



UNITED  
NATIONS  
BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA

# Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

# 2021- 2025

A Partnership for Sustainable Development



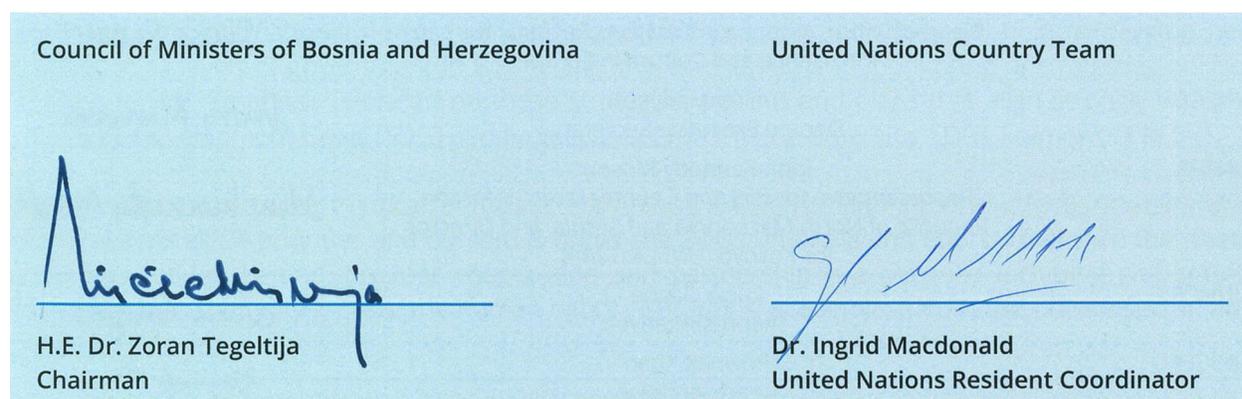
## Declaration of commitment

The authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the United Nations (UN) are committed to working together to achieve priorities in BiH. These are expressed by:

- ▶ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets<sup>1</sup> as expressed in the emerging SDG Framework in BiH and domesticated SDG targets<sup>2</sup>;
- ▶ Future accession to the European Union, as expressed in the Action Plan for implementation of priorities from the European Commission Opinion and Analytical Report<sup>3</sup>;
- ▶ The Joint Socio-Economic Reforms ('Reform Agenda'), 2019-2022<sup>4</sup>; and
- ▶ The human rights commitments of BiH and other agreed international and regional development goals and treaty obligations<sup>5</sup> and conventions.

This Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF), adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers at its 22nd Session on 16 December 2020 and reconfirmed by the BiH Presidency at its 114<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session on 5 March 2021, will guide the work of authorities in BiH and the UN system until 2025. This framework builds on the successes of our past cooperation and it represents a joint commitment to work in close partnership for results as defined in this Cooperation Framework that will help all people in BiH to live longer, healthier and more prosperous and secure lives.

In signing hereafter, the cooperating partners endorse this Cooperation Framework and underscore their joint commitments toward the achievement of its results.



Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

1 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

2 Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH (SDG Framework), Working Draft, June 2019;

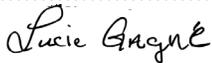
3 Action Plan for implementation of priorities from the European Commission Analytical Report and Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019. For the purposes of the CF, it is an assumption that the main lines of work in the Action Plan will continue beyond 2020.

4 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022. The Government of Republika Srpska endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 41<sup>st</sup> regular session on 10 October 2019. The Government of Federation of BiH endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 194<sup>th</sup> regular session on 10 October 2019. The Council of Ministers endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session on 30 January 2020. The priorities align strongly with the recommendations from the EU opinion and the priorities from the emerging SDG Framework in BiH.

5 In line with accepted recommendations and decisions of human rights mechanisms Universal Human Rights Index, recommendations addressed to BiH <https://uhri.ohchr.org/en/Summary/Country>

## Signatures

In witness thereof, the undersigned<sup>6</sup>, being duly authorized, have signed this Bosnia and Herzegovina and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2021-2025 on <day, month> 2020 in Sarajevo, underscoring their joint commitment to its priorities and cooperation results.

