

UBRAF Working Group

Note for the record - Sixth Meeting – 8 November 2021

Follow-up points:

- Working Group members to send their feedback on the draft specific Joint Programme outputs and indicators by 9 November 2021 at 1pm Geneva time.
- Secretariat to give an update on the drafting process and PCB Mission Briefing on 11 November 2021
- Secretariat to share the draft Note for Record of the 6th meeting

1. Welcome and reflections from the Chair

- The Chair welcomed the members of the Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) Working Group to the sixth call and appreciated their engagement and support for the new UBRAF development as well as the Joint Programme's work to develop the draft specific Joint Programme outputs and indicators. A few members were unable to join the meeting.
- The agenda of the meeting was introduced and adopted.

2. Approval of the Note for the Record of the fifth call

- The draft Note for the Record was approved with no comments and will be posted on UNAIDS website.

3. Draft specific Joint Programme outputs and indicators and discussion

- Recalling the relevant decisions from the PCB Special Session in October 2021 ([Agenda item 3](#)), the Secretariat provided an update on the Joint Programme's work on the draft of the specific Joint Programme outputs and indicators, summarized as follows:
 - **New Results structure:** as per the PCB request, specific Joint Programme outputs are formulated between areas of intervention and the 10 result area outputs for the 5-year UBRAF and corresponding ones for the 2022-2023 Workplan and together with the 5y indicator and target (milestone) by 2023 will be submitted to the PCB December 2021 meeting. A draft of all the proposed outputs, indicators and milestones had been shared before the call noting it was still 'work in progress'.
 - **Building on lessons learned from past UBRAF indicators**
 - 2012-2015 UBRAF indicators were numerous and formulated to focus on measuring the more direct contributions of the Joint Programme.
 - 2016-2021 UBRAF indicators were formulated closer to the output level like the GAM, measuring the impact of the Joint Programme's work.
 - 2022-2026 indicators: As per PCB guidance, they are being formulated to be more reflective of the Joint Programme's work. Further work is ongoing to further reduce their number, streamline their content and check consistency. The

current draft includes: 20 specific outputs, 12 Secretariat specific outputs plus 28 result area indicators, 35 Secretariat indicators.

- **Some challenges of specific output and indicator development:** The Secretariat explained some challenges on finding the right balance for their framing on which the UBRAF Working Group guidance will be welcome:
 - In some cases, difficult to quantify/develop indicators that focus on measuring the Joint Programme's catalytic role/work instead of impact
 - Defining clear and concise framing of what the Joint Programme will be held accountable for versus more granularity on what the Joint Programme will deliver on.
 - Defining clear, simple, meaningful set of outputs and indicators with realistically manageable data collection for timely and streamlined reporting versus reflecting the wider scope of Joint Programme work and its complex nature.
 - Focus on Joint Programme's action (with then using own data for related monitoring) versus focus on the broader changes that the Joint Programme can reasonably claim to have significantly contributed to (measured using Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) and National Commitment and Policy Instruments data (NCPI)) in which case the related indicators need to match to avoid duplication of data collection and ensure timely availability of data.
 - Including the necessary cross-linkages between each other without repetitive language and concepts plus focus on measuring the Joint Programme's catalytic work instead of impact while finding the right balance between:
- **UBRAF indicators context:** The Secretariat showcased how Joint Programme performance indicators are informed and complemented by the GAM and NCPI indicators which monitor progress against the commitments of the UN Political Declaration and the Global AIDS strategy and briefly explained the Joint Programme Monitoring and Reporting System (JPMS) which is an internal Joint Programme's planning and monitoring tool.
- **PCB Mission Briefing:** A PCB Mission Briefing will take place on 11th November 2021 as per a request from the PCB Chair to share an update on where we are in the process and receive some early feedback. This is to ensure a symmetrical level of information distribution by giving equal access and opportunity to all PCB members to get acquainted with the document that will be later submitted to the December PCB.
- **General feedback:** The Working group appreciated the enormous amount of work and time the Joint Programme invested to develop this draft under very tight deadlines. As a general observation, the members suggested that the indicators could be better linked with the broader goals. The indicators could be strengthened by going beyond processes and developing them in a more progress-oriented manner which would help to better link them to the GAM indicators. Finally, the Chair recommended that indicators should reflect the bigger picture which is well depicted in the Theory of Change and related Result Areas. The Chair and other members felt that currently the indicators do not fully capture progress on the macro-level and therefore advocated for formulating fewer but more high-level indicators that are more objectively measurable. The Joint Programme appreciated the extremely helpful feedback but also stressed the inevitability of some process-oriented indicators with emphasis is on the Joint Programme's contribution and not the wider HIV response. It was also recalled that the UBRAF indicators are not 'telling the whole story'. Indeed, in the annual reporting, they

are complemented by narrative summarizing with qualitative information and other performance management tools are also in place such as the evaluations which have been strengthened in recent years noting the 2022-2023 evaluation plan, aligned with the new UBRAF is also submitted to the PCB December 2021 meeting.

- **Inequality lens:** It was suggested to find ways for the Joint Programme's efforts to reduce inequalities to be better reflected in the reporting, complementing the indicators, in order to tell a more powerful story on progress to the PCB. One way could be for the reporting to highlight progress, inequalities and gaps by populations instead of mostly focusing on results areas.
- **Accountability:** The Working group emphasized the importance of holding the Cosponsors accountable through the indicators, for example by making it an imperative that allocated areas of interventions need to be reflected in their respective strategies by the end of the new UBRAF in 2026.
- **Consistency & suggested additions:** The members highlighted the importance of consistencies between indicators and associated milestones to be further verified. Furthermore, members suggested several concrete additions or refinements, including the inclusion of Hepatitis C under Indicator 9.1.1, harm reduction to be reflected under the result area output on "Humanitarian settings" and add more elements for indicators to better reflect the scope of work for the results area output on "Fully-funded HIV response". The members commended that the specific outputs under "Gender" are well formulated but specific outputs/ indicators under "Human Rights" and "Community-led response" could be framed more concretely and stronger in terms of language.

4. Next steps – Recap and Outlook

- Upcoming work until the December PCB will be mostly centred around the refinement of the specific Joint Programme outputs and associated performance indicators.
- Important upcoming dates of *25 November 2021* for the *Pre-PCB* and *7-10 December 2021* for the *PCB meetings* which all Working Group members were encouraged to attend as observer (UBRAF agenda item 4 on 8 December 2021).
- Working Group member were invited to share their comments on the draft specific Joint Programme outputs and indicators by email latest by 9 November 2021.
- **Next meeting:** date to be later communicated depending on the PCB decision.

5. Closing remarks

- The Chair and the Secretariat thanked the Working Group members for their great engagement and valuable contribution and welcomed their feedback and comments on the draft specific Joint Programme outputs and indicators via email.