/rabota-minekonomiki-glavnye-sobytiya-proekty-itogi-nedeli-47473-2023/</a>

## Annex 4: Stakeholder feedback

No	Name of entity	Name of Representative	Title	Contact information	Role in the programme	Summary of feedback
1	UNICEF	Andrei Zayats	Social policy officer	<a href="mailto:azayats@unicef.org">azayats@unicef.org</a>	Focal point of JP on behalf of UNICEF	<p>Three major activities implemented by UNICEF were discussed. The first activity was dedicated to the measurement of child poverty. A number of focus groups were identified to undertake a survey of multidimensional child poverty. An assessment of the services provided by the social service centers to the population was made. It was considered whether the level of the services correspond to the anticipations of the multi-child families. A survey among such families and the employees of the social service centres was carried out. Due to additional funding of 60 000 USD a study on Commitment to Equality for Children was carried out. Belstat made a valuable contribution to this study by providing data on households, even in relation to children's nutrition.</p> <p>UNICEF and Belstat organized a 4-days training programme for the workers of governmental bodies – Belstat, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education. The main deliverables of the mentioned studies will be used by Belstat for the development of the methodology of calculation of the index of multi-dimensional poverty (1.2.2.1) in 2023.</p> <p>Second activity is related to child budgets with the approbation on the level of the Child Friendly cities – Minsk, Borisov, Molodechno and Novopolotsk. An analysis of child expenditures in each city and in the country on the whole was made. The attempt was to help the cities to spend more and better on children. As a result of this work a methodology on the formation of the children's budget on the republican and local levels was developed and tested. In the course of this work the needs of the city as well as the needs of the families with children were also assessed. Based on the results of the studies and research work the thematic curricula for the workers of the social welfare</p>

						<p>centres who work with the families with children were developed (all in all 7 curricula within one topic).</p> <p>The findings of the activity were presented to two Deputy Ministers of Labour. This work and its results invigorated coordination of the bodies on the local level – the region and lower. UNCIEF by itself continues the training programmes for the social workers. The Brest and Gomel regions received the confirmation of the analytical study findings, the UNICEF work plans with the Brest and Gomel regions were compiled taking them into consideration.</p> <p>Thanks to the JP Child friendly cities will have the development plans. Multidimensional child poverty will be evaluated at the level of a city-district. JP also triggered invigoration of cooperation with the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus. Mr. Andrei Zayats especially mentioned a well-coordinated work on all UN agencies on the JP, administrative assistance of UNDP particularly.</p>
2	UN Women	Marina Ananenko	UN Women Project Coordinator in Belarus	marina.ananenko@unwomen.org	Focal point of JP on behalf of UN Women	<p>UN Women is not a resident in Belarus. UNSDCF which is not officially adopted but whose content is approved by Belarus and UN agencies represents the framework of cooperation of UN Women and Belarus (Mainly, UNSDCF Outcome 5).</p> <p>The focus of the UN Women activities of the JP was gender responsive budgeting. This UN agency joined the JP implementation the latest – in February 2022. Gender budgeting appeared to be “a new page” on the way of Belarus towards achievement of the SDGs. UN Women Work in the JP also corresponded to the national SDG indicator 5c.1.1 - Existence of mechanisms to track and publicize public spending on gender equality and women's empowerment (Authors Note* The indicator does not measure allocation of resources but the existence of mechanisms to track resource allocations and that make that information available publicly – Source <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata?Text=&amp;Goal=5&amp;Target=5.c">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata?Text=&amp;Goal=5&amp;Target=5.c</a>).</p>

