



North Macedonia 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

SDCF 2024 Joint Workplans

1. Country Context

Joint Work Plans (JWPs) 2024 were developed within a polarized political context and a lingering socioeconomic impact of the energy and food prices crisis.

In the area of **governance**, while EU screening of all clusters was finalized by early December, start of accession negotiations remains contingent on delivery of preconditions established in the Negotiating Framework that require amendments of the Constitution. This continues to create political and social divides, which may intensify closer to election in spring 2024 and decrease popular support for EU accession. The finalization of the National Development Strategy is an important milestone that will provide a long-term visionary framework, unifying the EU accession priorities and SDGs. This widely inclusive process is one of the rare examples of multi-party engagement and participation. The CSOs and stakeholders' participation in decision making has been affected by the increased number of fast-track procedures in Parliament, including the controversial amendments to the Criminal Code. Overall, the people's confidence in the governance system and the rule of law continued to erode due to prevalent corruption and lack of accountability.

On the **socio-economic aspects**, the recovery was undermined with energy and food prices' spike which intensified by the war in Ukraine. The 2023 growth remains subdued and projected by IFIs between 1.8% to 2.3%, while the growth in 2024 is expected to be somewhat higher subject to intensified capital investments. Despite Government measures, increased prices remain an acute problem for the Macedonian economy and the living standard. The at-risk-of-poverty rate for children remains significantly higher compared to the rate for the overall population. Monetary policy continued tightening that should be followed up with more ambitious fiscal consolidation and prudent fiscal policies. Major reforms are undertaken in the area of budget and tax policy, however workers' rights have deteriorated with some of the recent regulatory changes.

Despite slightly improved labour market data, human capital remains among the key challenges, based on the latest demographic analysis. Except the regular pensions increase and the Youth Guarantee, during the year there were no major changes in the **social protection**. However the Government recently announced a new package of 26 anti-crisis measure worth € 662 Million that will be implemented as of 1 December and aimed for over one million of youth and social assistance beneficiaries, pensioners, public sector and companies (for green transition). **Health** system continued to struggle with lack of resources and medical staff, while the citizen confidence in the (public) health was seriously undermined with couple of serious allegations investigated by the public prosecutor, which provoked social protests. On the positive side, the access for gynecological services was improved in underserved areas with tripled budget in 2023, as well as the national (2022) rates for routine childhood vaccines, though still below targets for herd immunity. There was some progress in the **education** with more children with disabilities in special schools, as well as an enhanced pay and capacity of staff, however the recent PISA results showed alarmingly deteriorated results. In this period, also the Law on Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence was operationalized, however data confirm anecdotal evidence that violence against children requires more attention.

In the area of **climate change, environment and natural resources**, the positive changes on green energy transition are starting to be visible through investments in renewables which have also decreased energy dependency. Significant progress has been made improving GHG monitoring and reporting, while air pollution is somewhat decreased, though requires further ambition. Progress on wastewater and solid waste continues to be slow-paced and hazardous waste remains a challenge. While the area under protection increased significantly, effective management and protection is limited due to underfinancing and understaffing. Further focus is needed on the protection of the major lakes while significant losses of clean drinking water seem neglected. The country is facing increased occurrence of fires, however capacity to respond to fire and manage flood risks is continuously improving.

2. About the Joint Workplan

Joint Workplans (JWPs) are an annual tool that operationalizes the North Macedonia 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SDCF) – the key strategic document that guides the work of UN development system entities in North Macedonia.

All UN entities' country programmes (whether already developed or still to be developed) derive from SDCF and are consolidated annually in joint workplans, one per SDCF outcome (see below).

