

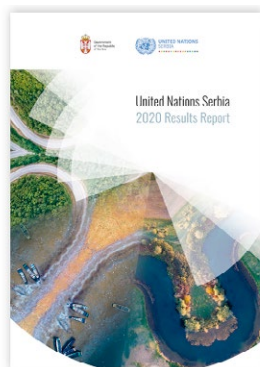


1. STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCELERATION



UNSDCF 2021-2025

- Final Draft of the Cooperation Framework shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Final validation.
- UN SDCF Internal governance arrangements established, Results and Theme Groups work started.
- UNCT Work Plan 2021 prepared and endorsed.
- Joint Work Plans 2021 prepared.
- UN SDCF Funding Framework final draft prepared.
- UNSDCF Communications Strategy 2021-2025 developed and implemented.



- UNCT's good performance in the area of gender equality caught the attention from colleagues at DCO. Ahead of International Women's Day (IWD), the UN Serbia [listicle/story on Gender Equality](#) was published on global UN SDG Website. The listicle encompasses numerous stories and actions across sectors that UN agencies in Serbia are undertaking to change gender norms and advance equality on all fronts in Serbia.

Reporting

In late March, the United Nations in Serbia launched [2020 Progress Report](#) for the Development Cooperation Framework 2016-2020. The report encompasses collective action of 20 UN entities working to support the Government and people of Serbia in achieving national development priorities and 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Joint Training

- SDG Leadership lab (Presencing Institute) – conducted.

Visits

- DCO Regional Director for ECA Region visit and high-level meetings organized (end of April).
- Sub-regional meeting of Resident coordinators organized and hosted in Belgrade (end of April).

Advocacy and Communications

Gender Equality

- **On 18 January, RC delivered opening remarks at the event** Social Dialogue for Gender Equality in Serbia, facilitated by the newly appointed Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue. RC highlighted the need for advancement of relevant legislation and strategic and action plans for GE; coordination on implementation of these laws and strategies across sectors; awareness raising and usage of positive narratives; and



Members of the group receiving Women Courage Award.
Photo: © AVON Serbia press

- On IWD 2021, the United Nations gathered women who demonstrated leadership in their communities within UN agencies projects to discuss equality during COVID19 and beyond. The participants of the [Women's Day Coffee Jamming](#) concluded that education, employment, solidarity with each other and good communication are crucial for the status of women, whose empowerment must be in focus in the future.
- On the occasion of IWD, RC delivered [opening remarks](#) at the Ring the Bell for Gender Equality, IWD event organized by Belgrade Stock Exchange and UN Global Compact Network Serbia. RC highlighted that gender equality, successful inclusion and representation of women in all economic and political areas leads to greater productivity, better conditions for all generations, and a healthier society.



Women's Day Coffee Jam/Piroshki Photo

- RC expanded partnerships and advocacy towards women CSOs and facilitated two consultations sessions related to 1) UNSDCF gender mainstreaming 2) Sustainability of SOS helpline services provided by women CSOs.

Green Agenda and SDGs

- In May 2021, a webinar on Air pollution from domestic heating in Serbia - impacts, challenges and solutions was organized and delivered by the UN multi-agency Task Team on Air Pollution under the Regional Issue-Based

Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change and facilitated by the RCO. The webinar focused on the solutions available to the air pollution challenge, within the context of what is being already done or planned. It provided some strategic direction for a UN + partners intervention over the coming years, in support of national and municipal strategies.

- In cooperation with the UNRCO and UNEP Regional Office for Europe, a new project has been initiated **to strengthen data and indicator framework for monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs**. The project aims to support the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia by building capacities of the competent authorities and improving the availability of environment-related indicators as a contribution to the update of the Voluntary National Review.

To support this process, **SDG Data Workshop was organized on 25 May 2021 as a hybrid event with over 50 participants from the Government institutions, international organizations and UN agencies' representatives. Presentation of selected indicator methodologies (3.9.1, 12.3.1, 12.6.1) and country reporting experiences were made by FAO, UNEP and Environment Agency Austria.**

2. BUILDING FORWARD BETTER, IN HARMONY WITH NATURE, WHILE ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND



- RC expanded partnerships with the Prime Minister office and National Convent on EU and contributed to three dialogue events related to 1) Serbia national SDG plan 2) Green agenda 3) Agriculture and regional development.
- RC expended partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Dialogue. Multiple advocacy interventions at the high level social dialogues on gender equality, LGBTI rights, SDGs, social protection and Roma issues.
- On 5 March, multiple advocacy interventions on green energy transition at the panel "Energy transition: Cohesion. Or collision?" Event was organized by think tank Res Foundation, and attended by many national, regional, international experts in the field.
- RCO participated in two events of special relevance to MSMEs: a UNECE event launching a report on [Technical and Administrative Barriers to Trade in Serbia](#) and a [Conference on "Why should a company introduce standards and what are the benefits?"](#) organized by the Chamber of Commerce. The events were organized on the occasion of World Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Day.

- From 27 May until 5 June multiple communications and advocacy activities on the occasions of World Bicycle and World Environment days. The activities included joint campaign and event co-organized by the UN, EU Delegation to Serbia, Embassy of Netherlands and cycling association Ulice za Bicikliste. The events promoted sustainable urban transport, climate action, ecosystem restoration and individual role in climate action. Seven days campaign reached 40 media hits on all main national TV channels and online portals. In addition, social media campaign reached more than 160,000 people.



