



## 1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2021-2025



### Our top priority - Gearing up the implementation of the 3 priorities of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025

**Signing of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) 2021-2025:** After the formal adoption of the Government of Serbia, the [signing ceremony](#) with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, signing on behalf of the Government and UNRC/UNCT took place in February in presence of Minister of EU Integration and the UNCT. [Full speech](#) by RC.



**UN Serbia Annual Results Report 2021:** The United Nations in Serbia [Results Report 2021](#) was launched on 1 April reflecting on the achieved results and challenges of 20 UN Agencies, in the first year of implementation of CF.



### Internal Coordination Processes

- Three (3) Strategic Priorities: *i) Green Transformation; ii) Social Protection/Demographic Resilience; iii) Rule of Law, Human Rights and Governance.*
- 2021 CCA update with new statistical data from national accounts, other publicly available resources, and analytical work by UNCT finalized in January 2022.
- Best global practice from the angle of human rights/LNOB integration in CCA, more specifically for the analysis of national HR framework and LNOB root cause analysis and mainstreaming.
- 3 result Groups co-chaired by UNDP/FAO (RG1), UNICEF/UNFPA (RG2), UNHCR/OHCHR (RG3). Thematic Groups GTG (UN Women/UNFPA); MEG UNICEF /RCO Human Rights/ LNOB (OHCHR/RCO).
- UNCT Retreat took place on 2 June.
- Joint Work plans 2022 developed and entered in IMS by 31 March 2022. Currently, the integration of global indicators from the DCO list is being explored. Monthly update of UN Info was ensured.
- Contribution of the RC in multiple IBC events as speaker.
- UN Serbia briefing with development partners on UN Reform took place on 24 June.



**First Joint Steering Committee of the CF:** The first Joint Steering Committee was co-chaired by the Minister of EU Integration, the assistant minister of foreign affairs and the UN Resident Coordinator, with Senior representatives from 18 line ministries and the UNCT. The steering committee members agreed to provide joint oversight and direction on the 5-year programme implementation, while creating links and synergies with other processes and mechanisms established by the Government related to the EU accession and Agenda 2030. [RC Full Speech](#).

**Preparations for Transforming Education Summit (TES):** Under UNRC leadership, UNICEF and UNESCO engaged with the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology in the preparation for Serbia's Government participation in TES. From April to June, the consultation process gathered recommendations from 1,143 persons to identify priority areas and formulate recommendations for achieving quality, equal, healthy and sustainable education from all children and youth by 2030. The consultations identified 4 main priorities and future commitments in the education system in Serbia, to be presented during the Transforming Education Summit convened in New York by the UN Secretary-General in September. [Press release](#).

**First National Urban Forum in Serbia:** The first National Urban Forum (NUF) in Serbia was organized by the Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), UN Habitat and the Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities in April. It was an opportunity to exchange views and propose solutions in the field of urban development ahead of World Urban Forum 11. The NUF established a broad platform of engagement for the widest range of stakeholders to better formulate and implement public policies in the field of urban development, housing, architecture, and energy efficiency. The forum was attended by around 300 participants, including the UN, government representatives, ministries, cities and municipalities, civil society organizations and academics.



**UNCT Development Partners Meeting:** The meeting took place in June, with aim to inform key development partners in Serbia on i/ UN reform both globally and in the country

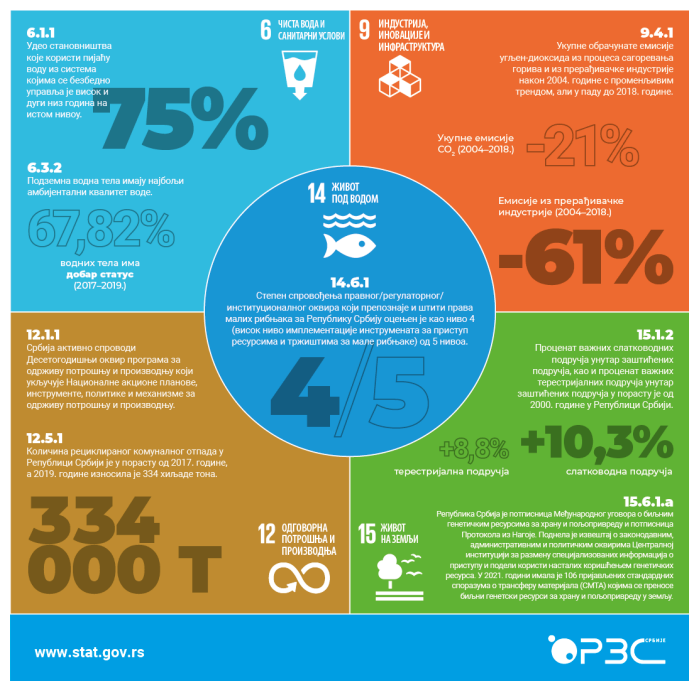
along with reiteration of the Funding Compact commitments and the debriefing from the May ECOSOC session, ii/ implementation of the Agenda 2030 globally and regionally, and iii/ implementation of CF. Over 30 key bilateral donors and IFIs participated, including EU, France, Norway, Swiss, German as well as IFIs representatives.

