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DECADE
OF
ACTION

United Nations Country Results Report Guidelines for UN Country Teams

December 2021



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(Cover) Photo credit: Ollivier Girard / UNFPA Mali

Guiding Principles

The new annual UN Country Results Reports are aligned with and follow the 2019 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance.

To help UN country teams (UNCTs) best illustrate their contribution to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these guidelines replace the previous 2015 undg One UN Country Results Report template.

These guidelines are designed to assist UNCTs in producing higher quality and timelier Reports, with reduced transaction costs, with the aim of strengthening relationships and policy dialogues with national Governments.

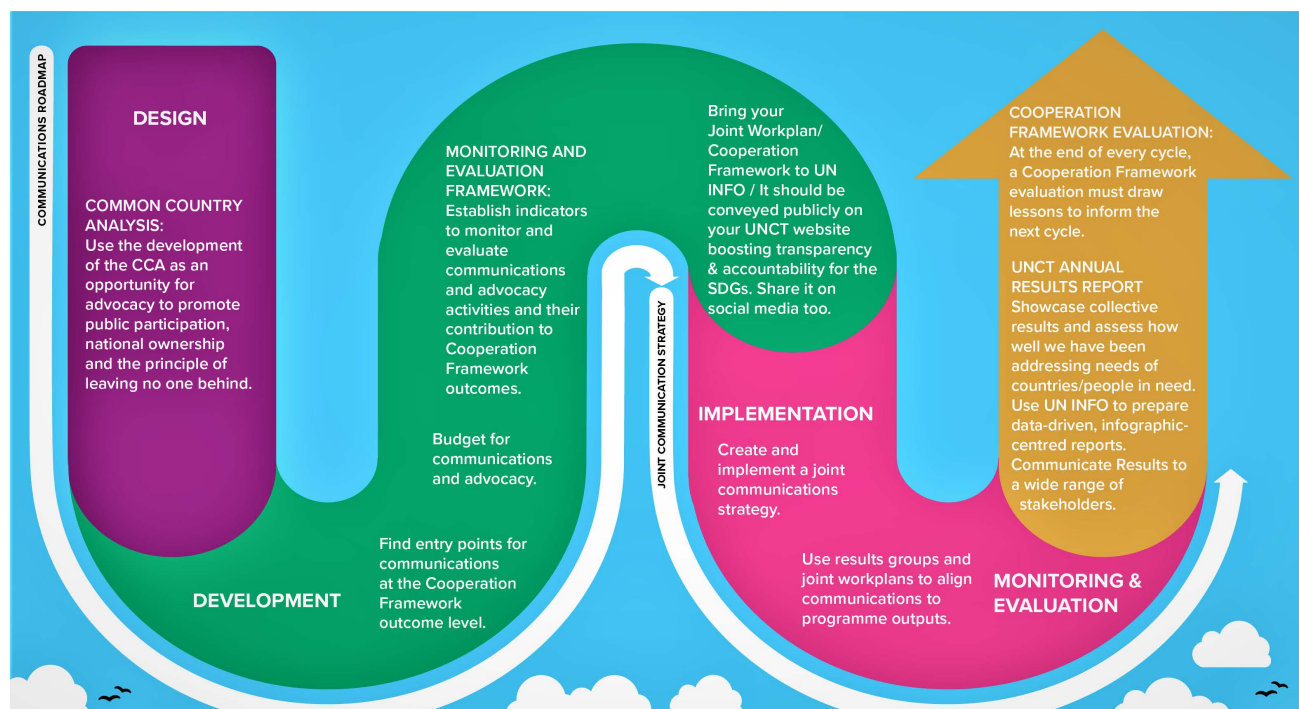
To that end, annual UNCT Results Reports are guided by the following principles in relation to their scope, content, format, timeline, and quality assurance:

- The UN Country Results Report must report on the status of **system-wide implementation of the Cooperation Framework as well as other planning documents between the UN and the Government**. In addition, **any other plans and priorities** driving the advancement of sustainable development in country should be featured, to ensure one consolidated annual report on results achieved.
- The **primary audience of the UN Country Results Report** rests at the country level. The Report is presented to the national Government for accountability. It is also shared broadly with other stakeholders in country to ensure full visibility of UN results. The Report is prepared in a language and format accessible to different stakeholders.
- The UN Country Results Report uses existing **country-specific data points in UN INFO, the Information Management System (IMS), and other platforms** as relevant, which are kept up to date by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and the UNCT.