UN Agency	Name and Title	Signature
FAO	Nabil Gangi Deputy Regional Representative, Head of Country Office	
ILO	Markus Pilgrim Director of the ILO Office for Central and Eastern Europe	
IOM	Laura Lungarotti Chief of Mission and Sub-regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans	
OHCHR	Jose Maria Aranaz Chief of the Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch	
UNDP	Steliana Nedera Resident Representative	
UNEP	Bruno Pozzi Director, Europe Office	
UNDRR	Octavian Bivol, Chief Regional Office for Europe	
UNESCO	Siniša Šešum Head of Office, Antenna in Sarajevo, Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe	
UNECE	Dmitry Mariyasin Deputy Executive Secretary	
UNFPA	John Kennedy Mosoti Representative for BiH and Country Director for the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia, and Director for Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)	
UNHCR	Lucie Gagné Representative	
UNICEF	Rownak Khan Representative	
UNODC	Alexandre Schmidt Regional Representative	
UNV	Toily Kurbanov Executive Coordinator	
UN Women	David Saunders Representative	
WHO	Fabio Scano Acting representative	

<sup>6</sup> UN system agencies in alphabetical order.

## Executive Summary

This Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) between authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the United Nations (UN) system describes four strategic priorities and five cooperation outcomes and how they will contribute to priorities in BiH expressed by:

- ▶ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets<sup>7</sup> as expressed in the emerging *SDG Framework in BiH and domesticated SDG targets*<sup>8</sup>;
- ▶ Future accession to the European Union, as expressed in the Action Plan for implementation of priorities from the European Commission Opinion and Analytical Report<sup>9</sup>;
- ▶ The Joint Socio-Economic Reforms ('Reform Agenda'), 2019-2022<sup>10</sup>; and
- ▶ The human rights commitments of BiH and other agreed international and regional development goals and treaty obligations<sup>11</sup> and conventions.

The CF builds-upon extensive consultations about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in BiH that were initiated in April 2017. These catalyzed the preparation of the BiH Voluntary Review of progress toward SDG achievement and the draft SDG Framework in BiH, and they informed the UN system's Common Country Analysis. These reports highlight major gaps and challenges for achieving the 2030 Agenda, to which the priorities and outcomes of the CF respond.

The authorities in BiH and the UN system have mutual accountability for the achievement of planned CF results. Based on their comparative advantages, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and they will help to develop new capacities at all levels of government in BiH for the implementation and monitoring of strategies, policies and plans in BiH. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and targets as set forth in the emerging SDGs Framework in BiH.

Other development actors are critical for the success of this CF. Given its comprehensive focus on vulnerable groups<sup>12</sup> across all CF priorities and outcomes under the SDGs umbrella and efforts to ensure that these groups are not left behind, broader cooperation and partnership is envisioned including civil society groups, NGOs, community groups, the human rights institutions, academia, media, the private sector, and

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7 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

8 Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH (SDG Framework), Working Draft, June 2019;

9 Action Plan for implementation of priorities from the European Commission Analytical Report and Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019. For the purposes of the CF, it is an assumption that the main lines of work in the Action Plan will continue beyond 2020.

10 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022. The Government of Republika Srpska endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 41<sup>st</sup> regular session on 10 October 2019. The Government of Federation of BiH endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 194<sup>th</sup> regular session on 10 October 2019. The Council of Ministers endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session on 30 January 2020. The priorities align strongly with the recommendations from the EU opinion and the priorities from the emerging SDG Framework in BiH.

11 In line with accepted recommendations and decisions of human rights mechanisms Universal Human Rights Index, recommendations addressed to BiH <https://uhri.ohchr.org/en/Summary/Country>

12 Vulnerable groups: Households below the BiH poverty line (17% 2015), and those headed by women and younger people, victims of domestic violence and war-time victims of rape, disadvantaged children and young people, people with disabilities, unemployed persons, the Roma, LGBTI, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), minority returnees, refugees and asylum seekers, persons under subsidiary protection, persons at risk of statelessness, victims of human trafficking, and groups of people at risk from climate change and natural disasters. There are other vulnerable groups in BiH that are not the primary focus of UN system cooperation: Elderly isolated persons, alcohol and drug addicts, prisoners and former prisoners, persons living with HIV and AIDS.

international partners. This is expected to leverage greater capacities and resources, including financing, toward achievement of the CF results and SDGs targets in BiH. This will increase participation of these stakeholders and groups in decision-making, leading to more informed and sustainable policies, and more effective and accountable public institutions.