**The Publication "Progress in monitoring of environment-related SDG indicators in the Republic of Serbia:** The publication was created jointly by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the RCO.

**It sets fourth the main results of the initial research of 93 environment-related global SDG indicators identified by UNEP. Out of the total number, the publication visuals show that 70 are applicable for the Republic of Serbia,**



while the remaining indicators do not have developed methodologies and are not relevant for Serbia. The SORS database had verified data for 20 indicators, while 27 more were available in the UN database but were not verified and available in the national database. Through cooperation with the respective national institutions, 8 new indicators were added to the national database.



The work continues on the remaining 19 indicators with competent institutions, identified through the research, for verification and publication. The SORS and UN partners will also continue to explore the remaining 33 environmental indicators with currently unavailable data sources.

**Debrief for UN Network for Migration network (UNMN) following the First International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM):** UNMN in Serbia gathers all UN agencies and programs with a vested interest in migration and has been in place since early 2021. Since its establishment, its primary role is to articulate a system-wide approach to migration and to support government and other stakeholders to govern migration for the benefit of all - migrants, communities and the state. The specific debrief session for UNMN was organized by RCO and IOM in partnership with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees

and Migrants (KIRS) following the participation at the First International Migration Review Forum of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration held in May in New York. The meeting resulted with **a strong interest of the UNMN and Government counterparts (KIRS and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to jointly shape interventions in Serbia in line with the new UNSG Action Agenda on internal displacement and join forces for finding the durable solutions for remaining 68,000 IDPs in Serbia who mainly came from Kosovo\* from 1999-2003 among which 1/3 are Roma minority.**

## Enhanced Joint Programme Initiatives

### Food Systems

Serbia is the first country to receive funding from the Food System coordination hub, following a very proactive engagement of the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and RCO in the shaping of a new Sustainable Food System Pathway. While the funding is primarily used to support the Ministry capacities to implement their commitment, it has also incentivised FAO to invest additional technical assistance. A joint initiative amongst FAO, UN Women and UNEP, coordinated by RCO is under preparation. (Estimated budget – 1.5-2 Mill USD)

### Road Safety

The concept note - joint initiative by UNECE and WHO in BiH and the Republic of Serbia - was submitted to the Road safety board in June. The goal of the project is building back better road safety system based on in-depth analyses of road accidents in the post-pandemic period, as a tool to improve road safety at the territory of the RS and BiH. (Budget - 340,000 USD)

### Regional PBF Project on Youth

The project was developed and approved by the Government of Serbia. Its main objective is to strengthen the role of youth in promoting increased mutual understanding, constructive narrative, respect for diversity, and trust in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo\*. (Budget for Serbia - 1.150,893 USD)

### Migration JP

The JP builds on the recognition that good migration governance requires an inclusive approach to sectoral development planning, coupled with capacities for evidence-generation and policy design and implementation. It aims to promote data-driven migration policy and planning in the Republic of Serbia, through developing national and local capacities and expertise in comprehensive migration data collection and analysis, combining migration policy with sustainable development planning. The project was approved last year, but due to lack of funding, has not kickstarted yet. It will be implemented by IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR. (Budget - 2 Mill USD).

### Disability Project

In June 2022 the Expression of Interest submitted by Serbia UNCT to the UN PRPD fund has been confirmed for funding in total value of USD 400,000. The aim of the UNCT is to increase the funding under the disability inclusion joint programme with the mix resources for up to 1 Mill USD. The aim of the project is to accelerate the implementation of CRPD and the National Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia.

### Air Pollution

A joint project is under development with UNEP as the lead.



