

## **UBRAF Working Group**

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

**Date:** Monday, 26 July 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*
- *Secretariat to share the draft Note for Record from the 26 July meeting and schedule the next call*
- *Working Group advice on how best to make the ‘case for investments in AIDS and in the Joint Programme – ‘elevator pitch’*

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

- The Secretariat welcomed the Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) Working Group members to the second call and appreciated their engagement and support for the new UBRAF development.
- The agenda of the meeting was introduced and adopted.

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

- The Secretariat 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. Nomination of the Chair**

- The Secretariat announced the nomination of the Chair, Dr. Jesper Sundewall, Researcher at Lund University and Associate Professor of health economics at University of KwaZulu-Natal. He holds a PhD in medical science and health systems research, has worked in global health over the last 15 years, both in the field and global levels, including with the Swedish International Development Agency and in academia which made him an excellent candidate for the role.
- The new Chair appreciated the confidence and shared his excitement in taking on this new role. He took over the chairmanship from this point and shared his understanding of the role in terms of guiding discussions, listening to diverse perspectives, synthesizing discussions and working closely with the Secretariat to best handle the feedback.

#### **4. Update from June 2021 PCB meeting**

- The Chair invited the Secretariat to share overall reflections from the June 2021 PCB.

- In general, there was a lot of support and useful recommendations from all PCB members on the UBRAF Zero Draft (see unofficial summary of comments shared in advance of the meeting) with the main ones as follows:
  - Reducing length, repetition of concepts throughout the document.
  - Making the draft UBRAF more action oriented and focused on the mandate and sphere of influence of the Joint Programme and addressing HIV inequalities.
  - Including update reference to the 2021 UN Political Declaration adopted in June 2021.
  - Making the Executive summary more succinct and frame it more as the 'elevator pitch'/ summary of the Joint Programme's value proposition.
  - Clarify the Theory of Change (TOC) to better focus on the Joint Programme, strengthen its 'if...then statements' and better display linkages to the Global AIDS strategy and the results framework as well as improve the TOC visualization.
  - Strengthen the accountability section
- The next PCB dates are confirmed as follows: Special PCB Session on 6 Oct and PCB 7-9 Dec 2021, with both meetings expected to take place in virtual format with thus pre-PCB discussions scheduled a week in advance. The background documents are expected to be submitted a month in advance.
- The Secretariat provided an update on its work done so far on the revision of the draft UBRAF, addressing some of the points mentioned above as well as editorial review. The draft includes some comments/questions on which the Working Group members' feedback is welcome as well as some placeholders for elements still to develop.
- The Working Group's advice is sought in particular on how to find the right balance between capturing the complexity of the TOC/ Result Framework of the Joint Programme and showcasing it in a short and simple manner while meeting the recommendation from the Independent Evaluation of the UN System's response to AIDS to develop a more fully articulated TOC.
- **Clarifications**
  - **Fast track countries/ targets:** The Secretariat clarified that a main approach for fast tracking was the focus on locations, populations and frontloading investments which will stay central. It is expected that the focus will roughly remain on supporting the same countries. The resources allocation methodology is being further developed and will be shared when available.
  - **Timeline for reporting:** New UBRAF 2022-26 will start in January 2022. At the June 2022 PCB, the Joint Programme will report on the last year of the current UBRAF 2016-21 and the first annual report on the new UBRAF will be submitted in June 2023.
  - **Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) vs. UBRAF Indicators:** The UBRAF indicators will be presented to the PCB in December 2021 to ensure alignment with GAM indicators which will be developed by October 2021. There is a lot of synergies and coordination will be ensured. The rationale for maintaining two distinct processes but aligning them is because the GAM indicators are more comprehensive and programmatic, allowing all countries to monitor progress towards achieving the Global AIDS Strategy, the global targets and the 2021

Political Declaration, whereas the UBRAF Indicators will need to monitor the Joint Programme's performance including organizational performance indicators.

## 5. Discussion

- **Centrality of communities and key populations:** Communities and key populations should be mentioned upfront and more explicitly (in the TOC and Results Framework as well) with reference to the epidemic challenges they face. It was clarified that most of the results are framed as strengthening capacities of 'countries and communities' recognizing the role of both to reflect an earlier comment to also stress the role of governments as duty bearers and calibrate this balance.
- **Reimagining UBRAF approach/ language:** part of the document is still written along the lines of the current UBRAF building on an approach that has not fully worked as we are behind on several targets. It is important to reimagine the approach, let go of the more siloed and biomedical approach in favour of a more holistic one, responding to HIV through an inequality lens and translating it into specific actions with clear indications of 'who does what'. More specific linkages to and cohesion between the Global AIDS Strategy, newly adopted UN Political Declaration and UBRAF, especially through a more targeted/ updated language was recommended.
- **Capacity development of countries/ regions:** it was suggested that the new UBRAF is more specific on what the Joint Programme will do to strengthen capacities at the country/ regional level including in line with the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) principles. The Secretariat clarified that while the results are for all levels, it is suggested to add 2-pagers on Joint Programme's priorities to address gaps and inequalities and accelerate scale up in each region over the next 5 years. More detailed planning to support countries will feature in the biennial Workplan and Budget.
- **Joint Programme's capacities:** it was suggested that the Joint Programme's reporting on its resources including human resources be more standardized. It was clarified that all core and non-core resources invested in HIV by Cosponsors and the Secretariat are reported to the PCB on an annual basis. Given evolving capacities in countries as well as decreasing UN human resources working specifically on HIV, the Joint Programme is readjusting the way it works looking at different skills such as for more integrated work but recognising this is harder to report upon. The importance of Cosponsors leveraging their systems (e.g., in the case of WHO their mandate for Universal Health Coverage) was stressed. A capacity assessment is starting and expected to provide qualitative information to better understand assets and address the abovementioned concern.
- **Keeping HIV/ AIDS visible:** the importance of collectively sustaining political commitment and investments to keep HIV/ AIDS visible and hence the need for consistent messages from member states on this at all Cosponsors' boards and in the Global Fund's governance conversations was highlighted.
- **Theory of change:**
  - The complexity and the content of the TOC was appreciated. To make it more accessible for various audience, it is suggested to make it more cohesive, with a clear flow and better show the links between the overarching and nested TOC, links to the Global AIDS Strategy and the results framework (with the full results hierarchy and chain and accountability including funding) and what will be measured and reported against. Clarity would serve communication, management and evaluation purposes.