- To reduce transaction costs, no separate annual reporting against the UNCT annual work plan is required. Rather, **the results of the UNCT work plan should be factored into the UN Country Results Report.**
- The UN Country Results Report will inform other mandated reports at regional and global levels, including the **annual report of the Chair of the UNSDG to the Economic and Social Council** on the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), which showcases the work of the Resident Coordinator (RC) system and the system-wide contribution to the advancement of the SDGs.

For specific provisions related to reporting in multi-country office settings, please refer to Annex I.

In the resolution on the review of the functioning of the reinvigorated RC system, adopted by Member States in October 2021, the General Assembly “takes note of progress made in providing annual United Nations Country Team reports to programme countries on the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework or equivalent planning framework, urges the entities of the United Nations development system, as appropriate, to invest in and fully utilize the common UN INFO reporting platform to support analysis of system-wide results, [and] requests the Secretary-General, in line with the provisions of resolutions 72/279 and 75/233, to ensure all Resident Coordinators and UN country teams present the results reports annually to their respective programme countries in a consistent and timely manner to ensure accountability and to make these reports publicly available, with the consent of the respective Governments [...];



REPORT CONTENT

Focus on system-wide results and evidence

Speak to the primary target audiences: The UN Country Results Report is primarily directed at programme Governments, while also informing other national stakeholders and development partners. The focus must remain at the country level. For example, programme Governments and other development partners often want to know how the UN has continued to support the country to achieve 2030 Agenda, including to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and what difference this has made for people in that country.

Note: *The Resident Coordinator is expected to present the annual results achieved to the joint national/UN steering committee. Thereafter, the UN publishes the results in the UN Country Results Report. Data and information that may be omitted from the Report for various reasons (e.g. Governments' sensitivities, not making it on time for publishing, etc.) may be included as appropriate in the UNCT website.*

Focus on UN system-wide results, not processes, in advancing the 2030 Agenda: This means (i) focusing on UNCT results as a whole, rather than individual entity-specific achievements, including the results of those entities without a physical presence in country and (ii) focusing on “outputs” and “outcomes,” rather than “activities,” tying them to the difference the UN has made in supporting countries with implementation of the SDGs. The ultimate focus is on showcasing results that speak to the role of the UN in catalyzing SDG momentum with speed and at scale.

Make the necessary linkages between the output and outcome level results.

- **At output level,** reflect on the changes in skills or abilities, or the availability of new products and services that resulted from the completion of activities within a development intervention, such as capacities built or formulation of a policy.
- **At the outcome level,** focus on the institutional and behavioral changes in development conditions that have occurred. For example, how outputs such as capacities built or policy support have helped to catalyze changes in the enabling environment and people's lives.

Note: Ensure that integrated policy and normative support are clearly highlighted. *It is critical to give visibility to the shift of a new generation of UN Country Teams towards high-quality integrated policy support.*

Example 1: “UN entities X, Y and Z jointly put forward policy options on leaving no one behind for consideration by the Government, which informed the design of a nationwide social protection programme. Implementation of this programme resulted in the protection of livelihoods of 12 million (80%) vulnerable people during the pandemic, compared to only 4.5 million (30%) protected at the start of the pandemic.”

Example 2: “The UN strengthened government capacity to provide online primary education services to 90% of primary and tertiary schools nationwide, increasing classroom attendance by 3.5 million learners.” [Entities involved: X,Y and Z]

Note: Capture UNCT contributions to cross-border, sub-regional and regional frameworks and strategies (where these exist).

Example: The UNCT (involving IOM, UNDP and ILO) in country X partnered with UNCTs in country Y and country Z to provide integrated policy support on youth employment and cross-border labor migration issues. This enabled the three countries to jointly design and implement a strategy for streamlining and enhancing border management systems to foster economic integration, in line with the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, and African Union/East African Community objectives.