## 2. HUMAN RIGHTS

### UN Serbia joint reporting on human rights

Following the UNCT Serbia reporting to the **UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** in December 2021, findings and recommendations included in the submission were successfully featured in the **Concluding observations in April 2022**. This joint submission pointed out the progress in the normative areas of gender equality, anti-discrimination and prevention of domestic violence, as well as in the access to private life for the LGBTI community. Remaining gaps and challenges have been reported in practice as concerns some of the main groups in focus, such as the Roma or persons with disabilities.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted De-institutionalization Strategy in **January** incorporating important suggestions provided in the joint UNCT submission, and UNCT is participating in the development of the related **Action Plan**. The Strategy stresses the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Serbia to the transformation of systemic institutionalization, while also referring to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as the main source of normative standards in the field of rights of persons with disabilities. In **February**, the Government adopted the **Anti-Discrimination Strategy** with incorporated comments and suggestions provided by UNCT Serbia in the joint submission to the development process. As a continuation, the support to the Government is ongoing for the development of the related **Action Plan** for the Anti-Discrimination Strategy.

The RC co-chaired the launch meeting of the the development of the Strategy for creating enabling environment for the civil society organizations and is the observer of the process of developing the related Action Plan for this Strategy.

**The tool for mainstreaming the LNOB principles** by the State authorities, is being developed by the RCO, UN Human Rights Team and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue. [Full brochure](#).



**The tool will guide policymakers in defining and addressing those that are most left behind in all law and policy developments.**



**It is expected to be effectively implemented after the formation of the new Government, in the second part of 2022.**

### Gender

The government of Serbia declared the **11th of June** as the **Day of Gender Equality**, a long term advocacy point of UN Gender Thematic Group.

The UN Interagency Group for **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** developed the **UNCT Serbia PSEA Pamphlet**. The document outlines i/ definitions and key behaviours considered as SEA/SH, ii/ provides key comparable elements of the UN and Serbia policy framework against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, iii/ outlines key PSEA standards for UN staff and personnel, as well as reporting pathways for each UN entity with a physical presence in the country with up-to-date contact information.

The PSEA pamphlet was distributed among all UN staff in Serbia, to ensure that every member of our teams is able to recognize wrongdoings, and have available, handy information on the reporting pathways, and support services.

### Transitional Justice, Hate Speech & Social Cohesion

A draft Plan of Action to address Hate Speech was developed by the UNCT Serbia, with support from the visiting representatives of the UN Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, in line with the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Countering and Addressing Hate Speech. Consultations took place with representatives of State authorities, development partners, and civil society. **The draft Action Plan was integrated in the UNCT wider plan for Supporting Social Cohesion and Building Trust 2022-2024.** It envisages activities and outputs related to transitional justice and combating hate speech, with all stakeholders, including state, municipal, religious, and citizens.

### 3. IMPACTS OF THE UKRAINE CRISIS



■ Inter-agency group to monitor the developments related to Ukraine crisis to Serbia is established. Overview of support by agencies identified, needs assessment by the Commissioner for Refugees and Migrants.

■ Joint SDF Fund/Emergency window financed the UN Joint Programme “Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock - responsiveness” to be implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR. The intervention to be completed by the end of year, focus on catalyzing a strengthened shock responsive social

protection system to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the consecutive crisis that hit the country - such as Covid and Ukraine crisis. (budget - 250,000 USD).

■ A four pager with an analysis of the socio-economic impact of the Ukraine crisis for the Serbian economy and society, with a focus on the most vulnerable households, was prepared in early March and updated subsequently on a monthly basis. It was shared with the UNCT and development partners.

### 4. STRATEGIC FINANCING & PARTNERSHIPS



#### Strengthening the Civil society as a continuous endeavour from the RCO

In a co-leadership of RC/UN Women/UNOB representatives, Open-Door meeting with Women NGOs was organized in UN House in June, focusing on the challenges that women in Serbia continue to face when pursuing public office in public institutions, particularly local level institutions and during the election process. Women’s participation in politics and public life is a crucial element in achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy. It facilitates women’s direct engagement in public decision-making, increases attention on priority issues for women, and is a means of ensuring better accountability to women, who make up roughly half of the population. The Open-Door concept allows a free flow of information between UN agencies and NGOs, where NGO representatives can express their opinion with Chatham house rules, in a safe house, and share areas of concern and proposition for actions.