3. OPERATIONALIZING THE SG'S PREVENTION VISION, POST COVID19



- UNCT Serbia PSEA mechanism activated, embedded into the HR LNOB thematic group, with stand-alone TOR and by annual Action Plan endorsed.
- In June, the RC, on behalf has signed the first Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) which strengthens the commitment of the UNCT to undertake human rights compliance assessment over its support to the non-UN security forces in the country. The implementation of the HRDDP, as the system wide policy, will be conducted by the Human Rights and LNOB Theme Group, under the overall accountability of the RC, with advisory support from the HRA.
- WHO, UNDP and UNICEF created a National Vaccination Strategic Communication and Community Engagement Plan. The plan supported the Government and the Institute of Public Health" to launch a campaign and website, create brochures, posters, billboards, and other communication materials. The ultimate objective is to boost the vaccination coverage in the country.

Communications and Advocacy

- [Joint interview](#) on building forward better with RC/UNDP RR/ UNICEF Representative and IMF RR published in the birthday issue of the Diplomacy and Commerce Magazine.
- Strong messages on recovering better together, multilateral cooperation and solidarity delivered by the RC at the 18th [Belgrade Model UN](#) (BIMUN) conference which gathered around 200 students from 19 to 23 May.

COVID Response

- Serbia has received two deliveries of the COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX mechanism, with UNICEF playing a key role in the procurement, transport, and delivery. So far, 177,660 vaccine doses have been delivered to Serbia through COVAX. New deliveries will follow.



4. STRATEGIC FINANCING AND PARTNERSHIPS



- RC, as an ex-officio member of the Global Compact Steering Committee, participated at the GCLN Serbia Steering Committee meeting in March 2021, and contributed to the global consultations on Global Compact 5-years enlargement strategy in June 2021.
- Analyses of Serbia's Financial landscape for the SDGs in accordance with INFF 4 blocks approach (Domestic Public, Domestic Private, International Public and International Private Finance) finalized. The Financial landscape analyses will serve as bases for developing the CCA update on Financing for Development/SDGs.

5. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND AND HUMAN RIGHTS



- Joint UN project approved by MPTF Migrations Fund steering committee on June 15th session. Participating agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, value of the project: \$ 2,000,000.
- Joint project "Dialogue for Future" funded by PBF finalized in April.
- The UNCT submitted its first mid-term report to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council through the coordination by the HRA and RCO. The re-

port was structured as a quantified and qualitative measurement of progress as regards the UPR recommendations addressed to Serbia in 2018.

- The UNCT has, through the HRLNOB Group coordination, submitted joint substantive inputs into the preparation of several policies and laws at the national level, namely Law on Anti-Discrimination, Law on Gender Equality, draft Law on Same Sex Partnerships, Strategy on the Prevention of Violence, Strategy on Deinstitutionalization and Law on the Ombudsman, among other. The expert inputs jointly submitted by the UNCT were welcomed by decision makers and widely accepted with an aim of achieving higher compliance with international human rights standards.
- The HRA and the RC/O have coordinated the implementation of the Disability Inclusion Scorecards assessment, in line with the UNDIS Strategy, which resulted in an action plan to be implemented by the UNCT in 2021/2022.

Multiple advocacy activities around the Human Rights and Building Forward Better including:

- [UNRC Statement](#) on 14 January at the session of the UN Human Rights Council - Building Back Better: Integrating Human Rights in Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID19 pandemic. RC highlighted to use the momentum "to push for a deeper change for the full realization of human rights, during and beyond COVID-19, based on solidarity, shared responsibility and mutual accountability, in the spirit of LNOB".
- [UNRC Statement](#) 10 March on Social Dialogue on the Draft Law on Same Sex Partnerships. RC reiterated UNCT's support the community and the institutions to create partnerships for diversity and equality and push harder to adopt a progressive and ambitious legal text, fully in line with the UN Human Rights standards and conventions, the LNOB Principle of Agenda 2030, as well as with the European values, principles and legal framework. The event was organized by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, and attended by few relevant ministers and international partners, with support from the UNCT.

- The UNCT Human Rights and LNOB Theme Group, co-chaired by the RC and the Human Rights Adviser, has been created under the UNSDCF and met two times. In addition to system-wide and preventive UN frameworks (such as UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, C2A for Human Rights, PSEA), the Group is tasked with strengthening the mainstreaming of the human rights-based approach and LNOB principle across the UNCT, its programming and advocacy.
- Thematic update on Gender and Human rights issued by Gender and Human Rights LNOB groups
- On International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia a 5 days social media campaign has been launched to support national efforts to legalize same-sex partnerships. The campaign was organized within the global UN Free and Equal campaign and reached more than 72,000 people on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.



6. BUSINESS INNOVATION AND OPS



- CBO multiple consultations between UNCT, RC, DCO unit
- Roll out of the CBO involving 11 agencies in progress. Two online missions with CBO team from New York organized.
- UNCT Serbia's Comprehensive Salary Survey prepared and started in June, expected to be finalized in fourth quarter of 2021



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