Note: Provide visibility to UNCT members that have contributed to system-wide results. *In illustrating collective achievements, the entities that were part of these efforts can be mentioned both in the narrative and/or visually. For example, in the infographic below, the entities contributing jointly to strategic priority results are clearly identified according to their specific mandates and pegged to SDGs.*



Source: UN Cabo Verde Country Results Report 2020

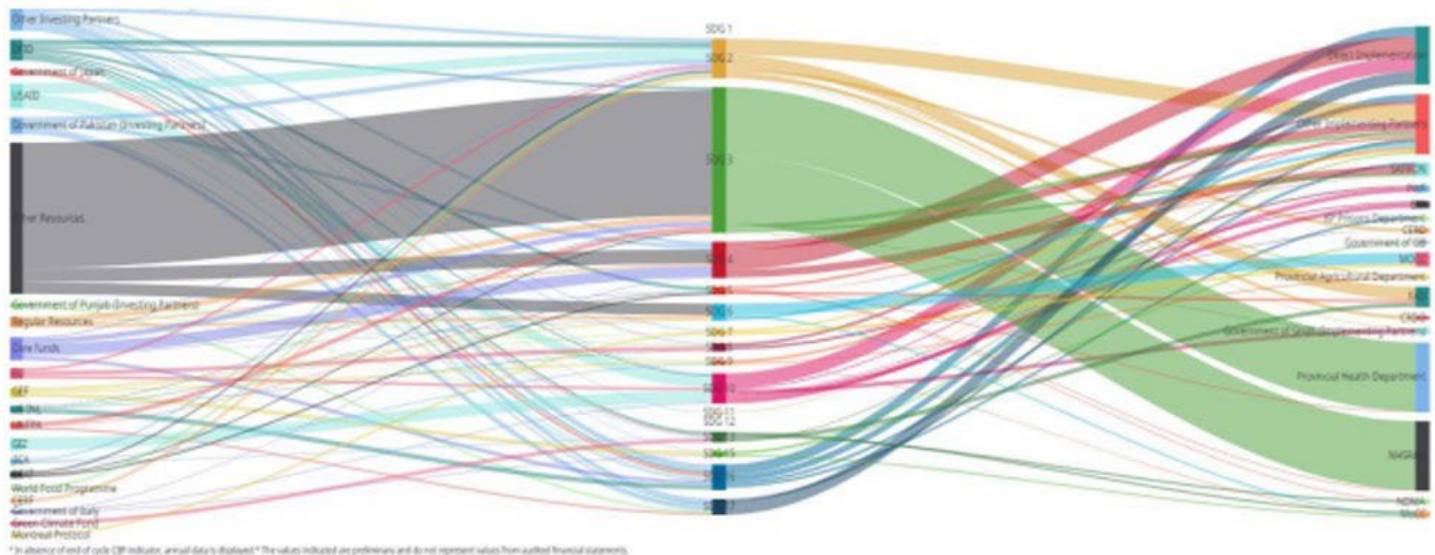
Share transparently: Transparency is a vital principle, as articulated in UNSDG programming guidance. In the results report, therefore, highlight not only the progress achieved but also the challenges and lessons on what is working or not working well.

Be data and evidence-based: Stories and summaries are an important way of communicating about the UN's work, but always back them up with the trend analysis of hard data. The UN INFO platform serves as a one-stop shop data coordination portal that tracks who does what and where, and the amount and type of resources used. This platform helps to make reporting easier: for example, UN INFO allows users to easily access data that is continually uploaded, monitored, and updated to reflect the status of achieving the Cooperation Framework/UNDAF joint work plans.¹ UN INFO data and infographics can then be downloaded and utilized to feed the UN Country Results Report, obviating the need for separate requests to UN entities during report preparations, thereby significantly reducing transaction costs.

¹ As per Cooperation Framework guidance, it is mandatory to upload the results framework on UN INFO (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance – paragraphs 90 and 91).

For example, the chart below is easily produced using UN INFO, providing a snapshot of partners, investments, recipients and targeted SDGs in country.

LINKING INVESTMENTS, PARTNERS AND THE SDGs IN PAKISTAN, 2020



* In absence of end of cycle CDP indicator, annual data is displayed. * The values indicated are preliminary and do not represent values from audited financial statements.
* Date: 2020-08-18 15:25 UTC

Source: One UN Pakistan Annual Report 2020

Embody the spirit of partnership: The UN's work is always done together with host Governments, as well as with many other stakeholders, such as civil society, think tanks, academia, parliaments, the private sector, international financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as women's, youth's, faith-based and other groups, including vulnerable people's groups. The UN Country Results Report must **describe in clear and lively language how these partnerships helped to drive transformative change**. Highlight also new and non-traditional partnerships the UN has forged (e.g., with international financial institutions and the private sector) to leverage their capacities, resources and assets to lift and scale-up sustainable development efforts in the country.