#### Enhanced partnership with the Private Sector & Global Compact Network in Serbia

As an ex-officio member of the Global Compact Steering Committee, the RC participated in the Steering Committee session in June and provided support in the strategic direction for the development of the local network in Serbia. The RC reiterated that the increase in network memberships by attracting mid-size companies is crucial for the success of the network, along with increased outreach to companies outside of Belgrade. The role of the private sector in the green transformation was highlighted as one of the priorities, as well as the decent jobs agenda.

RC supported two sessions of SDG Working Group organized by Global Compact on the Vulnerable Groups employment by the private sector in April, and Environmental policies in June 2022. Over 50 companies’ representatives participated in both sessions and discussed the opportunities for companies to engage employees from Roma settlements and other vulnerable groups, as well as the issue of widespread stigma toward LGBTIQ employees in the private sector. Another aspect of discussion included topics of waste management, the issue of tax for food donation, and the usage of key environmental SDG indicators for enhancing the operations of the Serbian companies aligned with the main principles of sustainability.

RCO initiated the negotiation with the Serbian Chamber of commerce with the aim to facilitate the strategic partnerships between the Chamber and the UN. It is intended that parties will operationalize the MoU in the second half of the year, focusing on food safety, environment and climate, private sector and sustainable urban policies, ISO Standards, and Economic opportunities for vulnerable categories of the population.

#### UN’s engagement in Sector Working Groups

SWG on Home Affairs Sector – held on June 17 – RG3  
SWG on Justice Sector – held on May 20 – RG3

#### Expanding the partnership with EU/IFIs

Inputs to the Serbia 2022 EU Report: RCO coordinated the collection and submission of UN inputs (14 Agencies) to Serbia 2022 EU Report.

[RC engagement with the government of Serbia](#)

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY



### Selected RC's advocacy at high-level events (national/international)

**Conference Human Rights in Digital Age** on 24 Feb in presence of the Minister of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Ambassador of Sweden to Serbia, Ambassador of Portugal and UNICEF Serbia Director. RC's key advocacy messages on digital rights through new youth strategy, work on VaW, hate speech and upholding ongoing work on international conventions. She also invited for nurturing values of peace, solidarity, compassion, joy, inclusiveness, and transparency. Conference is organized by the Color Press Group.

**International Women's Day** – On 8 March RC visited the city and mayor of Krusevac. She stressed the importance of enhanced cooperation with UN agencies in order to improve position of women at local level.

**Kopaonik International Business Forum** – On 8 March RC advocated for just and people centered transition and shifting the narrative from threat to opportunity at the World Bank/IFC panel 'Challenges and Opportunities for Serbia's Green Transition'.

At the Multilateral meeting **We Stand for Women and Girls** organized in March by Deputy Prime Minister/President of Coordination Body for Gender Equality with participation of Serbian Commissioner for Refugees, diplomatic community and UN agencies, the RC advocated for full participation of women and children in peace, humanitarian and security processes.

**National Urban Forum** – Ahead of WUF global event, at the National Urban Forum, RC stressed the importance of LSGs and civil society in accelerating SDG11 & revise national urban strategy anchored in green transformation, fight against pollution, energy efficiency, sustainable transport strategies and better housing for all. Other keynote speakers included Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, representatives of MFA, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and UN Habitat.

On **World Biodiversity Day at the Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad**, RC advocates for low carbon transformation of food systems to protect soils and nurture biodiversity, boost short value chains, provide decent livelihoods for smallholders. Other participants included Assistant Minister for Agriculture, representative of Hungarian Embassy in Belgrade, etc.

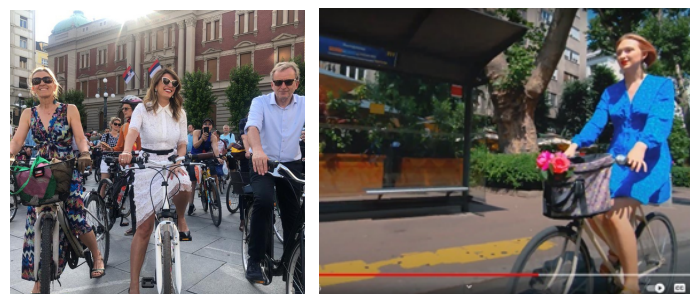
**SDGs4All - Synergies Toward Sustainable Future conference** (8 Jun) – Strong advocacy interventions on green agenda beyond energy transition and just transition in presence of Minister for EU Integration, Special Adviser to PM in charge of the 2030 Agenda, representatives of Swiss and German embassies.