The strategic priorities and outcomes for cooperation are:

## I. Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth

» **Outcome 1.** By 2025, people benefit from resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth ensured by the convergence of economic development and management of environment and cultural resources

Cooperation will promote the implementation of strategies and policies for economic growth that is more inclusive, sustainable and resilient, especially in the context of the negative socio-economic impacts caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The UN system will support a stronger policy and regulatory environment and stimulus measures to enable low-carbon development, spur business development and increased competitiveness, and support the creation of green and decent jobs, complemented by environmental action

## II. Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection

» **Outcome 2.** By 2025, people benefit from more inclusive and higher quality educational programmes focused on 21st century skills for enhanced employability, well-being and active participation in society

The educational performance of all young people is instrumental for their employment success in a modern, EU-oriented labour market<sup>13</sup>. The cooperation outcome is to create conditions for more inclusive and higher quality education that offers 21st century skills to all children and young people

» **Outcome 3.** By 2025, people have access to better quality and inclusive health and social protection systems

In line with the priorities in BiH, quality, affordable public health care and social protection and welfare services will contribute improved more resilient, secure livelihoods and stronger economic performance. The cooperation outcome is to create conditions for more efficient, fair, and inclusive health care and social protection and social welfare systems and services. Efforts to analyse and find efficiencies in spending and services and equity for vulnerable groups<sup>14</sup> will be a major focus of cooperation. This is urgent, given the ageing population, out-migration, and the COVID-19 pandemic that are placing strain on existing social protection and social welfare services.

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<sup>13</sup> World Bank's Human Capital Index. A child born in BiH today will reach only 62% of their productive potential when they grow up as compared to a child born in countries with best education and health care. When assessing education in BiH, the report shows that on average children can expect to complete 11.7 years of schooling by age 18. However, this is only equivalent to 8.6 years of effective learning.

<sup>14</sup> UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\): Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), A/HRC/43/17, 19 December, 2019.

### III. People centered governance and rule of law

» **Outcome 4.** By 2025, people contribute to, and benefit from more accountable and transparent governance systems that deliver quality public services, and ensure rule of law

More accountable and transparent governance systems will enable the authorities in BiH to partner more effectively with people to shape and deliver more responsive policies, laws and public services, including in response to natural hazards and emergency situations, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic and the refugees and migrant situation in the country. Efforts will also focus on leveraging technology to modernize public performance and support digital governance and increasing women's participation in political and economic decision-making.

### IV. Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion

» **Outcome 5.** By 2025, there is stronger mutual understanding, respect and trust among individuals and communities

This is an enabler for all other outcomes and for the EU accession and SDG-related priorities of authorities in BiH. Increased levels of mutual respect, trust and empathy between people and communities across all of BiH will help to address the reconciliation deficit and contribute to greater social cohesion and stability. Without these, efforts to diversify the economy, strengthen the quality of and delivery of basic services, and enhance governance and rule of law cannot succeed.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each of the priorities and outcomes embody a nexus of important changes. To sustain linkages between the outcomes, the authorities in BiH and the UN system will engage with a diverse range of partners and stakeholders and pursue cross-sectoral approaches, including mechanisms to encourage greater inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination for enhanced planning, implementation, and monitoring in line with international standards.

The authorities in BiH and the UN system will employ cost-effective and coherent mechanisms to plan, finance, deliver, monitor and report on CF results and their expected contribution to priorities in BiH and selected SDG targets. Joint oversight will be exercised by a Steering Committee comprising the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), UN Country Team, and representatives of the authorities in BiH. A Programme Management Team will provide technical coordination for effective implementation and performance monitoring on the basis of a detailed Joint Work Plan (JWP). The JWP is a key document to review progress on an annual basis, identify lessons, and adjust strategy and resources for greater impact.

The CF joins the work of the UN system in a single coherent framework that provides a platform for common policy advice and advocacy and stronger coordination and delivery of results in cooperation with the authorities in BiH, civil society, communities, the private sector, academia and international partners. These results will support the ongoing transformation of the economy and society toward sustainable economic growth and inclusive prosperity with renewed efforts to give young women and men reasons to stay and to create a more prosperous future for BiH<sup>15</sup>.

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15 '...stem the persisting brain drain and allow youth and women to unleash their full potential' Reform Agenda, *ibid.*,1.