Showcase better ways of working for the SDGs: Highlight how the shift towards enhanced coordination and a new generation of UN Country Teams is taking root at the country level. Reflect on the value of coordination, pointing to results enabled by strengthened RC leadership and RCO support to the UNCT, the Government, partners and all stakeholders on the ground. Also reflect on how elements such as the focus on SDG financing, the review of the UNCT configuration, and implementation of the efficiency agenda are enhancing development results.

Showcase, amongst other efforts, how the UNCT has:

- (a) Drawn, as needed, upon the capacities, resources and assets of UN entities not physically located in the country, including at the regional level through the Regional Collaborative Platforms, to better support Governments to achieve progress towards the 2030 Agenda.
- (b) Partnered with IFIs and other development financing institutions to support countries on SDG financing.
- (c) Become more joined up and coordinated and coherent in resource mobilization efforts at the country level.
- (d) Worked together effectively to deliver integrated instead of fragmented policy advice.
- (e) Emphasized how global frameworks have been operationalized in country-level programming (e.g., Spotlight, INFFs, NDCs).
- (f) Reduced overlaps in geographical and thematic coverage in programming, and maximized synergies.
- (g) Reduced duplication of efforts and saved costs due to streamlining of operations.
- (h) Reduced transaction costs for host Governments and partners.
- (i) Given visibility to major donors and innovative partnerships.

Note how these achievements were enabled by the RC and the RCO. Keep in mind the RC and the RCO are meant to be facilitators, not implementers.

Link results to resources: The UN Country Results Report must include a financial overview of the financial resources required, available, spent, and funding gaps for the reporting year, to ensure full transparency of financial activities and accountability for results. UN INFO facilitates a clear overview of the link between resources and results. Please refer to section 2.2 of this guidance on “Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization” for minimum common standards for financial reporting, to ensure coherence across all UN Country Teams.

REPORT FORMAT

Use clear and concise language, as well as images and design to attract your readers' attention



Photo credit: Diego Ibarra Sanchez / UNHCR Jordan

Focus on people and tell stories: Focus on people from start to finish, linking them to strategic outcomes. For example, don't say "The UN procured ventilators for the Health Ministry of the National Government to distribute to hospitals in five states with the greatest need." Instead say, "X [number] of COVID-19 patients at hospitals in the hardest-hit regions of the country can benefit from Y [number] of ventilators that the UN delivered to support Government efforts" or "The Government now has greater capacity to save lives of COVID-19 patients, following X [number] of ventilators that the UN delivered to national hospitals; UN support contributed to increases in patient recovery rates from X% to Y%."

Use great design, more images, fewer words and more data: Make use of data visualizations, infographics, photos, storytelling, with a good balance between narrative and visuals. Good graphic design makes the difference between a bland-looking report that few people will pick up and read, and an engaging one that speaks to them. A nice photo with a concise caption is usually better than a long and wordy description with or without a photo. Please see an example below derived from UN INFO data and analytics.

PEOPLE RESULTS

UNICEF, WHO, UN WOMEN, UNOPS, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, OHCHR, IOM, FAO



FUNDING THE SDGs



Staff at Rumginae Hospital, Western Province, received an anti-shock garment and training on how to identify symptoms of hemorrhagic shock during delivery from the UN. **"When a young woman came with severe blood loss, we applied the anti-shock garment straight away to help keep her alive while we looked for blood,"** shares Rumginae's Dr Kevin Pondikou. **"By the time the garment was removed her blood pressure was well controlled."**

"I'm very happy. It was very easy to apply and easy to remove as well," said Dr Kevin.

Photo: Dr Kevin applies new anti-shock garment to 22-year-old mother, Gosima, at Rumginae Hospital. (Credit: UN RCO/Rachel Donovan)



Source: UN in Papua New Guinea Annual Progress Report 2020

Limit your report to 25 pages maximum, including annexes: The longer your report is, the fewer people will read it. Consider the experience of the World Bank, which [noted in 2014](#) that nearly one-third of its reports were never downloaded. Your readers don't need to know every last detail about the UN's work. Within your 25-page maximum, much of the detail can be saved for annexes. Anything beyond 25 pages—such as supporting materials—can be made available on the UNCT website or by other means. Do not crowd too much text onto any given page.

