

DOCU INPUT: 2016 ECOSOC Integration Segment (A/68/1)

At the country level, the UN development system (UNDS) provides integrated programmatic support through joint programming approaches, such as joint programmes and results-based groups. Of these two modalities, joint programmes represent the higher form of programmatic integration. A Joint Programme is defined as a set of activities contained in a joint work plan and related common budgetary framework. It involves two or more UN organizations and national governmental partners and is intended to achieve common results aligned with national priorities, as reflected in UNDAF/One Programme or an equivalent programming instrument or development framework.

DOCU's IMS database reports a total of 320 joint programmes operational worldwide in 2015, an average of 2.5 joint programmes per UN Country Team. Of the 130 UNCTs reporting to the IMS, 106 indicated having at least one joint programme operational that year. That is, 80 percent of UNCTs use this form of integrated programming modality, with an average of 4 UN agencies participating in joint programmes.

Figure 1 reports how existing Joint Programmes are addressing issues relevant to the SDGs. These figures were obtained by requesting UNCTs to tag all their joint programmes with the SDGs these programmes were focusing on. Overall, in 2015 the UNDS' country level joint work had a strong focus on issues related to peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16), decent work and economic growth (SDG8), Gender Equality (SDG5), health and wellbeing (SDG3), Poverty (SDG1), food and nutrition (SDG2) and education (SDG4). The share of joint programmes covering other SDGs was significantly lower. The fact that many of these other SDGs are new goals under the 2030 Agenda – i.e. areas which were not covered by the MDGs, such as inequality, life below water or sustainable cities – is likely to explain this lower share.

Figure 1: Share of SDGs addressed by joint programmes/ interagency groups



Not all joint programmes have a policy focus. Some deal exclusively with operational issues, for instance providing service delivery or capacity development support. Yet many have a strong or exclusive policy

focus. The next paragraphs provide short summaries of policy-focused joint programmes funded by the Delivering-Results Together Fund (DRT-F) in 2014. This fund, is a global pooled funding facility for Delivering as One (DaO) countries. It supports integrated and coherent policy responses to help achieve the unfinished MDGs and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Albania – Policy Initiative 6 (DRT-F US\$350,000). Involving WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS, this joint programme on health aims to ensure that health insurance coverage is universal through the development of a long-term national health policy and an improved management mechanism for primary health services, as well as the development of a Health Information Management System strategy and updated national strategy on HIV/AIDS.

Bhutan – Policy Initiative 1 (DRT-F US\$754,000). This Joint Programme brings together UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNCTAD to work on the inclusion of vulnerable groups by strengthening governance institutions and communities and focusing on inclusiveness, accountability and evidence-based decision-making. This integrated policy initiative is establishing baselines and targets for vulnerable groups to facilitate inclusion in existing and new policies. It is also supporting education and health policies related to people with disabilities, children, youth and women. As part of this programme the UN will undertake a legal gap analysis, will develop operational guidelines and implement capacity-building initiatives that are expected to better protect women and children, in line with international norms and standards.

Cape Verde – Policy Initiative 1 (DRT-F US\$1,500,000). Involving UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, UNODC, ILO, UNIDO and FAO, this initiative assisted national institutions at the central and local levels in promoting disparity reduction and equity in policies and strategies. The work involved a review of crucial sectoral policies to decrease inequalities in compliance with human rights standards, policies and programmes for sustainable, inclusive growth. It was also making data more available for policymaking, involving the design and testing of social protection systems and strengthening national policy frameworks on youth employment.

Ethiopia – Policy Initiative 2 (DRT-F US\$720,000). A collaboration of IOM, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC, this Joint Programme supports government in countering human trafficking and strengthening migration policies and practices. Among other activities, it is conducting a migration profile for Ethiopia to support the government in developing a national migration policy. It is also providing technical assistance in implementing laws on trafficking and smuggling, as well as capacity development support to strengthen national and interregional coordination, dialogue and cooperation on migration management.

Rwanda – Policy Initiative 1 (DRT-F US\$480,000). Bringing together UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and OHCHR, this initiative is strengthening national capacities to promote and mainstream human rights and to implement treaty body and Universal Periodic Review recommendations. It does this through capacity-building of the National Commission on Human Rights, the Civil Society Organization Platform and the Task Force on Treaty Body Reporting. This joint initiative is also working on the identification of policy and legislative gaps, so as to help government and the UN Country Team in their policy work.

Vietnam Policy Initiative 1 (DRT-F US\$1,480,000). Involving UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNIDO and UNCTAD, this initiative on ethnic minorities is promoting the formulation and adoption of an action plan to accelerate MDGs achievement among ethnic minorities. It also includes

capacity-strengthening support for monitoring and evaluating through the inter-sectoral statistics system. As part of this joint programme, the UN will support the roll-out, mainstreaming and implementation of policies and programmes for the reduction of poverty among ethnic minorities as well as the formulation of national and local guidelines and social audit tools.