SDCF strategic priorities and outcomes

| SDGs | Str | ategic priority | Outcomes by 2025 | |
|----------------------|-----|--|---|---|
| erity & ple | 1. | Sustained and inclusive economic and social development | The living standard of all people in North Macedonia is improved through access to decent work and productive employment generated by an incluinnovative business ecosystem | |
| Prosperity People | | | 2. | People in North Macedonia have universal access to rights-based quality social services – healthcare, education, and necessary social and child protection - rooted in systems resilient to emergencies. |
| Planet SDGs | 2. | Climate action, natural resources and disaster risk management | 3. | People in North Macedonia benefit from ambitious climate action, sustainably managed natural resources and well-preserved biodiversity through good environmental governance and disaster resilient communities |
| Peace SDGs | 3. | Transparent and accountable democratic governance | 4. | People in North Macedonia benefit from improved rule of law; evidence-based, anticipatory and gender-responsive policies; greater social cohesion; and effective service delivery by transparent, accountable and responsive institutions |

The 2024 JWPs consolidate the activities that will be undertaken by **17 UN entities** during 2024. The four outcomes and 18 outputs are implemented through 120 sub-outputs (sum of activities aimed to achieve certain result) as planned by UN entities through their ongoing and pipeline projects or programmes.

Across the four outcomes, JWPs are strongly linked to the **six key transitions**, that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. UN collective actions at country level are streamlined withing the JWPs in particular through databased interventions that support policy and regulatory frameworks; identify and develop pipelines of bankable and market-ready national projects; promote and facilitate innovative and more inclusive approaches for development financing and provide capacity-building at scale to assist all stakeholders to implement and sustain these transitions.

The 2024 Joint workplan was developed in participatory process. Changing development context and strategic priorities were discussed at workshops that took place at the end of October and beginning of November 2023 with over 100 representatives from the government, donors and civil society. Received feedback is incorporated into the JWP to the feasible extent. However, the Joint workplan is a living document that is updated regularly throughout the year, based on the changing context, received demand and available funding. Any further needs for changes and adjustments will be taken directly by the relevant UN entities.

2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, offers Member States an analysis and recommendations to "unlock the rapid and deep transitions needed to deliver the Goals by 2030"

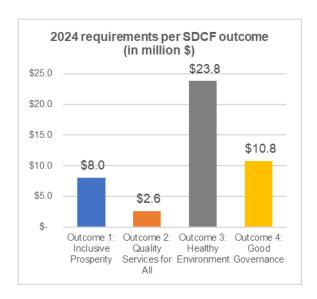
Cross cutting areas: Youth
Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Human Rights

Climate & Environment

Digital

2024 funding requirements

In 2024, 17 UN entities signatories of the SDCF will be having activities within the JWPs. The total estimated budget for all activities is \$45.2 million, of which \$26 million (58%) is already secured and \$19.3 million (42%) still needs to be mobilized.



Review and monitoring of the JWPs

SDCF and JWPs are digitized through the UN INFO, which is the online planning, monitoring and reporting platform. The UN INFO reflects the UN development system's effort to improve coherence, transparency and accountability, and to better address the needs and priorities of UN Member States. The tool encourages more regular monitoring of joint workplans so that all development activities are on track to deliver results. This enables senior leadership to make corrections to programming or shift resources in real time. The public can also see a full picture of UN development system activities through public dashboards linked to UNCT websites.

In 2023, in view of the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the human rights situation in the country, the Government, NHRIs and civil society held broad consultations and made written submissions to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). The dialogue with the HRC is scheduled to take place in May-June 2024 and specific recommendations will be addressed to the country. During implementation and monitoring, the JWPs will be informed and pay special attention on the implementation of the recommendations drawn from the UPR.

