COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR UKRAINE (2025-2029)

Second regular session 2024

Name of the delegations/ Member State	Comments by Member State on the UNDP draft CPD	CO response	Action/Revision made in the draft CPD
GERMANY (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ)	• p. 2, 3.: "The Russian war against Ukraine has resulted in over 10,000 civilian deaths while more than 6 million refugees have fled across Europe.": Suggest to replace wording as follows: "while more than 6 million Ukrainians have been temporarily displaced" • P.2, 3.: Best to use latest figures from UNHCR and IOM.	The reference to internally displaced is made in the next sentence and references an estimated number of four million people. Through the first sentence, the CO is highlighting the gravity of displacement in Ukraine, with six million refugees recorded. The CO agrees to the comment that the location of those refugees is uncertain. CO suggests the following wording: 'with more than 6 million refugees recorded". The number of civilian deaths has been updated using the latest OHCHR data. Wording in footnote 3 was replaced with the following: Ukraine - protection of civilians in armed conflict (May 2024) ENG.pdf (un.org) https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/Ukraine%20-%20protection%20of%20civilians%20in%20armed%20conflict%20%28May%202024%29_ENG.pdf Wording in footnote 4 was replaced with the following: Ukraine Refugee Situation. UNHCR. 13 June 2024 : https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine	Respective changes to the wording were made in paragraph 3 and footnotes 3 and 4.

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	• p. 4: ***Programme priorities and partnerships*** • UNDP has not joined the Coalition for Sustainable Municipalities at URC2024. It would be important, that UNDP also acknowledged the increased need for better coordination with regard to access to finance, municipal capacity building and municipal partnerships. – reaching beyond the few organisations listed under 15.	The importance of sub-national and area-based programming is outlined in para 12, 23 and 24, as well as across the Results and Resources Framework; this work implies collaboration and coordination with multiple entities and organizations. Specifically, municipal councils are highlighted as key partners of UNDP in the outcome #2 of the RRF (page 14). Furthermore, the CO fully acknowledges the important contributions of the Coalition and will endeavour to cooperate with all relevant partners but suggests maintaining the text as is under paragraph 15 due to the considerations of the length of document.	No changes made to the document.
	• p. 5, 18. & 19: We would like to suggest that UNDP joins the Skills Alliance which has been launched at the URC to ensure that UNDP's activities related to human capital, vocational training and (re)integration of returnees, IDPs and vulnerable people are linked with other initiatives. More information on the Skills Alliance: https://www.urc-international.com/conference-materials-urc-2024 Please contact lea.moser@bmz.bund.de for more information.	The importance of the Skills Alliance is well noted and appreciated. UNDP closely coordinates with stakeholders to ensure programmatic cohesion and coordination. Noting that UNDP Ukraine is part of a number of alliances/platforms, including those launched at the URC, CO believes that mentioning all of them (across all priorities) is not possible due to the limitations of space/length of the document and specifying may also be present limitations from a programmatic perspective. The suggestion is to retain the present wording and to ensure that CO engagement in all relevant alliances/platforms is ensured at the implementation phase.	No changes made to the document.
	• p. 5, 21.: "UNDP will provide direct support for greening the recovery and rehabilitation of critical energy infrastructure": In what way? Promotion /	UNDP Ukraine has devised a comprehensive Green Energy Programme to address the rehabilitation of energy infrastructure/energy security on the one	No changes made to the document.

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	financial support of renewables, including strengthening of energy storage capacity and incentivizing private households / SMEs? Focus on energy efficiency? Which instruments of "support"?	hand, and the green recovery and reform of the sector on the other. Facilitating the green recovery and green transition would be performed using various instruments, in particular: (i) Provision of highly manoeuvrable generation capacities to cover the gap in the national energy system as well as increasing the technical capacity of energy system to introduce additional renewable generation capacity in the future; (ii) Establishment of coordination platforms, inclusive of major stakeholders, to coordinate the support to GU for integration of green recovery and green transition principles in energy supply; (iii) Provision of technical support to enhance national capacity in distributed/decentralised generation schemes, which would enhance the agility of the energy system and enable the reform of the sector and the transition to renewable generation; (iv) Support the creation of affordable financial mechanisms for the renewables and energy efficiency projects for SMEs, hromadas[1] and private households. This support could take the form of various financial instruments (grants, innovative funding mechanisms, etc.), technical capacity building, development of feasibility studies, etc. The specific approaches and instruments will be developed based on the needs and context analyses, in close cooperation with international partners,	

[1] A basic unit of administrative division in Ukraine, similar to a municipality.

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		national governmental stakeholders, expert community and other interested counterparts.	
	• P. 5, 21.: "An enabling and decentralized policy environment will be reinforced […]": Insert link to decentralization / strengthening of municipal capacities.	The reference to decentralization of the energy system is already made earlier in the paragraph 5 in the following sentence: "This will be coupled with the reform and decentralization of the energy sector, working with partners to accelerate the transition to renewable energies and increasing energy efficiency." In the sentence quoted herein, the reference and emphasis are made specifically to green Transition policy development, which takes place at the central (national) level. At the same time, policy implementation will be conducted at the local level, and UNDP underpins this work by prioritizing strengthening the municipal capacities. Local self-government bodies and oblast state administrations are highlighted as key strategic partners of UNDP for the Cooperation Framework Outcome #3 and CPD Output 3.3 State institutions have strengthened capacities to affect an energy transformation in a gender-responsive way (page 18).	No changes made to the document.
DENMARK	• Good to see continued focus on support to subnational democratic structures with a view to participatory recovery and development planning and implementation. Important to strengthen human capacities at local and regional levels to drive reconstruction efforts – and strengthen the coordination between local, regional, and national levels.	The comment is well received and appreciated. Strengthening human capacities is reflected in paras 13, 18, 24 (which specifies the focus on tailoring efforts, including on increasing human capital, to local circumstances), while coordination is reflected across the document, with specific emphasis in para 12 and 28.	No changes made to the document.

