

DRAFT

18 January 2001

ENGLISH ONLY

JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF
UNDP/UNFPA AND UNICEF, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF WFP
FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY 2001

Information Note

UNDAF Status Report ¹

SUMMARY

This is a status report on the progress made with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The General Assembly requested an impact evaluation of the UNDAF (A/Res/53/192 of 15 December 1998), which currently is being prepared under the leadership of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

1. Twenty United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) documents have been completed, mainly from pilot countries, and 38 are in progress, of which 17 are expected to be finalized within the first quarter of 2001 (see annex I). Twenty-five more UNDAF processes are planned, in accordance with the roll-out plan.² All countries, where applicable, will have initiated an UNDAF by 2003.
2. Sixty-three Common Country Assessments (CCAs) have been finalized,³ and 50 are in progress, of which 26 should be completed within the first quarter of 2001.
3. Forty-two country teams (involving approximately 1,500 staff) were assisted in their preparation of the CCA/UNDAF through 36 in-country workshops,

¹ As of 31 December 2000.

² The UNDAF roll-out plan targets the country teams that need to undertake an UNDAF exercise, based on the date of their harmonized programme cycles. Harmonization does not apply in all countries where the United Nations has operational activities under way. Thus, the total number of countries where an UNDAF is presently mandatory is 88; 83 country teams are at one stage of the UNDAF process (completed, in progress or planned).

³ CCAs are mandatory for UNDAF roll-out countries and optional for all others.

with the support of the United Nations Staff College and a pool of 70 trained CCA/UNDAF resource persons from 15 United Nations organizations.

4. Complementarity with instruments recently introduced by the Bretton Woods institutions -- the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) -- has been encouraged. World Bank representatives signed 10 of the 20 completed UNDAFs.

5. A CCA/UNDAF Learning Network was established over one year ago, and thus far 21 United Nations organizations are participating. Lessons identified through the Learning Network and CCA/UNDAF country team workshops include, inter alia:

(a) A good and sustainable CCA information base constitutes an indispensable foundation for quality CCAs and UNDAFs. Primarily inspired by the goals of the global conferences and conventions, information should be country specific, reflect national priorities and be developed with a national capacity-building objective;

(b) The CCA and UNDAF processes continue to improve following the UNDAF pilot phase, in large part due to the guidelines and to individual and collective learning. In particular:

(i) The involvement of a wider range of stakeholders is being actively encouraged, but the participation of the Bretton Woods institutions, civil society and the private sector needs to be enhanced;

(ii) The process is contributing significantly to improving country team goal-oriented collaboration and cohesiveness, but is taking much longer than envisaged in the CCA and UNDAF guidelines (which indicated 4 months for CCA and 12 weeks for UNDAF);

(c) In countries with harmonized programme cycles, individual country programmes are to derive from an UNDAF. However, delays have been observed in the CCA/UNDAF exercises, which in several instances have jeopardized the required sequencing between UNDAFs and individual country programmes. The UNDG Executive Committee acknowledged that unless the CCA and UNDAF are integrated into Executive Committee members' programming procedures and are used to streamline their programming procedures, with the objective to lighten the demands placed on Governments, they will remain "another layer of onerous programme requirements", creating not only additional burdens for United Nations country teams but also a drain on government capacities. Concrete steps are currently being considered to make the CCA/UNDAF an integral part of the respective programming procedures;

(d) UNDAF goals and objectives often remain general in nature, are non-quantifiable, and have no clear benchmarks. Hence, the strategic role of the United Nations system in the country could often be sharpened through enhanced selectivity and priority setting;

(e) The leadership of the country team is critical to the success of the CCA and UNDAF processes and products, not only in terms of timely delivery, but foremost to ensure a collective country team vision of the role of the United Nations in the country, strategic partnerships (especially with the Bretton Woods institutions), relevance, quality and ownership of the two processes and two documents. The Executive Committee members have therefore decided to pay special attention to the required leadership criteria when proposing and deciding on resident coordinator candidates, new or up for rotation, taking into account their performance with regard to the CCA and UNDAF;

(f) The quality of CCA and UNDAF documents is improving, as country teams deepen their collective analysis of substantive issues and undertake joint advocacy and joint activities. As shown in annex II, country teams are pursuing, through the CCA and UNDAF, the goals of the global conferences adopted by the countries they serve, as well as the priorities recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its Millennium Declaration.

