

## **UBRAF Working Group**

### **Note for the record - Third Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, 19 August 2021, 1:00pm – 3:00pm (Geneva time)

#### **Follow-up points:**

- *Working Group members to send their further detailed feedback on the draft UBRAF to the Secretariat by 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021.*
- *Secretariat to share the PowerPoint slides, draft Note for Record from the 19 August 2021 meeting and schedule the next call*

#### **1. Welcome and short introduction**

- The Chair welcomed the members of the Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) Working Group to the third call and appreciated their engagement and support for the new UBRAF development as well as the work of the Secretariat on the new version of the draft UBRAF document.
- The chair welcomed Dr. Micheni (she/her) who is the new member from the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) in Kenya and she briefly introduced herself.
- The agenda of the meeting was introduced and adopted.

#### **2. Approval of the Note for the Record of the second call**

- The Chair took the Working Group through the approval of the Note for the Record and mentioned that it will be posted on the dedicated page on the UBRAF development on UNAIDS website. The Note for the Record was approved with no comments.

#### **3. Update on revised UBRAF version and clarification**

- The Secretariat appreciated all the very useful comments received and provided an update on its work to integrate them and complement some sections in the new version draft UBRAF, summarized as follows:
  - Temporary exclusion of Executive Summary and a revised shorter introduction to provide contextual information and background (better reference to Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and July 2021 ECOSOC resolution) as well as clarification of concepts on Joint Programme and what the UBRAF is and is not.
  - Shortened, simplified, and clarified the theories of change with better linkages to the Joint Programme's results.
  - Updated section on optimizing Joint Programme's capacities and demonstrated clearer key shifts and prioritization (sections integrated) informing the results.
  - Added risk management/ mitigation information, more details on collaboration with GFATM and PEPFAR and information on the overall budget structure (core,

non-core resources) as well as information and draft visuals, including an annexed draft visual on linkages between UBRAF results and SDGs.

- Editorial revisions: reduced length, removal of duplication throughout the document; restructured for enhance logical flow.
- The Secretariat further explained that its focus in the upcoming days be will be on the accountability (visual), resource allocation, division of labor (table/ visual in annex with convening and contributing agencies for each Global AIDS strategy results area and Secretariat functions) as well as regional priorities (2 pages per region describing the main inequalities, gaps and challenges the Joint Programme will focus on, the priority results areas and a map indicating countries for Joint Programme projected support.)
- The Secretariat showed its newly developed draft visuals to the Working Group for inputs, including clearer presentation of Joint Programme' results as its contribution to the Global AIDS Strategy and Political Declaration implementation and SDGs, the overarching and nested theories of change, UBRAF results chain, Joint Programme's planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation and reporting & accountability cycle and the accountability through the UBRAF within the broader Joint Programme's accountability mechanisms.
- **Clarifications**
  - **UBRAF package:** The Secretariat clarified that the UBRAF package consists of three documents:
    - 2022-2026 high-level strategic framework (referred to as 5-years UBRAF) agreed with the PCB. Regarding budgeting, it describes budget and resource allocation methodology in general.
    - Biennial (2022–2023 and 2024–2025) and annual (2026) Workplans and Budgets (referred to as 2-years Workplan and Budget). It includes the detailed budgets broken down by categories of cost.
    - Performance indicators (referred to as UBRAF indicators) for the 5-years UBRAF with milestones in the 2-years Workplan and Budget.
  - **Evaluation:** The Secretariat clarified that as per PCB request to elevate the importance of evaluation, there is a PCB approved Evaluation Policy and separate biennial Evaluation Plan led by Independent Evaluation Office which reports to the PCB (already in practice). This is the reason why details on evaluation are not included in the UBRAF package. The Evaluation Plan for 2022-2023 will be developed along the new UBRAF package and submitted and approved by the December 2021 PCB.
  - **Accountability:** Accountability through the UBRAF (which includes various reporting, monitoring, transparency and accountability tools) falls within UNAIDS broader system of accountability defined by our governance mechanisms to the PCB and other UN bodies (see UNAIDS governance handbook<sup>1</sup>) as well as other donors and evaluation requirements.

#### **4. Feedback on new draft from UBRAF WG members**

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<sup>1</sup> See UNAIDS Governance Handbook, available <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2020/UNAIDS-Governance-Handbook>