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

### United Nations System Agencies

<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNSDG</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Group	<b>UNRC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme	<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme	<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>WB (IBRD)</b>	World Bank
		<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

### Other

<b>ALMP</b>	Active labour market policy or programme	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring & evaluation
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Assessment	<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institution(s)
<b>CF</b>	Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	<b>MEA</b>	Multilateral environmental agreement
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon dioxide (Greenhouse gas)	<b>MTEF</b>	Medium-term expenditure framework
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organisation	<b>NCD</b>	Non-communicable disease
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster risk reduction	<b>RBM</b>	Results Based Management
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	<b>RG</b>	CF Outcome Results Groups
<b>ECD/ ECE</b>	Early childhood development/ education	<b>SALW</b>	Small arms and light weapons

<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment	<b>SC</b>	CF Steering Committee
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>SMEs</b>	Small and medium enterprises
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender equality and women's empowerment	<b>SOE</b>	State-owned enterprise
<b>GhG</b>	Greenhouse Gases	<b>TVET</b>	Technical and vocational education and training
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development I	<b>UNFCCC</b>	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>JWP</b>	Joint work plan (for outcomes in CF)	<b>UPR</b>	Universal periodic review
		<b>VR</b>	Voluntary review of progress toward the SDGs

### International Human Rights Instruments

<b>CAT</b>	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CED</b>	Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
<b>CERD</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
<b>CEC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>CMW</b>	Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review

**1**

**Introduction**

## 1.1 Purpose of the Cooperation Framework

1. The Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) between the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the United Nations (UN) system is a partnership for achieving results as defined in this Cooperation Framework for all people in BiH. The CF is based upon, and contributes to the achievement of priorities in BiH, expressed by:
  - ▶ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets<sup>16</sup> as expressed in the emerging SDG Framework in BiH and domesticated SDG targets<sup>17</sup>;
  - ▶ Future accession to the European Union, as expressed in the Action Plan for implementation of priorities from the European Commission Opinion and Analytical Report<sup>18</sup>;
  - ▶ The Joint Socio-Economic Reforms ('Reform Agenda'), 2019-2022<sup>19</sup>; and
  - ▶ The human rights commitments of BiH and other agreed international and regional development goals and treaty obligations<sup>20</sup> and conventions.
2. The CF builds-upon the extensive consultations about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in BiH that were initiated in April 2017 and further expanded in May 2018 and June 2019, involving altogether over 800 people, including representatives of authorities in BiH, civil society groups, the private sector, and academia. These consultations catalyzed the preparation of the BiH Voluntary Review of progress towards SDG achievement and the draft SDG Framework in BiH, and they informed the UN system's Common Country Analysis, a main analytical resource for the CF. These reports highlight the major gaps and challenges for achieving the 2030 Agenda, to which the priorities and outcomes of the CF respond<sup>21</sup>.
3. The CF joins the support of the UN system into a more effective whole. It provides a platform for coordinated policy advice and advocacy and stronger delivery of results in cooperation with the authorities in BiH, civil society, and communities. These results will support the ongoing transformation of the economy and society in BiH toward sustainable economic growth, the creation of decent jobs, modernized governance and service delivery, and inclusive prosperity with renewed efforts to give young women and men, as well as vulnerable groups<sup>22</sup>, reasons to stay and to create a more prosperous future for BiH<sup>23</sup>.
4. The authorities in BiH and the UN system have mutual accountability for the achievement of

16 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

17 Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH (SDG Framework), Working Draft, June 2019.

18 Action Plan for implementation of priorities from the European Commission (AP-EC) Analytical Report and Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019. For the purposes of the CF, it is an assumption that the main lines of work in the Action Plan will continue beyond 2020.

19 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms ('Reform Agenda') for the Period 2019-2022. The Government of Republika Srpska endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 41st regular session on 10 October 2019. The Government of Federation of BiH endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 194th regular session on 10 October 2019. The Council of Ministers endorsed the Reform Agenda at its 3rd regular session on 30 January 2020. The Reform Agenda priorities align strongly with the recommendations from the EU opinion and the priorities from the emerging SDG Framework in BiH.