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	• Anti-corruption is a key DK priority and is emphasised as a cross-cutting element across all efforts. Unclear how UNDP will operationalize this priority but will be important to work in a coordinated and strategic manner in this area.	Anti-corruption, enhancing transparency and accountability are also key priorities of UNDP, mainstreamed across all elements of its country programme. More specifically, anti-corruption work is integrally linked to strengthening capacities of national and sub-national institutions on recovery and development processes, including planning, implementation, coordination, aid effectiveness, and monitoring and evaluation. The progress and achievements in this area of work will be reported against the indicator under the output 1.3 (page 10) in the Results and Resources framework: "Number of institutions with strengthened accountability (including social accountability), prevent and mitigate corruption risks, and integrate anti-corruption in the management of public funds, service delivery and other sectors".	No changes made to the document.
	• Could be further clarified how UNDP envisions to work towards a more inclusive social fabric and to strengthen social cohesion.	Para 13 of the country programme document elaborates: "UNDP will assist the Government to refine, implement and monitor inclusive human capital policies, prioritizing women, youth and vulnerable populations (returnees, IDPs, veterans, persons with disabilities). Initiatives strengthening social cohesion, through community safety and volunteerism, especially among youth, will be supported." Hence, the focus will be on 1) supporting inclusive policymaking (with the view not to marginalize/polarize social groups) and participatory governance, 2) ensuring community safety (including through creating safe spaces for dialogue)	No changes made to the document.

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		and 3) supporting volunteerism, civic engagement, and strengthening the capacities of the civil society. All the above will be underpinned with solid evidence building and analysis – including perception data – on social cohesion, which would inform programming.	
SWEDEN	• Would be of interest to know more about how UNDP is aligning itself to the wider work of the UN in the country, contributing to efficient and effective delivery on the ground. The Development Cooperation Framework is mentioned as well as the notion of UNDP contributing to all four outcomes, lists of potential partners including within the UN are provided. However very little on the role UNDP will play or how it will partner with other entities. We understand for instance that UNICEF will be leading the work on Human capital and population dynamics. Will UNDP take lead on any of the other pillars? Seems UNDP has a comparative advantage in many of the pillars not least the one on Peace, justice, and strong institutions.	UNDP's country programme has been developed in full congruence with the UN Development Cooperation Framework. UNDP is contributing to all 4 outcomes of the UNSDCF, and fulfilling its SDG integrator role, UNDP will promote the development of integrated policy and programming solutions on national and sub-national levels. It is important to note that in fact, each of the UNSDCF outcomes has more than one co-leading UN agency. UNDP will be offering to the UNCT to act as co-lead agency on (i) Inclusive economic growth; (ii) Sustainable energy and environment; and (iii) Peace, justice, and strong institutions. This will be confirmed following the completion of the 'configuration exercise' that is currently ongoing within the UNCT. As for the human capital outcome, and as noted in the text of the CPD, UNDP considers its support to building Human Capital as an enabler and it is embedded in all its interventions under the three outcome areas that were retained under the CPD and will be done in full complementarity with other UN agencies.	No changes made to the document.

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		UNDP will also ensure the alignment with the UN system through a) joint programming b) joint resource mobilization and communication c) coordination of programme implementation, monitoring, reporting vis a vis the UNSDCF Results Framework. Where possible, the specific references to partnerships with relevant UN entities have been provided for each of the outcomes.	
	• On risk, the ongoing war is mentioned as the greatest obstacle to programme implementation in terms of security, availability of human capital and supply of goods and services. Another related risk is the continued regress in terms of SDG achievement as well as current baseline indicators. Financing is also identified as a risk, but mitigation for this is vaguely defined more than UNDP will seek to mobilize the necessary funding. This seems to be a rather big risk, considering the volumes that rely on "other resources" in the results framework. Linked to this, member states/donors are not mentioned at all as partner in the implementation of the framework.	Indeed, it is important to note that the regress in terms of SDG achievement has already transpired as a result of the war. UNDP's programming is fully tailored to address this issue and safeguard the progress towards the achievement of SDGs, while mitigating the immediate impact of the war. The risk of the country programme being underfunded is indeed significant. However, the scope of the CPD is designed with projections based on the ongoing portfolio and identified needs. UNDP is mitigating the risk by continuous engagement with member states, IFIs and private sector, as well as the national partners. While the list of partners in the RRF mentions the key partners in programme implementation, it is not exhaustive or limiting partnerships that can be established for the common results.	No changes made to the document.

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	• Target groups are mentioned and reflected incoherently in the framework. Veterans, Roma-population and returnees are mentioned under some of the programme priorities, but not all, which might be the case, but when they are mentioned, there does not seem to be indicators to measure the impact on these groups.	Indeed, the specific groups are mentioned selectively, when possible, in each priority, where UNDP will have programmatic focus on these groups. The impact on specific groups is measured in the Results Framework. However, due to the limitations in data availability, the level of disaggregation differs from indicator to indicator and does not always capture the vulnerable groups at the required level. The comment is well received, and UNDP commits to making every effort to improve the capacities of the government entities for data collection, as well as collect and reflect in the reporting the programme outcomes, related to the vulnerable groups.	No changes made to the document.