Communicate your results broadly and use your content for various target audiences through different channels: Extract the most important elements of your report **for multimedia communications and outreach, including an infographic-rich social media strategy** that highlights results and data, for transparency and accountability to a wider audience. Each Resident Coordinator's Office will be expected to share with the DGC regional communications advisor at least one story, blog or press release, highlighting a key result achieved in country, which will be featured globally on the UNSDG website (and can be used locally on the UNCT website). Please refer to the guidelines [storytelling and blogging](#) and the [templates for press releases](#).

Consider going eco-friendly and not printing your report at all: Explore this option in consultation with your senior leadership (RC/UNCT) and Government counterparts. **E-reports or short infographic-filled PDFs may suffice. Another option is to publish a full report online** and print just a flyer or brochure tailored for target audiences. Templates are available [here](#) (please download a copy and work on your local drive).

Cater to the people we serve using local languages: Prioritize the use of the local languages to maximize accessibility by the Government, development partners, and the general public. All Reports will be included on the UNSDG global website along those produced in the UN official languages.

REPORT TIMELINE

Resident Coordinators are expected to release UN Country Results Reports by 31 March of each year and present the Report to the national Government.

Serve the needs of Government, partners and the UN: The timely release of UN Country Results Reports has multiple advantages for all parties. In country, the national Government and development partners get relevant snapshots and timely accountability of UN accomplishments; this becomes a useful basis for discussion of future UN support to the country as well as partnership and UN resource mobilization for the next planning period.

At the global level, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) gets a full account of the results of the RC and the UN on the ground. UN Country Teams enjoy greater visibility, reputation, and support at both country and global levels for their accomplishments.

Note: *In those contexts where the Government is particularly involved and may wish to co-sign or sign off on the report before the document is released publicly, you can still consider your task completed and upload the report on the UNSDG Information Management System by the 31 March deadline, selecting "draft" from the menu options and marking the Report as "private." This will count your Report as having been produced, while also allowing the Government to take the time needed for final sign-off.*

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Country and regional bodies shall use this guidance

Quality criteria for the UN Country Results Report are included in Annex II of this guidance. These criteria shall be used by the UN Country Team and the DCO Regional Office in assuring report quality.

The identification of the best examples of UN Country Results Reports is premised on this guidance and quality criteria.

Good examples among the first reports in this new generation of UN Country Results Reports include, but are not limited to, the reports on 2020 results in [Albania](#), [Belize](#), [Cabo Verde](#), [Cuba](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Lebanon](#), [Libya](#), [Pakistan](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Sierra Leone](#). The [website developed in Uruguay](#) is a very good example of online dissemination of the UN Country Results Report.

All UN Country Results Reports and other Cooperation Framework documents can be found on the [UNSDG Resource Library at UNSDG.un.org](#).



Photo credit: Branko Birac / UNFPA Serbia

ANNEX I

UN Country Results Report Template

Report cover/title

- Insert title and subtitle, as relevant
- Specify the country
- Include the year

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

Reflect on how the UN supported the country towards its 2030 aspirations in an evolving country context, as well as how reforms in the country enabled results.

- This is also the place to acknowledge partnerships with the Government and other key stakeholders.
- The Resident Coordinator should sign and date the foreword. If relevant, a Government counterpart may co-write or co-sign the foreword or provide their own foreword. Co-signing the report with the Government is not a requirement, but it is welcome since the report presents results of the Cooperation Framework, which is jointly agreed with the Government.

Note: *This section is best written after completing the substantive reporting.*

UN Country Team

Illustrate the overall composition of the UNCT, distinguishing between those entities that have physical presence on the ground and those that do not. This should include changes in the composition of the UNCT during the reporting year in response to gaps and emerging priorities. Identify any changes in related business models (e.g., addressing a reduction of in-country entity presence with new advisory capacity in the RCO).

Key development partners of the UN development system in the country

Illustrate the major development partners supporting the UN's work.

- This will comply with the Funding Compact commitment to enhance the visibility of donors that contribute through better funding mechanisms (such as pooled and thematic funds).
- Some of the major partners may not make a financial contribution to the UN, but their work may synergize with that of the UN. For example, a partnership with the World Bank may not necessarily be of a financial nature but could result in greater coverage of vulnerable or marginalized groups in the country.
- Acknowledge key government ministries and the areas of collaboration with the UN as relevant.
- Use creative means to depict this information, such as through logos or a graphic of financial contributions to the UN.