- **General feedback:** The chair invited the UBRAF Working Group members to provide feedback and/or suggestion to further improve the new version. He appreciated the simplification and better clarity, including the new visuals while looking forward to further information on the prioritization, division of labor and resources allocation. In general, the members expressed a lot of support for the revised UBRAF draft and appreciated the work done by the Secretariat that led to a much clearer, more logical and better organized version.
- **Improving UBRAF Alignment:** The Working Group pointed out several paragraphs where the wording could be improved to better aligned with the Joint Programme's mandate, the Global AIDS Strategy and Political Declaration. This includes, in particular, using agreed text reference from the political declaration, the definition of key population, alignment with national laws, definition of sexuality/ sexual education and with regard to diversity, the use of UN principles on which there is a consensus.
- **Further elaboration on risks and prioritization:** The Working Group welcomed the improvement on the risk management section and pointed out that information on contingency planning would be useful. Furthermore, regarding the funding level management, it was suggested to better reflect the financial risk due to other competing priorities for the resources mobilization (donor confidence) and allocation. It was further suggested that mitigation measures should also be listed for the case of lower funding levels either in the 5-year UBRAF or in the 2-year Workplan & Budget. The Secretariat shared that while mobilization of the same level of core income is hoped for, a lower level is to be anticipated. More information on the resource allocation will follow next week.
- **Role of UN interagency task teams:** The Working Group mentioned the importance of including how UN interagency task teams can be leveraged across global, regional, and country level and how the Secretariat, Cosponsors and other relevant stakeholders can capitalize on these existing mechanisms to elevate joint working.
- **Update on the Division of Labor:** The Working Group members are looking forward to receiving an update on the division of Labor which is still under discussion and recommended to focus on showing what is the comparative advantage of each Cosponsor and what they will do differently from the past. The Secretariat suggested that an update will be given in the next call on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- **Refinement of the Accountability framework & resource allocation:** The Working Group members appreciated the work done so far and recommended the Joint Programme for further refinement regarding the accountability for resources and in terms of respective contribution. Clarity on how budgeting and resource allocation at the global, regional and country level is important. It was suggested to develop an 'accountability statement' (who is responsible for what, towards whom (e.g., also to communities), scope and limitation of accountability). In addition, the Working Group would welcome more information on the methodology of resource allocation and its link to accountability (e.g., consideration of past performance reviews and implications of weak performance). It was suggested to thus clarify what kind of accountability is desired and who (Joint Programme or countries) is held accountable and in what way if targets are not met. A Working Group member also suggested that the focus should be on reporting of challenges as well as engaging top management to stronger advocate the HIV prioritization within each Cosponsor's board.
- **Clarification on prioritization:** The Working Group expressed interest to have more clarity on the prioritization and how the country needs are taken into account It was explained that this build on significant groundwork including advanced analytics on

needs, gaps and what needs to happen to reach the targets. The focus will be on countries, areas and populations for which there has been the least progress and opportunities to 'change course'. The Secretariat elaborated that good progress is under way to define the priorities and Joint programme high level deliverables as a 2-pager for each region (will be included in the 5-year UBRAF) through a joint process led by the UN Regional Teams on HIV. Besides that, aligned with the UBRAF, there is also a second level of internal planning where all the UN Joint Team's on HIV in countries, in further consultations with governments, civil society including communities and partners, develop their UN Joint Plans on HIV (which capture the whole UN support to national response focusing on the UN comparative advantages, part of which is funded by the country envelopes). This process will inform the definition of consistent targets, milestones and indicators.

- **Clarification equity vs. equality:** Members suggested that there is an inherent danger with the inequality language as it is problematic in two ways. Firstly, maximizing equality can result in an undesired outcome, e.g., less HIV services for all. Secondly, it is important to think and define how equity relate to inequality. Equity language would be more appropriate especially since the UBRAF seeks to privilege the people left behind and marginalized to accelerate the HIV outcomes.

## **5. Presentation of second component of the UBRAF package – 2-year Workplan and Budget**

- The chair invited the Secretariat to give an overview of the overall scope of the 2022-2023 Workplan & Budget which consists of three parts as follow.
  - **Introduction**
  - **2022-2023 Workplan:** It is subdivided by 10 results areas (outputs) including a short summary of inequalities/gaps/challenges the Joint Programme will focus on as well as priorities (deliverables), targets and primary contributing agencies. Secondly, UNAIDS Secretariat's functions' priorities and deliverables are displayed and finally the regional priorities organized by the most important results area, deliverables and focus countries.
  - **2022-2023 Budget:** This includes estimates of 2022-23 budget (core and non-core) and a budget breakdown by results areas (output), organizations (Cosponsors and Secretariat), regions and SDGs.
- No comments were made on the proposed structure by Working Group members.
- The budget includes all the core (mobilized by the Secretariat) and non-core resources (mobilized by Cosponsors and the secretariat). With regard to the budget development process, the Secretariat shared that the prioritization combines a 'needs-based' and 'availability of resources' approach informed by the estimated resources forecast and might need to be readjusted in case if lower actual income.

## **6. Next steps including timeline and upcoming meetings**

- The Secretariat presented and proposed next steps clarifying the 'pending and new pieces' for review by the UBRAF Working Group and timeline.
- Working Group member were invited to share further feedback on the draft UBRAF by email latest by 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021.

- The draft Note for Record (NFR) will be shared with all Working Group members, and once finalized, those would be posted online on the Transparency Portal's new UBRAF Webpage.
- **Next meeting:** Given tight timeframe (documents to the PCB by early Sept 2021), it was suggested to have another call on Friday, 27th August 2021 (same time 1-3pm Geneva time) allowing for a discussion on the new elements of the 2022-2026 UBRAF (especially the division of Labour and resources allocation) and a first draft of the 2022-2023 Workplan & Budget. The agenda of the next call and documents will be sent closer to the date.
- There will be another opportunity to still review both final draft of the two documents (5-year UBRAF & 2-year Workplan & Budget) by 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

## **7. Closing remarks**

- The Chair and the Secretariat thanked the Working Group members for their great engagement and valuable contribution for the development of the UBRAF through this third meeting and welcomed their feedback and comments via email. The Secretariat will share the draft NFR of this call and invitation and proposed agenda for the next meeting.