					<p>The methodology for the measurement of this indicator is under development in Belarus at the moment.</p> <p>The representatives and experts of UN Women tried to create an understanding of gender responsive budgeting among the national partners. Indicator 5c.1.1 is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus. The task was to motivate the latter to pursue the work on the methodological ground.</p> <p>The role of the Ministry of Labour in the implementation of the activities of JP cannot be overestimated. 6 capacity building events were held. The participants of these events were the representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labour, Republican Research and Practice Centre of the Ministry of Health, Research Institute of Economy, Research Institute of Labour.</p> <p>In the course of these capacity building sessions cooperation of the governmental bodies and intersectoral communication was enhanced, which is definitely value-added to the activity.</p> <p>As a continuation of the series of online events there was an offline workshop in February 2023, which had to be registered in accordance with the national legislation on international technical assistance and conducting public events. A methodology of Gender analysis of state programmes and sub-programmes in the Gender responsive budgeting context as presented at this workshop.</p> <p>At the end of March 2023, a study visit to Serbia was organized. This country was chosen as it has a similar social-economic situation with Belarus and at the same time it is one of the European leaders in the development of Gender responsive budgeting. The representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Research Institute of Labour and Research Institute of Economy took part in the study tour, which among other benefits helped them to strengthen their networking. The deputy Ministers of Economy and Labour agreed to create a task force to continue working on the gender budgeting while</p>
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						<p>developing recommendations for drafting state programmes of the next programme cycle. State programme "Labor Market and Employment Promotion" and "Social Protection" 2021-2025 was analysed using the methodology mentioned above, which appeared to be quite challenging as the access to administrative data on the programme beneficiaries was rather restricted. Cooperation with other UN agencies was critical to ensure gender mainstreaming in design, implementation and monitoring of the state programmes. In particular cooperation with UNDP helped to synchronise efforts on building the dialogue with partners on SDG financing.</p>
3	UNFPA	Anastasiya Kryvitskaya	Coordinator of programme activities	kryvitskaya@unfpa.org	Focal point of JP on behalf of UNFPA	<p>The UNFPA JP focal points mentioned that 187 000 USD (grant) and internal funds was spent on the JP activities on behalf of UNFPA. The JP has definitely had an interdisciplinary effect. On 14 March 2023 a final workshop on the JP was held. The general mission of UNFPA is to create a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe and the potential of all young people is realized. The activity of UNFPA is defined by the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Sustainable Development Goals for the period up to 2030. Implementation of the JP allowed not to forget about anyone and reach the latter in the first place; apply innovations; and collect the necessary data and evidence on the effectiveness of budget planning and spending using new financing tools – particularly, performance-based budgeting. The main result of the JP in brief is the support to the system of healthcare in the Republic of Belarus to raise the efficiency of budget planning and spending. The tasks of UNFPA comprised the following activities: Activity 1. Strengthening capacities of public authorities and healthcare managers on normative cost-based budget planning methods per consumer and aligning budgeting with SDGs.</p>
		Mikalai Ramanau	Programme Analyst, SRH/Youth	ramanau@unfpa.org	Focal point of JP on behalf of UNFPA	



					<p>Activity 2. Development of the conceptual and methodological framework to integrate SDGs in normative budgeting in healthcare based on the cost of service per one consumer.</p> <p>Activity 3. Feasibility studies and testing of the conceptual and methodological framework in a pilot region.</p> <p>The capacity building activity resulted in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 500 participants gained knowledge on performance-based budgeting in health care.</li> <li>• The national partner, BelMAPO, organized and conducted a survey among health leaders from 97 organizations to identify their needs on issues related to performance-based budgeting.</li> <li>• BelMAPO specialists have developed a training program for health managers and economists on performance-based budgeting.</li> <li>• New experience and knowledge about the specifics of the implementation of a performance-based budgeting system was gained by healthcare professionals during an educational visit to Russia (St. Petersburg), which took place in March 2023.</li> </ul> <p>In the framework of the second activity the following was performed:</p> <p>With the help of the national experts, studies were carried out (in 2021-2022):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the area of combatting cervical cancer through the introduction of prevention programs,</li> <li>• to improve the quality of perinatal care in the Republic of Belarus.</li> <li>• The calculation of norms (standards) of the budget was made in accordance with the diagnosis-related groups, including the gender-oriented distribution of resources in the health sector.</li> <li>• The national expert analyzed the system of health accounts of the Republic of Belarus as a tool for managing public resources and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Relevant recommendations were given.</li> </ul> <p>As a result of the implementation of the third activity, approbation of the conceptual and methodological base of the model of diagnosis-related groups for financing inpatient medical care</p>
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						<p>in the Republic of Belarus on the basis of institutions of the Grodno region was carried out, which confirmed the effectiveness of using the model of diagnosis-related groups for budgeting.</p> <p>UNFPA tackled the crisis challenges in health sector in the recent years. Particularly, the following was done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An analytical review of the potential impact of the financial crisis on the health system was conducted, as well as a case study on infertility and reproductive health, which was completed in February 2023.</li> <li>• As part of the study, recommendations were made on the restructuring of medical care provided in hospitals, as one of the measures to increase the sustainability of the healthcare system in the Republic of Belarus.</li> <li>• The issues of digitalization in the healthcare system as a measure to increase sustainability are considered.</li> <li>• A tool for predicting the demand for reproductive health services based on demographic, medical and financial data has been developed, which will help economists take into account indirect factors affecting fertility rates and others.</li> </ul> <p>As an agency, UNFPA is interested in providing support to all groups of the population and equal access to quality medical services even in the face of budget cuts.</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of this component, economically sound recommendations were prepared on effective financing focused on achieving the SDGs in health care.</p>
4	RCO	Olga Bychkovskaya	Partnerships and Development Finance Associate	olga.bychkovskaya@un.org	Focal point of JP on behalf of RCO	<p>The role of the RCO in the implementation of the JP was discussed. It was mentioned that RCO role in the JP was strategic and sometimes operational. According to the Project Document, the RCO role was coordination and facilitation. RCO was providing liaison and coordination with the donor. RCO is ready to play a strategic role in the future similar programmes to facilitate PUNOs communication with the national partners. The JP is unique from the point of view of the approach to programming, planning and strategizing – it is rather parallel</p>