| SDCF Joint Workplan * OUTCOME 1: INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Country: | North Macedonia | | |
| Corresponding outcome: | By 2025, the living standard of all people in North Macedonia is improved | | |
| | through equal access to decent work and productive employment generated | | |
| | by an inclusive and innovative business ecosystem. | | |
| Chairing United Nations entity: | ILO | | |
| Results Group Members: | FAO, ILO, UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNECE, IOM, | | |
| | UNHCR, UN-Habitat, ITU | | |
| National Partners: | Agency for Real Estate Cadastre; Agency of Youth and Sport; Economic and | | |
| | Social Council of North Macedonia; Employers organizations of North | | |
| | Macedonia; Employment Service Agency; Faculty of Agriculture and Food | | |
| | Science; Food and Veterinary Agency; Fund for Innovation and | | |
| | Technological Development; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water | | |
| | Economy; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Education and | | |
| | Science; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Transport and | | |
| | Communications; Ministry of Information Society and Public Administration; | | |
| | Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Gostivar; Prilep; Shtip; Shuto Orizari; | | |
| | National Extension Agency; National Federation of Farmers; Rural | | |
| | Development Network; State Statistical Office; Trade Unions | | |
| Work plan duration: | 1 year | | |
| Anticipated start/end dates: | 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 | | |
| | | | |

SUMMARY OF 2024 ACTIVITIES

(for detailed activities of the UN entities under this Outcome, please review the attached excel file)

In 2024, UN will continue to assist the Government's to create jobs and reduce unemployment by enhancing the modernization (technological advancement), resilience and competitiveness of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in sustainable way i.e. in line with the principles of just transition and circular economy. Support will be also provided to increase competitiveness, co-production and trade in the cultural and creative sectors.

As a prerequisite to this, UN will also work on enhancing skills and employability of vulnerable groups, including in the culture and creative sectors. This will include youth and hard to employ people with focus on women, through support to implementation of the Youth Guarantee and the Active Labor Market Measures (ALMM). In this context UN will also support development of life-long learning models and the implementation of the social reform for people with disabilities, by supporting establishment and operations of the Professional Rehabilitation Centers and advancing social entrepreneurship. Alternative approaches to addressing the skills gaps will also be explored and promoted.

UN will promote and support a gender-responsive and forward-looking business environment, regulations and services, including of the Employment Support Agency. Labor legislation will be enhanced in line with international and EU standards, favoring green growth and future market needs. Alterative models for transformative employment such as PPP and social contracting models, as well as general employment policies and plans will be enhanced. In the light of strong outmigration, UN will continue to support Government initiatives for productive engagement of diaspora in the country.

To improve quality of jobs, in 2024 UN will focus on ratifying international labor conventions in Occupational Safety and Health and continue to assist in addressing violence, mobbing and harassment at work.

In 2024, UN will carry on supporting policy on animal health management and land consolidation, while mainstreaming gender in the agricultural and rural development policies, including by developing capacities for Gender Responsive Budgeting. In addition, UN will assist MAFWE in developing national strategy for digital transformation of the agricultural sector.

This outcome is directly linked to one of the six transition – jobs and social protection, but also contributing to at least three more such as digital connectivity, education and climate. The support is primarily, provided through regulatory support and capacity building, but also through enhancing development financing models.

| Total estimated budget (in USD):* | | \$8,005,796 |
|--|-------------|------------------------|
| * Total estimated budget includes both | | |
| direct program costs and indirect | | |
| support costs. | | |
| Out of which: Funded | | \$4,919,719 |
| Unfunded | | \$3,086,077 |
| | | Contributions (in USD) |
| By Output: | Output 1.1. | \$1,766,908 |
| | Output 1.2. | \$4,292,937 |
| | Output 1.3 | \$968,822 |
| | Output 1.4 | \$330,000 |
| | Output 1.5 | \$647,129 |
| By UN entity: | UNDP | \$5,923,821 |
| | ILO | \$914,900 |
| | FAO | \$627,129 |
| | UNESCO | \$296,000 |
| | IOM | \$150,000 |
| | UNICEF | \$73,946 |
| | UN Women | \$20,000 |