Photo credit: Hồ Anh Tiến / UN Viet Nam

CHAPTER 1

Key developments in the country and regional context (maximum 1 page)

Drawing from updates of the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) throughout the year, reflect on:

- Key development trends, emerging issues in the year and their implications for national SDG priorities.
- The most significant challenges that arose and advancements made.
- Major implications of contextual developments for UN development support in the year, including adjustments in UNCT configuration (whether new entities have joined and/or left the UNCT during the year) and changes in the nature of UN support, such as a shift to more short-term emergency response because of COVID-19.



Photo credit: Fouad Choufany / UNICEF Lebanon

CHAPTER 2

UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework (maximum 19-20 pages)

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results (maximum 2 to 4 pages)

With reference to the national SDG development plans and priorities for the Cooperation Framework period/year (as appropriate), provide a brief assessment of UNCT's performance on the UN's joint work plans and Cooperation Framework responsiveness to the evolving country situation and priorities, including UN regional strategies where they exist.

- Include a reflection on trends and cumulative results achieved since the beginning of the Cooperation Framework cycle, including how results achieved contributed to reducing risks identified in the CCA.
- Include an assessment of results achieved in the implementation of the COVID-19 socio-economic response plans and/or any other plans and priorities in the future that may require repurposing of the Cooperation Framework.
- Reflect UNCT results achieved by implementing global initiatives and partnerships such as the Spotlight initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment; the recommendations of the Food Systems Summit; the Secretary-General's Common Agenda, etc. You may capture this in a separate text box or factoid in the Report, or through other creative means.
- Integrate the Guiding Principles of the Cooperation Framework Guidelines throughout the reporting on priorities and outcomes.

Note: This section is best written after the priorities and outcomes section below is completed.

2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs (maximum 6 pages)

Reflect on results achieved and how much was spent, and include

- Outputs achieved by the UN under each outcome, with a narrative on indicators, plus photos and graphics. Note that joint workplan outputs contribute to Cooperation Frameworks outcomes.
- SDGs supported (graphics) and cross-pillar linkages, as relevant.
- Key challenges (3 bullet points).
- Graphic/logo of UN entities contributing to outcomes.
- Funding information at results level, captured creatively. For example, use pie charts to capture outcome-level funding requirements, available, spent, and funding gaps.

Reflect on overall progress on the promise to “leave no one behind,” and include

- Overall national progress in reaching those left behind, including numbers and infographics.
- Efforts and results in building and supporting national statistics office capacities to move beyond national averages, with a strengthened focus on inclusion and tackling inequalities.
- Any outstanding concerns on the issue of leaving no one behind.
- Scores and reflections related to the gender, youth and disability scorecards.

Link to other priorities/plans in country

- Make references and linkages to national development priorities and plans, related regional priorities (including UN regional strategies where applicable) and other plans such as those related to COVID-19.
- Make references and linkages to humanitarian response plans and/or other emergency plans and priorities.

Note: *This information should already be available through UN INFO, if it is updated at least every two months by the UN Results Groups. These Results*

Groups, in turn, derive their reports from UN entity periodic reports (monthly, quarterly, half-yearly). The M&E Group should follow up and ensure regular updating and completeness of progress and results-oriented reporting in UN INFO.

2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda (maximum 3 pages)

Reflect on major development partnerships that the UN forged that helped advance the SDGs or leveraged financing for the 2030 Agenda in the country. This includes:

- Examples of innovative partnerships in advancing efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda/SDGs.
- Examples of key partnerships leveraged by the UN for financing SDG achievements.
- Examples of south-south or triangular partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda/SDGs.
- Infographics and results related to UN's support to financing the 2030 Agenda.
- Examples and reflections on how, as a result of UN support:
 - The current government expenditures towards the SDGs have been realigned, such as by eliminating fossil-fuel subsidies, being climate-sensitive, or making gender-sensitive budget reforms.
 - Future government expenditures were avoided to free up resources for investment in essential areas, such as through investments in climate action or disaster risk reduction.
 - Financial resources of government were delivered more effectively, for example by strengthening public procurement.
 - Other domestic, international, private and public financial flows of other stakeholders have been realigned with the above.

Note: *The data for this section can be obtained from multiple sources, including UN Results Group reports and UN INFO, as well as from government agencies*

coordinating development partners in the country (e.g., Ministry of Finance/Planning).