- Evidence behind the hypothesized linkage between outputs and outcomes would benefit from being more explicit. It was also suggested to select only outputs or outcomes that are clearly measurable and explore innovative ways to do it.
- Members suggested to make it more concrete and specific, beyond the theory, on how it will effect changes in reality, explain how review of what happens will be conducted, evaluated, and adjusted as needed with continuous learning and be used as a management tool. It appears as a bit static and needs to be transformed into a more concrete management tool for course correction during the UBRAF period. It will be useful to further clarify the Monitoring & Evaluation Tools. The Secretariat explained that the intention is that it will be used by country Joint Teams while looking at programme data to inform planning. UNAIDS evaluation functions have been strengthened over recent years and more information on this will be included.
- Further clarity on how progress will realistically be measured, and which data will be used will be important. It will be important to find an appropriate balance between data quality and the use of more open/grey data sources, for example data from civil society (though noting again the distinction between the Global AIDS Monitoring data and the UBRAF indicators). This citizen science for better data approach would align well with a community focus of interventions.
- **Results Framework:** members appreciated the clarity and content of the results framework and pointed out that it should be intimately linked with the TOC and focus on the catalytic and leveraging role of the Joint Programme. The need to focus on prevention and key populations equitable access were emphasized as well as the need for adaptability of the results framework in countries. The cross-sectoral efforts and financing opportunities could be an important role for the JP to explore/ optimise. The Secretariat explained its proposed unique role in contributing to ensure interconnections/intersections between the results areas that can be considered as a 'spider web' through leveraging multisectoral actors and action for quality progress. More specific Joint Programme's priorities and action will feature in the regional priorities section. The inclusion of cross-sectional efforts and results on more sustainable financing for the AIDS response were appreciated.
- **Accountability framework:** the draft section on the accountability framework could benefit from further clarity, specificity and explanation (in particular financial and programmatic accountability, showing engagement with communities, capture 'system's aspects). It was suggested to unpack it by levels all the way down to Cosponsors, countries, and communities and develop a visualized management tool, possibly as an annex, that could serve to hold leadership accountable. The challenge of attribution/contribution of the Joint programme's work remains complex given the nature of its work and that more results come from collective efforts. Members were invited to share best practices/examples especially on smart language to use with the Secretariat. It was stressed that while there have been improvements in recent years on collection of and reporting on financial data, working across 12 different financial systems remains a challenge. Also, there are increasing other mandatory UN requirements for more integrated reporting to take into account (such as for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, UNinfo, SDGs, UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, SDG Funding Compact).

## 6. Update on Division of Labour

- WHO, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organization (CCO), provided a short update on process for the update of the Division of Labour. It was outlined that an in-depth review and update of the Division of Labour was done in 2018. The Division of Labour is applicable for global, regional, and country levels, with adaptation where necessary. Some refinement mostly to align it with the Global AIDS Strategy is needed but its purpose and overall content is otherwise considered still valid in terms of articulating respective roles and responsibilities noting the existing principle of flexibility to adapt it to diverse regional and country contexts as needed. Preliminary analysis suggests reducing the complexity with combining some areas while integrating the new ones. A potential challenge is the integration of HIV into broader agendas and related accountabilities (e.g. UHC, Sexual reproductive health and rights).
- It was suggested to Working Group members to read the existing guidance note on the Division of Labour from 2018<sup>1</sup> in preparation for the discussion to be tabled as part of one of the next calls in August.
- Concerns were raised regarding the, at times, inconsistent UN positions of drug related issues. It was clarified that UN leadership, at all levels, has reaffirmed, on multiple occasions, the importance of the HIV response and unequivocally supports the UN position on drug issues, the Global AIDS Strategy, Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and its commitment to deliver on those.

## 7. Next steps

- Working Group member were invited to share further feedback on the draft UBRAF by email.
- 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) but challenge to have longer call given time difference, it was suggested to hold two calls in August: possible dates (same time 1-3pm Geneva time) for which members were invited to indicate preference. Dates will be confirmed by the Secretariat closer to the date.
  - Tuesday 10th August or Wed 11th August 2021
  - Week of 23 August 2021
- Some key topics for the agenda for next calls (with more updates on agenda and documents to be sent closer to the dates):
  - For UBRAF 2022-26
    - *Resource allocation*
    - *Prioritization*
    - *Accountability*
    - *Update on DOL*
    - *Value for investments*
  - For Workplan and Budget 2022-2023
    - *Overall scope*
    - *Joint Programme's priority work by regions and result areas*

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<sup>1</sup> [Division of Labour 2018](#)

- *Budget*

**8. 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 second meeting and welcomed their feedback and comments on the draft UBRAF via email. The Secretariat will share the draft NFR of this call and invitation and proposed agenda for the next meeting.