Annex I

UNDAF STATUS ⁴

Regions	UNDAF processes						Totals
	Completed		In progress		Planned		
Africa	<i>Ghana</i> <i>Kenya</i> <i>Madagascar</i> <i>Malawi</i> <i>Mali</i> <i>Mauritius</i> <i>Mozambique</i> <i>Namibia</i> <i>Senegal</i> <i>South Africa</i> <i>Zimbabwe</i>	11	Burkina Faso Chad Eq. Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia Gabon Gambia Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Swaziland Togo Zambia	12	Botswana Cameroon Comoros Guinea Lesotho Mauritania Nigeria Unit. Rep. of Tanzania Uganda	9	32
Asia and the Pacific	<i>Cambodia</i> <i>India</i> <i>Philippines</i> <i>Viet Nam</i>	4	Bangladesh Bhutan China Fiji Kiribati Lao PDR Mongolia Nepal Sri Lanka Thailand	10	Indonesia Maldives Papua New Guinea	3	17
Latin America and the Caribbean	<i>Colombia</i> <i>Guatemala</i>	2	Barbados Guyana Honduras Nicaragua Panama Peru Suriname Trinidad & Tobago	8	Brazil Costa Rica Cuba Dominican Rep. El Salvador Haiti Jamaica Mexico Paraguay Venezuela	10	20
Arab States	<i>Morocco</i>	1	Algeria Egypt Lebanon Syrian Arab Republic Yemen	5	Djibouti Jordan Tunisia	3	9
Europe and the CIS	<i>Kazakhstan</i> <i>Romania</i>	2	Georgia Republic of Moldova Turkey	3	-		5
TOTALS		20		38		25	83

In italic: UNDAF pilot countries

⁴ As of 31 December 2000. The progress on CCA/UNDAF is updated on a monthly basis on the CCA/UNDAF Status Table, available on RCNet (www.dgo.org). For a CCA status, please refer to annex II of document E/ICEF/2001/CRP.3 on progress with the use of CCA indicator frameworks.

Annex II

EXAMPLES OF CCA AND UNDAF DOCUMENTS ⁵
ILLUSTRATING GOOD PRACTICES

Dimension considered	Document
Overall quality and compliance with Guidelines - CCA/UNDAF links	- CCA Nepal, Burundi, - UNDAF India - CCA & UNDAF South Africa
User friendly format - Cooperation strategies, theme group matrices, monitoring and evaluation	- CCA Nepal - UNDAF India, Viet Nam
Participatory process - in general - within UN System - with the Government/civil society/NGOs - with Bretton Woods institutions	- CCA & UNDAF Mozambique, CCA Haiti, CCA & UNDAF China - CCA India and S. Africa - CCA India, Lebanon, S. Africa - CCA & UNDAF Mozambique , CCA & UNDAF Ghana
Use of indicators and quality information base	- CCA Burundi, Guyana, Lebanon
Follow-up to global conferences/conventions	- CCA Burundi, Lebanon, Namibia, Nepal
Quality of analysis/ strategic focus	- CCA Burundi, Cambodia, China, Guyana, Nepal, S. Africa - UNDAF India
Dealing with crosscutting themes: - Poverty - Human rights - Gender - HIV/AIDS	- CCA Burundi, Cambodia, Nepal, Panama, Nicaragua - CCA Cambodia, CCA/UNDAF Colombia, CCA Mozambique, CCA/UNDAF Namibia, CCA Nepal, CCA/UNDAF South Africa - CCA Guyana, India, Namibia, South Africa - CCA & UNDAF Namibia, S. Africa
Linkages with CDF/PRSP	- UNDAF Ghana, UNDAF Viet Nam
Other dimensions - Regional dimension - Post-conflict situation - Emergency preparedness - National capacity-building - Drugs - Role of UNDAF in special country situations such as emergency situations, peacekeeping and peace-building.	- CCA Barbados, South Africa - CCA Burundi - CCA Mozambique - CCA Guyana - CCA South Africa - UNDAF Guatemala

⁵ Examples are taken primarily from the Learning Network.