Photo credit: Giovanni Diffidenti / UNDP Guatemala

2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency (maximum 2 pages)

Reflect on how the reform is shaping up in the country with positive results and benefits for the UNCT, the Government and partners. Include reflections on the results brought by the shift towards increased UN entities' collaboration and coherence in the country, including:

- Tailored UNCT configuration and how this resulted in more relevant and effective delivery on the Cooperation Framework.
- Derivation of UN entity programmes from the Cooperation Framework or how this was sustained throughout the year with new entrants and

benefits to UNCT and Government or other national stakeholders.

- Use of joint work plans, results groups, joint programmes and other innovations to reduce transaction costs and redundancies.
- Use of UN regional and global level assets.
- More and better integrated policy advice by the UN to the Government.
- Efforts for more efficient operations and efficiency gains (for example through implementation of the Business Operations Strategy, common premises, shared services, etc.). Try quantifying as much as possible the efficiency savings of the UN during the year.
- Efforts to communicate and advocate together.

2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

(maximum 1 page)

The evaluation of the Cooperation Framework is mandatory and constitutes an important part of UN accountability to countries for its results and contributions. Briefly reflect on:

- The Cooperation Framework/UNDAF evaluation report conclusions, key lessons and recommendations.

Note: *This is applicable only for the UN Country Results Reports of the year the evaluation was conducted.*

- The UN programming adjustments made in the year through the implementation of the management response action plans.

Note: *This is applicable for all reporting years until all the recommendations are completed.*



Photo credit: Mónica Suárez / UNDP Peru

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization **(maximum 2 pages)**

2.6.1. Financial Overview (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of disaggregated UNCT expenditures and development partner contributions. UNCTs using UN INFO will be able to autogenerate visuals and infographics for use in the report, tagged to different SDGs. Data on UN key activities should be entered into UN INFO by UNCT members in order to generate visuals and infographics.

Financial data should include, at a minimum:

- Total Required (Budgeted) resources, Available resources, Gaps, and Expenditures, annualized.
- Total Required (Budgeted) resources, Available resources, Gaps, and Expenditures by Cooperation Framework strategic priority area.
- Expenditures by funding modality (One Fund, Agency Core Fund, Vertical Funds, etc.).
- Contributions by funding source.

Additionally, and according to context and availability of data, financial data will include:

- Expenditure or budget breakdown between development-related expenditure and humanitarian assistance.

Note: System-wide guidance on financial standardization, “the UN Data Cube,” was adopted as a living document to provide a platform for further financial harmonization for HQ-level reporting. The UN Country Results Reports should likewise follow adopted taxonomies for UN entities and, to the extent possible, use definitions when categorizing expenditures (e.g., for development-related and humanitarian assistance). The UN Data Cube is available [here](#).

Use graphics to present financial information succinctly.

i. Financial Overview

The distribution of financial resources in 2020 can be found in Figure 4. The largest proportion of resources were allocated to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 15.8%), followed by Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3, 14.7%), followed by SDG 1 (No Poverty, 14.2%).



Source: United Nations Jamaica: 2020 UN Country Annual Results Report

2.6.2. Resource mobilization and quality of funding (maximum 1 page)

Reflect on:

- Mix of funding partners.
- Multi-year vs. short-term funding
- Types of funding, core vs. non-core, earmarked vs. unearmarked funding.
- Funding gaps and implication for achieving results.

- Key opportunities and challenges of resources mobilization in the reporting year.

Note: Use graphics to present resource-mobilization information succinctly.

CHAPTER 3

UNCT key focus for next year (maximum 1 page)

Draw on discussions from the Annual Performance review, where the latest CCA updates were reviewed and key results for the following year were proposed. The final UN Country Results Report should reflect the key results brought to the attention of the national-UN Joint Steering Committee. Reflect on:

- Cycle — starting new cycle or consolidated or winding up the current cycle.
- Direction of key results as well as risks for next year, based on development in country contexts in current year and expected in next year, e.g., elections, population census, COVID-19 pandemic.
- A reflection on what the UNCT will aim to do differently to overcome outstanding challenges.
- Expected UNCT configuration changes to achieve results.
- Key UNCT collective resource mobilization strategy for the following year.

Note: This section should focus on big-ticket results that the UN aims to achieve in relation to the outcome areas. Use infographics to present this information.