| SDCF Joint Workplan * OUTCOME 2: QUALITY SERVICES FOR ALL | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Country: | North Macedonia | | |
| Corresponding outcome: | utcome: By 2025, people in North Macedonia have universal access to rights-ba | | |
| | quality social services – healthcare, education, and necessary social and child | | |
| | protection - rooted in systems resilient to emergencies. | | |
| Chairing United Nations entity: | United Nations entity: UNFPA | | |
| Results Group Members: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNECE, IOM, ILO, UNODC, UNOPS | | | |
| | UNHCR, UNODC, UN Women, UN-Habitat | | |
| National Partners: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; National Public Health Institute | | | |
| | for Development of Education; Civil Society Organizations; E-health | | |
| | directorate; Health Insurance Fund; Medical Faculty Skopje; Ministry of | | |
| | Education and Science; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health; Ministry | | |
| | of Interior; Ministry of Justice; North Macedonia Professional Associations | | |
| Work plan duration: | 1 year | | |
| Anticipated start/end dates: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 | | | |
| | | | |

SUMMARY OF 2024 ACTIVITIES

(for detailed activities of the UN entities under this Outcome, please review the attached excel file)

To address one of the biggest challenges for development in North Macedonia, the erosion of human capital, in 2024 UN will focus on supporting activities within the health, education and social-protection areas, as well facilitate and enhance a resolute fight against any forms of violence, especially gender based violence.

In the area of health, in 2024 UN will work to address social determinates and address barriers for health equity, streamline health aspects in the education (health schools) and support development of important policies such as the national mental health strategy, focusing on children and youth. UN will also support implementation of the primary health reform and strengthen pharmaceutical governance, while tackling the difficult issues of resources by helping the country to implement National Health Accounts and reduce the financial hardship, as well as supporting development of national workforce strategy with enhanced role of the nurses and midwives. Support would also continue in monitoring and surveillance of NCDs, as well as vaccines including Covid19 vaccine. In the context of an aging society UN will support elderly care and elderly programmes, while also focusing on maternal and newborn health outcomes.

In the area of education UN will work on enhancing primary and secondary schools curriculum, and support inclusion of Roma, refuges, asylum workers and other vulnerable groups in education, including trough the Resource centers. UN will also support a roll-out of sexuality education and will sensitize medical students on the issues of gender based violence, sexual and reproductive health and disabilities. In the era of AI, UN will contribute to digital literacy and availability of digital learning products, tools and platforms, while also strengthening community engagement in schools. In 2024 UN will work on awareness raising on the needs for sexuality education in schools, advocate for enhanced preschool capacities and exchange knowledge and information on quality education. Finally, UN will continue with capacity building of teachers and school staff in the pre-school and school education including on mental wellbeing, environment and climate change education, nutrition and sexual education, also developing teachers programmes to educate refuges and asylum seekers. Risk-informed approaches and responds for emergencies (including Covid) are also planned to be adopted with UN help in 2024.

In 2024, UN programmes will enhance capacities for full implementation of the ICF-based functional assessment system for children and youth, including by covering all regions with expert teams for functional assessment. Children will be supported by strengthening childcare system, as well as foster and kinship care through community base system and services, while also supporting parents and vulnerable families with parental services. Capacities for case management in social work, as well as for addressing child poverty and social exclusion will be strengthened. Technical assistance will be provided for revision of the family related legal framework, development of early childhood intervention services, and development of mental health and psychosocial support services for children in the care system. UN will continue to assist Government measures for inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers and to implement GRF pledges for Kosovo refugees, as well to provide social services for vulnerable groups of migrants. In addition, targeted and specialized services will be provided for persons with specific needs with psychosocial support, counselling language classes, occupational activities all complementary to national assistance programmes.

Through the year, UN will work on building awareness for availability of services for vulnerable. The Law on Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence will be further operationalized with the remaining bylaws, and technical support will be provided to defining all aspects GBV data integration system that preserves confidentiality and ensures data quality. In addition, UN will work to enhance capacities for multi-sectorial response to GBV and develop programmes for perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence. To ensure protection of children online and prevent victimization of children, in 2024, UN will support a research to understand online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

This JWP is strongly connected to at least three of the six transitions (digital connectivity, education and social protection) primarily through regulatory support and capacity building at scale.