At the **World Urban Forum in Katowice** – ONE UN Roundtable – the RC stressed the importance of sustainable urban development with people centered approach, effective partnerships, integration of green transformation agenda, effective/transparent governance, budgeting and finance; involvement of private sector in accountable manner.

### Communications actions around UN Observance Day

From 26 May until 7 June multiple communications and advocacy activities on the occasions of the **World Bicycle** and the **World Environment** days.

The activities included joint campaign and Bike Chic event co-organized by the UN, Embassy of Netherlands and cycling association Ulice za Bicikliste in presence of Minister of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications. The events promoted sustainable urban transport, climate action, ecosystem restoration and individual role in climate action. Ten days campaigns reached 53 media hits on all main national TV channels and online portals. In addition, social media campaign reached more than 181,000 people across channels.



**International Day for Countering Hate Speech** - As part of the global and regional efforts to counter hate speech, digital media campaign #NoToHate (#ZaustaviMrznju) was launched in early June and coordinated between UN RCOs in Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Montenegro. Campaign reached more than 100,000 people in Serbia only. In addition, RC's op-ed on hate speech has been featured in Politika Daily on the occasion of 18 June. [Full text.](#)



**Other key observances** - in addition to long-term campaigns and events, other UN observances that were marked jointly/supported by RCO communications included: International Women's Day, World Drug Day, World Oceans Day, Biodiversity Day, Earth Day, World Health Day, Education Day, etc.

### Other key initiatives

Following the launch of the CF, series of communications products developed to promote key strategic areas of work between the UN and the government. This included press releases, videos with RC and heads of agencies and dedicated visuals for each of the three priorities. Total reach across channels is more than 78,000 people.



**Annual Report 2021** - key results promoted and cross-posted in series of infographics, videos and visuals and resulting in 15,000 reach



**Free and Equal campaign** - HR Team/RCO continued awareness raising activities on multiple channels on the occasions of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia and International Transgender Day of Visibility. The campaign featured testimonials of LGBTIQ+ activists and important data showcasing position of this group in Serbia. Campaign reached more than 65,000 people on multiple channels.



■ RCO coordinated the participation of UN staff in the Belgrade Marathon. This year the UN team ran #WithRefugees and sent the strong message on peace and solidarity by supporting the UNHCR and spreading awareness on rights and culture of refugee people.

■ UN Serbia website localized and launched in Serbian language in March. [See more.](#)

■ UN Serbia newsletter launched in July 2022. It will be published on a quarterly basis. [See more.](#)

■ First [UN Serbia Thematic Update on Food Systems](#) published in March. Mini social media campaign on food systems launched in July.

■ Key SG messages on Ukrainian crisis amplified on social media channels.

## 6. BUSINESS INNOVATION & OPERATIONS



### Piloting the CBO/LSSC in Serbia

Activities related to CBO/LSSC in Serbia during this period were on standby, while the high level interagency committee decided whether or not Serbia should continue to pilot the initiative. Next steps are:

- DCO to update cost-benefit analysis (CBA) based on full scope - services short-listed by office plus any additional services from the 66 required services (August)

- Engagement with UNDP in their role as lead entity (August)

- Presentation to UNCT and OMT on status, updated CBA, and next steps (September)

- UNDP to put together Service Offer based on template to be provided by UNDCO (September-October)

- Explore opportunities to leverage ServiceNow for the LSSC case management (October-November)



### UNCT Staff Movement

- Francesca Bonelli, UNHC Representative assumed her new duties as UNHCR representative in Moldova. Stephanie Krausse is Representative a.i. until further notice.
- Francine Pickup, UNDP Representative assumed her new duties as UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator & Deputy Director in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. Yakup Beris has been appointed as Resident Representative for Serbia.
- Constantine Palicarsky is the new Regional Adviser (anti-corruption and asset recovery) for South-Eastern Europe and Head of the UNODC Programme Office in Belgrade.
- Milan Markovic, Human Rights Programme Officer and Head of UN Human Rights Team assumed his new duties as OHCHR Deputy Representative in Brussels.
- Sasa Stamenkovic, new RCO Administrative Assistant joins the team. Chunli Deng, RCO UNV from China leaves the team in March.