ANNEX II

UN Country Results Reports in Multi-Country Office settings

Country-specific annual results reports, based on Country Implementation Plans and generated through UN INFO, are expected to be shared with the national Government of each country serviced by a UN multi-country office (MCO). This is in line with the Guidance on Country Implementation Plans in the context of CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks in MCO settings.

In MCO settings, therefore, results reports will be prepared for the Government of the country hosting the MCO as well as for the Governments of countries serviced by the MCO.

The guiding principles of these Guidelines on content, format, timeline and quality assurance of the UN Country Results Report remain valid for UN Country Reports produced in MCO settings. However, the following provisions apply:

- The UN Country Results Report of the country hosting the MCO, in a context in which a multi-country Cooperation Framework exists (i.e., Barbados, Fiji, Jamaica, Micronesia, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago), will include:
 - a common chapeau to report on the overall regional progress in the implementation of the multi-country Cooperation Framework
 - reference to results achieved across the various countries and territories serviced by the MCO hub for a full regional review as relevant, based on the annual results reports of countries serviced by the MCO
 - results achieved in territories serviced by the MCO, should any activities exist in such territories.
- In an MCO context in which countries hosting or serviced by the MCO hub are guided by individual country Cooperation Frameworks (i.e., El Salvador, Malaysia, Mauritius, Seychelles), the UN Country Results Report will report exclusively on results in the implementation of such Cooperation Framework.

- In an MCO context in which RCOs are present in a country serviced by the hub (e.g., Belize and Suriname), a UN Country Results Report will be prepared and presented to the Government on results achieved in country.
- In an MCO context with limited, mostly non-programmatic activities in the countries serviced by the MCO hub (i.e., Malaysia vis-à-vis Brunei and Singapore), a UN Country Results Report can be limited to the activities and results of the hub.
- Reports on results achieved in territories are at the discretion of the Resident Coordinator, depending on level of activities and available capacities to do so.

The template of annual results reports of individual countries serviced by an MCO, based on Country Implementation Plans, will not be required to be fully-fledged as in the case of UN Country Results Report. For example, these reports may be much shorter (with a minimum of 5 pages in total), depending on the programmatic activities in country.

ANNEX III

Quality Criteria for UN Country Results Reports

The quality of the UN Country Results Report will be determined by compliance with the criteria listed below. UN Country Teams are expected to utilize these criteria in conceptualizing, drafting and finalizing the Report. DCO Regional Offices will utilize these criteria to assess the quality of the Reports upon their release.

1. Target

Extent to which the content and language of the report is written appropriately for Government as the primary target.

2. UNCT Contribution

- (a) Extent to which the report reflects output level changes (attributable to the UN development system) as contributions to Cooperation Framework outcomes.
- (b) Extent to which the report reflects collective UN system-wide rather than fragmented UN contributions.
- (c) Extent to which the report highlights how UN collective system-wide contributions were greater than the sum of their parts.
- (d) Extent to which the report covers COVID-19 results from the Socio-economic fund (SEF)/Socioeconomic response plan (SERP) and/or any other priorities in the future that may require repurposing of the Cooperation Framework.
- (e) Extent to which the report covers results with linkages to the SDGs.

3. Partnership

- (a) Extent to which the report reflects a partnership between UN and programme Governments.
- (b) Extent to which the report reflects a strong partnership between the UN and a diverse range of stakeholders in driving transformative changes.

4. Data and Evidence

- (a) Extent to which the report has a strong disaggregated data and evidence base.
- (b) Extent to which UN system results are linked to financial resources invested, disaggregated by type and source of funding.
- (c) Extent to which the report specifically mentions voluntary core fund contributors, pooled and thematic fund contributors, and program country contributions.

5. Reporting format

- (a) Extent to which the report focuses on people and tells a story.
- (b) Extent to which the report has a good balance between narrative and visuals.
- (c) Extent to which the report respects the suggested length (no more than 25 pages).

6. Reporting Template

Extent to which the report captures the essence of:

- (a) Key developments in country and regional context.
- (b) UN system support to national priorities through the Cooperation Framework: *(Progress towards Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs; support to partnerships and financing of 2030 Agenda; results of UN working more and better together; evaluations and lessons learned; and financial overview and resources mobilization).*
- (c) UNCT focus for next year (direction of key results, anticipated risks and risk management; any changes to UNCT configuration and resource mobilization targets).



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