| P , P | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Total estimated budget (in USD):* | | \$2,565,846 |
| * Total estimated budget includes | | |
| both direct program costs and | | |
| indirect support costs. | | |
| Out of which: | | \$1,607,806 |
| Funded | | |
| Unfunded | | \$958,040 |
| | | Contributions (in USD) |
| By Output: | Output 2.1 | \$1,010,000 |
| | Output 2.2 | \$291,011 |
| | Output 2.3 | \$1,139,335 |
| | Output 2.4 | \$125,500 |
| By UN entity: | WHO | \$795,000 |
| | UNHCR | \$674,335 |
| | UNICEF | \$674,011 |
| | IOM | \$300,000 |
| | UNPFA | \$122 500 |

| SDCF Joint Workplan * OUTCOME 3: HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Country: | North Macedonia | | | | |
| Corresponding outcome: | By 2025, people in North Macedonia benefit from ambitious climate action, sustainably | | | | |
| | managed natural resources and well-preserved biodiversity through good environmental | | | | |
| | governance and disaster resilient communities. | | | | |
| Chairing United Nations UNDP | | | | | |
| entity: | | | | | |
| Results Group Members: | FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO, UNDRR, UNFPA, | | | | |
| | UN Women, IOM, UNOPS, UN-Habitat | | | | |
| National Partners: Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs; Minsi | | | | | |
| | Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and | | | | |
| | Water Economy; Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Labour and Social | | | | |
| | Policy; Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science; Faculty of Forest Sciences; Faculty of | | | | |
| | Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Institute of Agriculture; Macedonian Ecological | | | | |
| | Society; National Public Health Institute; E-health directorate; Crisis Management | | | | |
| | Center, Directorate for Rescue and Protection; Connecting Natural Values and People | | | | |
| | Office; Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development; Resen; The Green Climate | | | | |
| | Fund; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; Academia, CSOs | | | | |
| Work plan duration: | 1 year | | | | |
| Anticipated start/end | 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 | | | | |
| dates: | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

SUMMARY OF 2024 ACTIVITIES

(for detailed activities of the UN entities under this Outcome, please review the attached excel file) In the period 2021-2025, the UN entities contribution to healthy environment focuses on policy support, capacity building and community actions for low-emission development and multi-sector resilience to climate change; sustainable and inclusive management of natural resources; prevention and response to air pollution threats; effective disaster risk reduction and response; and waste reduction and efficient waste management.

On <u>climate change</u>, in 2024 the UN plans to support to country in <u>policy development and monitoring</u> (support to the 5th National Communication to UNFCCC, the 2nd Biannual Transparency Report¹, the National Adaptation Plan¹, and of the National Plan on phase-out of HCFC), in <u>access to finance</u> (the Green Finance Facility and GCF readiness), <u>climate change and agriculture</u> (improved irrigation infrastructure, climate- smart agriculture and agroecology, resilient seed systems and promoting quality seeds of climate tolerant varieties) and <u>climate change and education</u> (integration of climate change in national education policies and curricula).

In terms of <u>improved management of natural resources</u> in 2024 the UN will provide support to a diverse set of activities related to <u>access to finance</u> (Biodiversity Finance Plan for enhanced financial management of biodiversity and ecosystems¹), <u>land and forest</u> (land degradation neutrality, sustainable land, forest and mountain landscape management including development of Strategy and Law on Soil Protection), and <u>water</u> (Prespa Lake Region¹ - improved nature protection, greening of local agriculture, sustainable tourism, and transboundary cooperation and Ohrid Lake Region - Feasibility Study for the Ohrid Lake Coastal Zone Urban Plan).

In 2024, UN's support to <u>reducing air pollution</u> is expanded, with comprehensive technical and advisory assistance in 8 cities around the country facing substantial air pollution issues - Skopje, Bitola, Tetovo, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Kavadarci, Strumica and Struga. Measures will be focused on provision of cleaner public building heating, transport, industry, agriculture and waste management; air pollution monitoring and modelling of air pollution sources, implementation of priority measures of Air Quality Plans and capacity building of municipalities. Targeted education, awareness and mobilization activities on air pollution are also planned with the general public, specifically with youth and children at local level. Further, inter-linkages between human mobility and air pollution will be assessed.