						mutual work than just a sum of efforts of the UN agencies. The latter have become innovators in creating horizontal connections between Belarusian counterparts to expedite SDGs implementation. The JP results framework is based on the UNSDCF 2021-2025 so the major deliverables of the JP implementation will be used for the definition of priorities in a new Cooperation Framework for 2026-2030, the work on which will start in 2024.
5	Research Institute of Labour of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus	Victoria Yuodeshko	Head of Center for Social and Demographic Research, Ph.D. in Economics	v.yuodeshko@gmail.com	National Expert	<p>Ms. Victoria Yuodeshko was an national expert in the JP in UN Women component. She mentioned in the interview that she took part in the online capacity building workshops on Gender Responsive budgeting. She especially mentioned the quality of the international experts' presentations and interventions. Apart from the online training programme she also took part in the offline event – a national workshops organized by UN Women. It is worth mentioning that this workshop had to be registered as a public event in accordance with the national legislation on public events and international technical assistance. The role of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus in undergoing of the registration procedure cannot be overestimated. Ms. Yuodeshko noted that the offline workshop was an efficient means to exchange opinions on the GR budgeting with the experts from different agencies.</p> <p>One more event organized by UN Women was the study tour to Serbia. The goal of the study tour was to learn about Serbian experience of introduction of the GR budgeting. The venue was appropriately chosen as this country has definite similarities with Belarus in demographic and social-economic situation. As the expert said, it was very useful to have to opportunity to talk to the people who were bringing the GRB in life and institutionalizing it in Serbia. It was very reassuring that this process is multi-stage and does not always go smoothly so it made them all hopeful that the same can be done in Belarus. The practical experience and knowledge gained in the study tour are just in time – according to Ms. Yuodeshko – as in 2024 a new programming cycle starts in Belarus and they (as experts</p>

						<p>participating in drafting the state programmes) will be able to suggest concrete actions to attain the GR budgeting in Belarus. The expert mentioned that to achieve mutual understanding of the theme of GRB inside the Ministry of Labour it is necessary to continue information and capacity building of the ministry's workers; mutual research, data collection and sharing; to enhance inter-ministerial cooperation meetings and brainstorming on the level of decision makers – at least relevant Deputy Ministers of Labour, Economy, Finance, Education and Health could be organized.</p> <p>Ms. Victoria Yuodeshko undertook the analysis of the State program "Labor Market and Employment Promotion" for 2021-2025, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of December 30, 2020 N 777 from the point of view of the gender of the Program beneficiaries. Some data of the Programme are gender disaggregated but on the level of the Program beneficiary there are no such data. The possible JP follow-up activities were also discussed with the expert. Among the possible topics are the following: encouraging cooperation of different governmental bodies on obtaining gender disaggregated data and inclusion of gender issues in state programming; further education and training of the ministerial workers and decision makers to promote gender issues in state programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; implementing "supportive" activities in the period between JP completion and the beginning of development documentation for preparing the next programming cycle in 2024 to maintain interest and concern of the ministries in gender issues.</p>
6	Research Institute of Labour of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the	Valentina Pinyazik	Deputy Director for Research Work	pinyazik@rambler.ru	National Expert	<p>V.N. Pinyazik noted that during the implementation of the Joint Program, working contacts of the Research Institute of Labour with UNICEF (Belarus) have strengthened.</p> <p>The implementation of the activity "Study of public expenditures on children (children's budget) in the cities with the status of "Children and Adolescent Friendly City" took place on the basis of clause 4.1.3 of the Cooperation Plan of the Ministry of Labor and</p>