Annex III

UNDAF CHRONOLOGY

- July 97 The Secretary-General launches his Programme for Reform, introducing the UNDAF as Action 10 a).
- 1997-98 The UNDG conducts an UNDAF pilot phase involving 18 countries. In January 1998, the first-ever joint session of the UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA Executive Boards, with the participation of WFP, is held to review the experience of the Viet Nam country team with CCA/UNDAF.
- Sept. 98 An independent UNDG team as well as external development experts assess the pilot phase, drawing lessons from the experiences of the pilot countries.
- Dec. 98 The General Assembly discusses the UNDAF in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review, endorses the lessons identified from the pilot phase and provides guidance for next steps in its resolution 53/192.
- April 99 The new CCA and UNDAF guidelines are endorsed by the entire United Nations system and the World Bank. A CD-Rom version, featuring the CCA and UNDAF guidelines as well as reference documentation and country examples, is sent to all country teams and partners.
- May 99 The UNDAF roll-out is launched: country teams are expected to embark on a CCA/UNDAF exercise before formulating country programmes wherever the harmonization of programme cycles is applicable. Seventeen new countries, where programme cycles are to begin in 2001, start the process.
- Jul.-Nov. 99 CCA/UNDAF workshops are organized to mainstream the CCA/UNDAF in various organizations' headquarters, benefiting over 330 staff from 19 United Nations entities in Europe and the US. The workshops continue during 2000 for the five regional commissions and the Bretton Woods institutions.
- Oct. 99 A system-wide CCA/UNDAF Learning Network is initiated for the benefit of country teams to share lessons identified and facilitate cross-organizational learning. Twenty-one United Nations organizations are participating.
- Nov. 99 A web site is launched in support of resident coordinators and country teams (RCNet, www.dgo.org). A section is dedicated to CCA/UNDAF, including a table monitoring the progress of all countries, updated every month.
- Jan. 2000 Forty-six countries with a harmonized programme cycle starting in 2002 are informed that they should undertake a CCA/UNDAF exercise during 2000, bringing the total of countries at various stages of the UNDAF exercise to 74. The India country team presents its UNDAF experience to the second joint session of the Executive Boards.
- Feb. 00 CCA/UNDAF resource persons are trained in a first 5-day workshop at the United Nations Staff College to assist country teams in their CCA/UNDAF exercises. Two other training events take place in July and December 2000, creating a pool of over 70 resource persons from more than 15 United Nations organizations at headquarters and in the field.
- April 00 The Report of the Secretary-General to the Millennium Summit quotes the UNDAF as a tool to achieve freedom from want.
- July 00 The country teams from Ghana and Madagascar, two UNDAF pilot countries, are invited to report to the Economic and Social Council on coordination activities.
- Sept. 00 Eleven countries where a harmonized programme cycle will begin in 2003 are invited to prepare a joint timeline for the preparation of their CCA, their UNDAF and their individual country programmes, in order to ensure that country programmes derive from the UNDAF and do not precede it.
- Oct. 00 A meeting between the heads of the regional bureaux and programme structures of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP is convened at the request of the UNDG Executive Committee to review the progress in CCA/UNDAFs. Decisions are subsequently taken to increase accountability of the country teams for the quality and timeliness of their CCA and UNDAF, to integrate the instruments into the programming processes of the organizations, and to limit the turnover of representatives in a country at the time of UNDAF preparation.
- Jan. 01 The Nepal country team shares their experience with the CCA indicator framework during a joint session of the Executive Boards.
- Jan.-Mar. 01 An external assessment of the UNDAF will contribute to the UNDAF impact evaluation requested by the General Assembly as part of its 2001 triennial comprehensive policy review.