<u>Disaster Risk Reduction</u>: UN support to <u>flood risk reduction</u> in Polog region and Drin River Basin will continue in 2024. Planned activities include restoration of riverbed, stabilisation of priority landslides, establishment of early warning system and knowledge and public awareness activities in Polog and development of hydrological and hydraulic model for flood risk management, comprehensive capacity building programme and implementation of non-structural measures in the Drin River Basin. Also, activities for greater <u>health emergency preparedness</u> through various activities, such as development of Feasibility study for establishing at MOH Vulnerability and Risk Analysis & Mapping (VRAM/STAR); Developing and costing Strategic National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS); building capacities of national laboratories and risk communication activities. Further, capacity building on human displacement caused by disasters and implementation of subnational INFORM Index for Risk Management are planned.

<u>Waste:</u> In 2024, the UN will continue to provide sizable technical support for cleanup of <u>hazardous waste</u> (<u>lindane</u>, <u>HCH</u>) in the environmental hotspot OHIS and improved <u>wastewater and solid waste management</u> in Prespa Lake region and in Temporary Migrant Reception Centers in Kumanovo and Gevgelija.

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¹ Pipeline, funding not secured yet.

| This output is directly linked | and strongly co | ntributing to the transition area on climate change, biodiversity loss and | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| pollution, but also contributin | g to energy acce | ess and affordability. | |
| | | | |
| Total estimated budget (in | | \$23,836,404 | |
| USD):* | | | |
| * Total estimated budget | | | |
| includes both direct | | | |
| program costs and indirect | | | |
| support costs. | | | |
| Out of which: Funded | | \$12,532,634 | |
| Unfunded | | \$11,303,770 | |
| | | Contributions (in USD) | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| By Output: | Output 3.1. | \$6,418,506 | |
| | Output 3.2. | \$8,995,567 | |
| | Output 3.3. | \$2,707,677 | |
| | Output 3.4. | \$4,080,654 | |
| | Output 3.5. | \$1,634,000 | |
| By UN entity: | UNDP | \$16,251,496 | |
| | UNOPS | \$3,400,000 | |
| | FAO | \$2,481,521 | |
| | UNEP | \$873,000 | |
| | IOM | \$385,387 | |
| | UNICEF | \$200,000 | |
| | UNIDO | \$145,000 | |
| | WHO | \$60,000 | |
| | UNDRR | \$20,000 | |
| | UNECE | \$20,000 | |

SDCF Joint Workplan * OUTCOME 4: GOOD GOVERNANCE

| Country: | North Macedonia | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Corresponding outcome: | By 2025, people in North Macedonia benefit from improved rule of law; evidence-based, anticipatory and gender-responsive policies; greater social cohesion; and effective service delivery by transparent, accountable and responsive institutions. | |
| Chairing United Nations entity: | UNHCR | |
| Results Group Members: | UNDP, UNODC, IOM, UNHCR, UN Women, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNECE, UNOPS, UN-Habitat, UNESCO | |
| National Partners: | WHO, UNECE, UNOPS, UN-Habitat, UNESCO Agency of Youth and Sport; Akcija Zdruzenska; Association of Finance Officers; MKDAJ; Association of Local-Self Government Units; Bureau for Regional Development; Customs Administration; Ministry of Defence - Disaster Management Division; Ministries (MOI, MOJ, MOLSP, MOEPP, MOF, MOC, MOFA, MOES, MOH, MISA, MOLSG); MYLA; National Bank; National Council for Gender Equality; Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe; North Macedonia; Judiciary; Ombudsman; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; Organizations and Groups of Persons with Disabilities; Parliament; Public Prosecution Office for Organized Crime and Corruption; Public Revenue Office; General Secretariat, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Secretariat for European Affairs; State Audit Office; State Statistical Office; UNESCO | |
| Work plan duration: | 1 year | |
| Anticipated start/end dates: | 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 | |