	Republic of Belarus				<p>Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus and UNICEF in the Republic of Belarus for 2021, approved by the Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Belarus and UNICEF Belarus. In October 2021, an agreement was concluded for the relevant research with the Research Institute of Labor.</p> <p>This work was complex in nature, therefore, it required other knowledge and competencies that could not be provided only by the staff of the Research Institute of Labor. The topic of research work lies within the competence of such entities as the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, local executive and administrative bodies of the pilot cities. The pilot cities for this study were originally Minsk, Borisov, and Molodechno, but Novopolotsk joined them in the course of work. The temporary research team included not only representatives of the Research Institute of Labor, but also other experts on financing and regional development issues, and specialists from their pilot cities were also involved.</p> <p>As part of the research work, a methodology was created for the formation of children's budgets at the republican and local levels. In the course of the preparatory work, the experts analyzed international experience and, as a result, a group of researchers came to the conclusion that the Belarusian methodology should be unique - clear, understandable at any level of a specialist dealing with the children's budget, end-to-end - applicable, both at the city level, and at the country level as a whole. In addition, this methodology included a "feedback" mechanism - an opportunity to get feedback and opinions from parents and children themselves on the effectiveness of children's budgeting.</p> <p>The methodology for the formation of children's budgets was tested in 4 pilot cities. The results of the testing were presented and discussed at round tables held by the Research Institute of Labor in each city at the end of November 2022. It is important to note that the participants of these round tables were not only representatives of local executive and administrative bodies, experts, but children and</p>
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						<p>adolescents themselves - members of the teenage / youth parliament.</p> <p>Pinyazik V.N. noted the importance of informing the population about the issues of child financing - often families are not fully aware of the opportunities that the state provides to families with children / children. At the final stage of the research, budget briefs were developed for spending on children in areas such as education, health and social protection.</p> <p>As the study progressed and work on the methodology was carried out, the research team compared children's spending and the achievement of the SDGs.</p> <p>To facilitate the work of specialists who prepare the children's budget at various levels, the experts prepared a special "transitional" table, which helps to correctly allocate planned expenses by category in accordance with the new developed methodology.</p> <p>All research work lasted until April 28, 2023. The results of the work were also sent to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus and the Minsk City Executive Committee. These departments gave their feedback on the developed materials, evaluating the results positively. The Ministry of Labor, as a state body responsible for improving the socio-economic conditions of family life, will use the results of the research and materials in the preparation of draft state programs and justifications for the adoption of regulatory legal acts within their competence.</p>
7	State Institution "Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Medical Technologies, Informatization, Management	Alexander Semyonov	Deputy Director	semenov@rnpamt.by	National expert and representative of a national beneficiary	<p>Dr. Semyonov took part in the three-component study relating to the development of the substantive proposals for the provision of the financial sustainability of the healthcare system of the Republic of Belarus.</p> <p>The components went as follows: i) restructuring of medical assistance in in-patient facilities; ii) development of information technologies in medical sector based on the electronic prescription; iii) diagnosis related groups – result oriented budgeting in healthcare system.</p> <p>In the framework of the first component a methodology of the efficient use of bedspace was proposed. Due to the existing statistical form 1-In-</p>

	t and Health Economics"				<p>patient facility it is possible to reveal inefficient use of bedspace. The analysis was made on different levels – 1) on the level of bed profile; 2) on the level of town, district; 3) on the level of the services provided.</p> <p>There are unfortunately no norms on the bed profile or per one inhabitant.</p> <p>The biggest amount of the inefficiently used beds is on the level of district.</p> <p>To optimize the use of bed stock in hospitals the following is advised:</p> <p>reinforce primary healthcare; leave about 6 profiles of beds on the level of district; more complicated cases should be directed to the neighborhood health centers or inter-regional health centers (probably there will be a relevant UNDP project). Due to the analysis instrument applied under the JP better governing decisions can be made. For example, to optimize the use of bed stock it's not necessarily to reduce the number of beds in a hospital but also to change their profiles.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health of Belarus has developed a Plan for optimization of the bed stock for 2022-2023 in all regions and in the city of Minsk. The Plan is being implemented now. It used to be 9 beds for 1000 inhabitants but now due to the Plan implementation it is 8.96 for 1000. In parallel with this work a revision of the minimum social standard for the provision of hospital beds is required. The possible topics for follow up activities can be: 1) calculation of the bed stock capacity for the neighborhood health centers; 2) identification of the norm of the definite bed profile calculated per inhabitant (adult of child) including gender segregation (so far, only gynecological profile can be gender segregated); 3) inclusion of gender in statistical form 1-in-patient facility, which can be further related to better tracing of the quality of medical services, state of health to bridge the gap in life expectancy in men and women in Belarus.</p> <p>2-nd component was based on the work initiated back in 2017 in the framework of the Belarus Health System Modernization project of the World Bank. Particularly, piloting and development of the</p>
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						<p>electronic prescription was performed. A universal approach to the assessment of the electronic technologies in health sector as well as standardization of the data of electronic resources are needed.</p> <p>The 3rd component was related to the implementation of the results-based budgeting in healthcare sector. The experts' recommendations were piloted in the healthcare facilities of the Grodno region and the city of Minsk. Based on the results of these pilots the Ministry of Health of Belarus issued an order to continue testing of the results-based budgeting in the hospitals of the Gomel region (Order of the Ministry of Health of Belarus of 09.01.2023 No. 19).</p> <p>The results of the work on integration of the SDGs in normative budgeting in healthcare sector were also reflected in the curricula for the lecturers and students of the State Educational Establishment «Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education» (BelMAPE). The curricula are approved by the Academy. The materials of the analytical study are also used in the workshops in the Gomel region. At present the system of diagnosis-related groups is applied only in in-patients' facilities but it has to be extended to the out-patients clinics as well. The MoH supports such an extension.</p>
8	Research Economic Institute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus	Andrei Belousov	Head of the Department of Methodology for the Development and Monitoring of the State Programmes	aproit@mail.ru	National expert	<p>Mr. Belousov was a national consultant for SDG financing in the JP. He took part in the work on RIA and DFA.</p> <p>In the framework of RIA, the group of experts to which Mr. Belousov belonged analyzed a number of state programmes for their compliance with the SDGs. All selected programmes were of social profile and their financing mechanisms as well as activities were taken for consideration. The result of this analysis was sent to the relevant ministries for their feedback. The Ministry of Environment undertook this communication with other governmental bodies. Not all ministries which received the analysis had replied for different reasons. Mr. Belousov says that in the next programming cycle the information of the reports on the RIA will be used for the drafting of the programmes. Current programmes definitely have a</p>