20 In line with accepted recommendations and decisions of human rights mechanisms Universal Human Rights Index, recommendations addressed to BiH <https://uhri.ohchr.org/en/Summary/Country>

21 (1) The BiH Voluntary Review (VR), April 2019; (2) Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH (SDG Framework), Working Draft, June 2019; (3) UN Common Country Analysis for BiH (CCA), UN, 2019 (draft).

22 Vulnerable groups: Households below the BiH poverty line (17% 2015), and those headed by women and younger people, victims of domestic violence and war-time victims of rape, disadvantaged children and young people, people with disabilities, unemployed persons, the Roma, LGBTI, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), minority returnees, refugees and asylum seekers, persons at risk of statelessness, victims of human trafficking, and groups of people at risk from climate change and natural disasters. There are other vulnerable groups in BiH that are not the primary focus of UN system cooperation: Elderly isolated persons, alcohol and drug addicts, prisoners and former prisoners, persons living with HIV and AIDS.

23 '...stem the persisting brain drain and allow youth and women to unleash their full potential' Reform Agenda, *ibid.*, 1.'

planned CF results. Based on their comparative advantages, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and they will help to develop new capacities at all levels of government in BiH for the implementation and monitoring of strategies, policies and plans in BiH. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the SDGs and targets as set forth in the emerging SDGs Framework in BiH. Indicators for CF results are aligned with the domesticated SDGs targets and indicators. This helps to demonstrate a clear theory of change between the cooperation efforts by the authorities in BiH and the UN system and sustainable development results for all people in BiH.

5. Other development actors are critical for the success of this CF. Given its comprehensive focus on vulnerable groups across all CF priorities and outcomes under the SDGs umbrella and ensuring these groups are not left behind, CF results will be achieved in close

collaboration and broader partnership that also includes civil society groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, the human rights institutions in BiH, academia, media, the private sector, and international partners. This is expected to leverage greater capacities and resources, including financing, toward achievement of the CF results and the SDGs targets in BiH. This will increase participation of these stakeholders and groups in decision-making, leading to more informed and sustainable policies, and more effective and accountable public institutions.

6. This framework builds upon the successes of previous cooperation between the authorities in BiH and the UN system, including major lessons and recommendations from its evaluation<sup>24</sup>. It describes how the partners will work together to deliver results, including jointly managed coordination and implementation arrangements and effective progress monitoring and reporting.

## 1.2 Structure of the Cooperation Framework

7. The Cooperation Framework (CF) contains six parts. Following this introduction:
  - ▶ Part 2 offers a summary of the BiH development context, and trends and challenges that will influence the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs,
  - ▶ Part 3 describes the CF priorities and outcomes and how these will contribute to priorities and related SDGs in BiH. It also describes how BiH authorities and the UN system will work to ensure the sustainability of expected CF results,
  - ▶ Part 4 describes the overall governance of the

CF, including the mechanisms and processes for steering and, review, and adjustment, and

- ▶ Part 5 outlines the arrangements for monitoring, evaluation, and learning for the CF, based on the results matrix.

8. A summary of the theory of change is shown in Annex A. The full results matrix is provided in Annex B. Links between the CO outcomes and the human rights commitments of BiH are provided in Annex C. The standard legal annex for cooperation is in Annex D.

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24 T. Novovic and D. Babic, 2015-2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina: Final UNDAF Evaluation, May 2019. Major recommendations addressed by the new CF: Fewer, more focused outcomes; Intensification of normative work to bring international standards more fully into programming; Mainstreaming of gender-specific strategies, results (outputs) and indicators across all outcomes; Increased focus on young people and migrants; Expanded partnerships at local levels with CSOs and community groups; and Strengthened function of the Joint Steering Committee in terms of mutual oversight, commitment and accountability.



**Progress toward the  
2030 Agenda**

## 2.1 Context

9. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is an upper middle-income country of around 3.5 million people<sup>25</sup>. Accession to the European Union (EU) is an over-arching priority. Over two decades after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA)<sup>26</sup>, with its complex and fragmented governance and power-sharing arrangements, progress toward accession is constrained by limited reform progress. This is characterized by: frequent institutional deadlocks, political instability, lack of social cohesion<sup>27</sup> and trust, slow legislative processes, weak accountability mechanisms, and insufficient organizational capacities for participation in decision-processes at various level of governance in BiH. Aside from a broad consensus for joining the EU<sup>28</sup>, a shared vision for the country has been difficult to achieve<sup>29</sup>. Of critical importance, the population in BiH is shrinking and ageing. Out-migration is an urgent challenge, representing a loss of young people and skilled workers upon which future sustainable development will depend: 2 million citizens of BiH are currently working or residing abroad<sup>30</sup>—the highest share in the Western Balkans<sup>31</sup> and projections suggest the population could decline below 2.3 million by 2100<sup>32</sup>.
10. Administratively, BiH is comprised of two Entities: the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS), the Brčko District of BiH, and 10 cantons within the FBiH. Overall, BiH

