

UBRAF Working Group

Note for the record - Fifth Meeting – 28 September 2021

Follow-up points:

- *Working Group members to send their further feedback on the draft report of the UBRAF Working Group by 1 October 2021.*
- *Secretariat to share the draft Note for Record and schedule the next call.*

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 fifth 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 documents. A few members were unable to join the meeting but have provided feedback through other channels.
- The agenda of the meeting was introduced and adopted.

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

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

3. Overview of final comments, revisions, and clarifications: UBRAF 2022-2026 and draft 2022-2023 Workplan & Budget by the Secretariat and the Chair

- The Secretariat appreciated all the rich comments received despite the tight deadline and provided an update on its work to integrate them and complement some sections in the new version of the two UBRAF documents, summarized as follows:
 - **2022-2026 UBRAF:** Reference for evidence on inequalities/gaps/challenges in regional priorities for Eastern Europe and Central Asia were added and it was reaffirmed that in all regions all aspects of the Joint Programme's work are aligned with national priorities and implemented in close collaboration with countries.
 - **2022-2023 Workplan & Budget:**
 - Definitions and more consistent terminology aligned with Global AIDS Strategy were used. Some contributing agencies were added.
 - It was reaffirmed that for all results and in all regions, the Joint Programme works with countries, communities including networks of people living with HIV, key populations, youth, women, civil society, partners, and other key stakeholders. The list of other key partnerships is in addition to this principle.
 - For Results Area 8 on fully funded HIV response, reference to evidence on inequalities/gaps/challenges and other important COVID financing related partnerships were added.
 - Parts of the texts were reformulated in a more 'action-oriented language' and 'deliverables' framed as 'areas of interventions' as advised.

- Some budget data was updated and reference to 2020-2021 budget and financial reports were added.
- The Secretariat also provided clarifications on other issues raised by members. Firstly, key populations are a priority everywhere, but it would be challenging to add more specificities in this high-level global document given the great inter- and intraregional diversity of key populations' profiles and needs. Secondly, the new UBRAF is an opportunity and tool to foster change through selected global strategic initiatives that leverage action and bring additional value to countries. Thirdly, linkages to the 2025 Global AIDS targets the Joint Programme will mostly contribute to are included but should not be confused with the targets and related milestones that will be defined as part of the upcoming UBRAF indicator development focusing on the Joint Programme's performance. Fourthly, the country envelopes contribute to the country Joint UN plans on HIV that capture the collective contribution of the UN to the national HIV response and are formulated in consultation with national authorities, communities and other stakeholders to best respond to the national context and needs. The country envelopes are meant to be catalytic and innovative, and are complemented by other funding from Cosponsors and Secretariat.
- **Budget:** The Secretariat explained that the proposed budget submitted to the PCB and hoped to be mobilized is 210m USD (for 2022) constituting a 13% reduction from the current approved budget. Furthermore, three funding scenarios were developed (210m/ 187m/ 170m USD) further reflecting the challenging funding environment. A Strategic Financing Dialogue will take place mid-November 2021 and will hopefully provide clarity on the expected level of resources that can be mobilized. To enhance transparency and accountability, a member asked to share a detailed budget breakdown by types of expenditure the PCB. However, as the timeframe is short, and the request was not anticipated, the Secretariat explained that it will take longer to accommodate the request and referred to the detailed annual financial reports submitted to the June PCB displaying expenditures of the previous year by cost categories (in accordance with international public sector accounting standards) that could serve as indication for the new budget. Finally, some members suggested it would be useful to include the underlying assumptions/parameters used to inform the budget allocation table. It was clarified that the methodology is a combination of the guiding principles for the resource allocation methodology as outlined in the 2022-2026 UBRAF and results based while also considering the level of funding that can be realistically mobilized.
- **Accountability framework:** The Working group appreciated the efforts to strengthen and clarify the accountability mechanisms. It emphasized the importance of making the accountability framework clearer and hence suggested that the Secretariat's deliverables be more specific. It was clarified that actions taken under the Secretariat functions are annually reported on¹. Also, it was suggested to more clearly tie up the UBRAF outcomes/outputs with the budget and that reporting focus on results rather than process. The Joint Programme further explained efforts to find the right balance between focusing on the catalytic role of the Joint Programme, being more ambitious while at the same time not infringing on the responsibilities of members states and other stakeholders. It was recognized that the defining the accountability is complex which is why the development of indicator should be done carefully.
- **Key populations interventions:** The Working group members were interested to know how the 2022-2023 Workplan & Budget will be more responsive and agile especially in countries that are not considered focus countries but also face a rise in HIV infections.

¹ [UNAIDS Secretariat Organizational report 2020](#)

The Joint Programme pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered various innovative ways of work including to support countries which can be built on and other approaches will be further explored and expanded in close collaboration with government and communities such as continued support from regional/global offices, peer to peer support and South-South collaboration.

4. UBRAF working Group's report, reflections, and recommendations

- **Working Group's report to the PCB:** The Chair informed the members that a short report about the scope of work, process and summary of discussion and recommendations of the UBRAF Working Group has to be submitted to the PCB by 29 October 2021. It has been drafted by the Secretariat and reviewed by him and was mainly based on the TOR and the Notes for Record of the Working Group meetings. It was clarified that this report is a conference room paper from the Secretariat to the PCB rather than a report from the Working Group. However, the members should be comfortable with how their work is presented and were thus invited to share feedback by 1 October 2021. Subsequently, the final version will be published.
- **Chair Statement at the (pre-)PCB:** The Chair was invited to deliver a statement reflecting the work of Working Group at the Pre- and PCB. He explained his preference to focus on forward looking messages including how the Joint Programme can continue to be relevant and leverage its core competencies (e.g. as a lead agency in data collection), how the accountability framework is important work in progress clarifying that UNAIDS is a global leader in the HIV response but does not bear the sole responsibility, the importance of revisiting the Division of Labor among Cosponsors continuously and finally that the HIV response at the country level has to be clearly positioned in the context of COVID-19 and also broader national health reforms. The Working group members welcomed those points and some members suggested to also reflect the importance for the Joint Programme to catalyze on emergency responses and the request for an expenditure breakdown from the Secretariat.

5. Appreciation

- The Secretariat expressed its gratitude for the Working Group's excellent dedication, work, very helpful feedback but also its responsiveness and patience under often tight deadlines. Appreciation was also expressed to the Chair from both Working Group members and the Secretariat for his very diligent and conscientious chairing making the group more participatory and his expertise. The wide mix of expertise and background of the members was found to be very valuable bringing diverse perspectives to the discussion. All the hard work done by members of the Joint Programme was also appreciated.

6. Next steps – Recap and Outlook

- The Secretariat presented a recap and timeline indicating that the upcoming work until the December PCB will be mostly centred around clarifying the space between the result areas and the deliverables and the development of associated performance indicators.
- Important upcoming dates of 29 September for the Pre-PCB and 6 October for the PCB meetings which all Working Group were encouraged to attend as observer.
- Working Group member were invited to share their comments on the draft Working Group report by email latest by 1 October 2021.
- **Next meeting:** date of the sixth meeting to be later communicated.

7. 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 Working Group report via email.