						<p>connection with SDGs while the Ministry of Economy think that this connection has to be more profound. Such governmental bodies as the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health consider SDGs very important and would like to continue the work initiated under RIA. The results of the RIA report could also be incorporated in the future electronic resources – Internet portal on state programmes.</p> <p>The expert also took part in the activity on DFA. This work was more difficult than RIA as obtaining the information and data was a sensitive issue. This work is also more difficult to use in practice because of its controversial nature.</p> <p>Nevertheless, DFA work gave the chance to the governmental bodies to look beyond the current boundaries of SDGS implementation</p>
9	UNDP	Taras Seredyuk	SDG Budgeting Thematic Coordinator Project: Promoting new tools of sustainable development budgeting that prioritize vulnerable populations in Belarus (001246 04 JP SDG Financing)	taras.seredyuk@undp.org	JP coordinator	<p>Mr. Seredyuk briefed on the JP work on DFA, INFF, RIA and BioFin. He mentioned that success of this work depended a lot on the choice of the experts who were involved in concrete research and analysis. This gave the possibility to the expert teams to obtain information and data that were not in open access. The restriction of access to this information was not imposed by the law but rather it was a measure of the GoB in the recent couple of years.</p> <p>Discussion of the DFA results with the national partners is a sensitive issue as the governmental bodies do not always agree with the experts' findings. Nevertheless, they are willing to use these reporting materials for the development of a road map for the future financial strategy. As a follow-up to the DFA work particularly and INFF as a whole, in the framework of the Ecology Forum on 25th of August 2023 an INFF workshop coordinated by UNDP is planned.</p> <p>BioFin methodology was presented in March 2023. The Ministry of Environment consented with the results and offered to continue this work by development of a relevant road map for the implementation of the ecosystem services market.</p> <p>At present, UNDP is working on the assessment of the financial resources for the biodiversity of Belarus. This work will also include the activities, amounts and</p>

					<p>sources of financing for the programme cycle of 2026-2030 as well as proposals for the revision of the biodiversity strategy until 2035 and directions of activity up to the year of 2050 in accordance with the time framework defined at the Montreal COP 15.</p> <p>As for the results of BioFin activity related to the ecosystem services market, they were especially welcomed by The National Centre of Legislation and Legal Research of the Republic of Belarus while considered to be a premature for practical implementation in the country.</p> <p>Nowadays the traditional sources of international financing of biodiversity projects became scarce or unavailable for Belarus, so it is high time to consolidate existing internal resources, redistribute them or accumulate to use for biodiversity issues that lead to the relevant SDGs sooner achievement.</p> <p>As for the INFF progress, creation and sustenance of the intersectoral groups that have worked on the JP activities as well as continue working on the SDGs implementation is a good step forward towards the Governance and Coordination and Monitoring and Review stages.</p> <p>Well-structured working bodies of the SDG institutional framework in Belarus (such as the Council for Sustainable Development) provide for the timely feedbacks on the SDGs work of the UN agencies in Belarus; their members enter into constructive discussions and demonstrate further convergence with the UN organizations.</p>
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