has 14 constitutions and legal systems and more than 150 ministries. While responding to local accountability and representational concerns, this has had the effect of reducing the effectiveness of policy coherence and the delivery of effective public services. Furthermore, insufficient vertical and horizontal coherence in the development of laws and policies on human rights remains a challenge. While human rights obligations extend to all levels of governance within their allocated sphere of responsibilities, the state as a primary duty bearer will be ultimately held accountable for responding efficiently to human rights and humanitarian challenges.<sup>33</sup>

11. These challenges are aggravated by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that is unprecedented in its spread and impacts on human health and well-being. Globally, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts GDP per capita growth will decline by -3% in 2020, worse than during the 2007-2009 global financial crisis. While growth is predicted to rebound to over 5% in 2021, this assumes a fading of the pandemic in the second half of 2020, reduced control measures, a 'normalization' of economic activity, and restored consumer and investor confidence. The economic disruption and ongoing supply and demand shocks mean that global GDP at the end of 2021 is expected to remain below the pre-virus baseline of January 2020<sup>34</sup>.

25 2013 Population Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The results have been disputed by the Republika Srpska Government.

26 The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina- Initialled in Dayton on 21 November 1995 and signed in Paris on 14 December 1995, <https://www.osce.org/bih/126173?download=true>

27 For this CF, social cohesion is understood as the willingness of members of a society to cooperate with each other in order to survive and prosper.

28 The EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) and candidacy for EU accessions as agreed in 2015. BiH submitted its application for EU membership in 2016.

29 In its recent opinion on EU accession the EC notes the need for greater compliance with the Copenhagen political criteria requiring the stability of institutions and guarantees for democracy and the rule of law. EC, Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union, Brussels, 29 May 2019, 14.

30 BiH Ministry of Security, Migration Profile of BiH, 2018.

31 For more information on the methodology underpinning the UNDESA figures, see *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*.

32 UNDESA population projections in SDG Framework in BiH., *ibid.*, 7.

33 In accordance with articles 2 and 50 ICCPR and general comment No. 31 (2004) on the nature of the general legal obligation imposed on States parties to the Covenant.

34 (1) IMF, World Economic Report: The Great Lockdown, April 2020, 6-7; (2) UN, Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, Report of the Secretary General, March 2020.

12. The first cases of COVID-19 were detected in BiH on 06 March; as at 27 April, there were 1,516 cases and 58 deaths, with some indications that the infection curve is flattening<sup>35</sup>. Similar to all countries in the region, the pandemic has caused major socio-economic disruptions and it threatens the steady progress that BiH is making toward achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. In addition to capacity gaps in the health sector, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the challenges faced by highly decentralized governance systems when country-wide, cohesive responses and continued cooperation between the authorities in BiH as well as with international partners are needed. In line with international health recommendations, the authorities in BiH are acting swiftly to implement measures to contain the spread of the disease and to provide fiscal and monetary stimulus. Economic support packages are being finalized to counteract the supply, demand, and unemployment shocks that have accompanied social distancing, lockdowns, and reduced travel, trade, and commerce<sup>36</sup>.
13. Real GDP growth was 3% in 2018, relatively steady from 2015. Prior to the pandemic, growth was projected to increase to 3.3% by 2023 on the back of strong private consumption, public investment, and import demand from the EU<sup>37</sup>. These growth prospects are likely to be severely disrupted and the EBRD projects that GDP will now contract in 2020 by -3.9%<sup>38</sup>.
14. The COVID-19 pandemic may also have significant, negative implications for the realization of basic human rights, especially among vulnerable groups. Economic inequalities are prominent and may be aggravated by the pandemic. The Gini coefficient was 33 in 2017<sup>39</sup>. The poverty rate in 2015 was 17%, a 1-point reduction from 2011: Today over 170,000 households and half a million people in BiH are living below the BiH poverty line<sup>40</sup>.
15. Unemployment rates have fallen in recent years to below 20% but with a large informal labour market, migration, and non-participation only about one third of the working-age population, and one quarter of working-age women are employed<sup>41</sup>. Unemployment amongst young people (15-24) is much higher at 40% and 46% for women in 2019, but down from rates over 60% between 2012 and 2015<sup>42</sup>. The Coronavirus pandemic is altering radically the world of work, and worsening labour and work vulnerabilities for young people, as well as small and medium enterprises, the self-employed, and daily wage earners. There is a need of urgent short- and medium-term financial, economic and fiscal policy measures to replace lost incomes for all people and to ensure that human resources are not lost or degraded for the eventual return to normal economic activity.
16. Gender discrimination, a gender divide in the labour market and occupational segregation, and gender-based violence remain critical concerns<sup>43</sup>. For example, the shortfall in