SUMMARY OF 2024 ACTIVITIES

(for detailed activities of the UN entities under this Outcome, please review the attached excel file)

In 2024, the UN will continue supporting the government and other national stakeholders in aligning national laws and policies with international standards and EU acquis. National institutions will receive further support to finalize the National Development Strategy. This assistance will specifically assist the establishment of effective monitoring and evaluation structures, crucial for achieving the set NDS/SDG targets. Accelerating reforms towards the EU accession and achieving Agenda 2030 will also encompass consolidation of institutional structures and capacities to effectively promote and protect fundamental rights, access to justice and the rule of law. Capacities of central and local government, judiciary, Ombudsman, equality body to perform their mandates will be strengthened. Their engagement with international human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations on improving human rights will be enhanced. Civil society and human rights defenders will have a brooder space to support and provide legal aid to people in need. UN will work to bring an end to statelessness in the country. New chapters will be opened, like environmental justice where public participation, access to information, access to justice and empowerment will be promoted.

Together with national partners, the UN will increase transparency, accountability and counter corruption and organized crime to rebuild public trust in the governance system. Reforms in the criminal and justice for children system will continue ensuring a victim- and child-centered approach. Judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and other institutions will be equipped with specialized knowledge and skills to proactively identify, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate cases of digital sex crimes, cases involving children, firearms domestic violence cases, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, illicit trafficking of weapon, drug and cultural heritage, financing of terrorism, and other transnational and organized crime. The regional exchange and cooperation between justice professionals on issues related to transitional justice and victim and gender sensitive support services will be advanced. Capacity of frontline professionals will be developed to collect, integrate and generate child protection data related to children in contact with the law and child victims in their information and other related systems. Capacity of duty bearers for data collection, policy design, evaluation and budgeting related to services for children and youth will also be strengthened.

UN will continue promoting forward-looking and data driven approach in migration governance and will support policy measures that meet EU and international standards. Another priority is communication for census results and shaping a central and local governance policy framework. Central and local government institutions will strengthen capacities to apply gender responsive budgeting and auditing. Fiscal efficiency will be strengthened. Local governments will improve life of citizens through support for development of technical designs for infrastructure projects, inter-municipal cooperation, digitalize their services, and be able to implement transparent and merit-based projects for CSOs and youth. Municipalities will improve budgetary allocations in primary and secondary education.

Finally, cooperation between regional, public media and local youth media network to address divisive narratives, hate speech, masculinities and gender norms and equality will be advanced within and beyond county boundaries. Local youth councils and youth dialogue platforms aiming to zero tolerance to hate speech will be supported. The voices and needs of women will be amplifies in planning and budgeting processes, and gender equality. Positive public attitudes towards vulnerable groups and persons at risk of being left behind will be fostered.

This outcome serves as an underlying aspect on all six transition areas, which are predetermined by good governance.

| Total estimated budget (in USD):* | | \$10,780,276 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| * Total estimated budget includes | | · |
| both direct program costs and | | |
| indirect support costs. | | |
| Out of which: | | \$6,931,012 |
| Funded | | |
| Unfunded | | \$3,849,264 |
| | | Contributions (in USD) |
| | Output 4.1. | \$3,826,974 |
| By Output: | Output 4.2. | \$4,452,172 |
| By Output: | Output 4.3. | \$905,679 |
| | Output 4.4. | \$1,595,451 |
| | UNDP | \$4,347,644 |
| | UNHCR | \$2,838,792 |
| | UN Women | \$1,799,808 |
| | UNOPS | \$430,000 |
| Dy IIN ontity | IOM | \$420,000 |
| By UN entity: | UNICEF | \$270,180 |
| | UNESCO | \$225,000 |
| | UNPFA | \$169,852 |
| | UNODC | \$169,000 |
| | OHCHR | \$110,000 |