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35 (1) WHO, [Dashboard-COVID-19 situation in the WHO European Region](#), dtd 27 April 2020; (2) UN in BiH, SITUATION REPORT #12, 24 April, 2020.

36 (1) UN in BiH, SITUATION REPORT #12, 24 April, 2020; (2) Karanovic & Partners, [Draft Laws on Mitigating the Negative Economic Consequences presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 20 April, 2020.

37 (1) World Bank, [GDP data](#), dtd February 2020. (2) EIU, Country Report for Bosnia Herzegovina, Sept 2019. Per-capita GDP levels in BiH were still projected to be less than 15% of EU averages by 2024. SDG Framework in BiH, *ibid.*, 12.

38 The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development reports that the COVID-19 crisis will slow economic growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. The projected GDP for Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2020 is -3.9%. EBRD, [Regional Economic Prospects, Covid-19: From Shock to Recovery](#), April 2020.

39 UNDP, HD data explorer <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BIH>. The Gini score of 32.7 is higher than in Serbia (28.5) and Albania (29.0), similar to Montenegro (31.9), and lower than in Macedonia (35.6).

40 T. Novovic and D. Babic, 2015-2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina: Final UNDAF Evaluation, May 2019. 16. Data from Directorate for Economic Planning. See: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC?locations=BA>. Poverty was higher among older population (65+) and children (age 0-14 years), as their respective poverty rates were 19.6% and 18.7%. Poverty rates were higher among households with unemployed head of household. Poverty rates are higher for rural areas (20.5%) than for urban (11.3%)

41 SDG Framework in BiH., *ibid* 13.

42 [ILO Stat](#) (modelled estimates), dtd February 2020.

43 UN Women, Gender Brief-Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 2019 (DRAFT); UNDAF Evaluation, *ibid.*, 17; SDG Framework in BiH., *ibid* 17-18.

women's share of income is over 50% in BiH, the highest in Western Balkans. In addition, substantial improvements are needed to address judicial independence and the protection of fundamental rights, particularly for women and vulnerable groups. While judicial mechanisms are at the core of ensuring access to remedy, non-judicial mechanism such as the human rights institutions in BiH (NHRIs) have an essential role in preventing human rights violations and facilitating access to remedy for vulnerable groups.

17. BiH is undergoing a long-term, complex and extremely challenging transition from a post-conflict society toward the path of EU membership. This is reflected in the ongoing struggle to find a common vision for the future of the country, including internal governing arrangements, and to generate stronger social cohesion. It further reveals the need to further promote protection of human rights, including remedies.

## 2.2 Vision for sustainable development

18. While BiH has yet to adopt a country-wide vision for sustainable development, strategic priorities are expressed by: (1) the SDGs and domesticated SDG targets, offered in the draft SDG Framework in BiH; (2) priorities associated with the process of the EU integration process as expressed in the European Commission Opinion and Analytical report of 2019<sup>44</sup>; (3) the related Joint Socio-Economic Reform for the period 2019-2022<sup>45</sup> ('Reform Agenda') that responds to the European Commission Opinion; and (4) the human rights commitments of BiH and other agreed international and regional development goals and treaty obligations and conventions. The Reform Agenda together with a detailed Action Plan of measures call for a rapid shift of the public sector from driver to regulator and catalyst of economic growth, in partnership with the private sector, and reforms to drive more cost-effective investment in people to improve their standard of living. A main focus of the Action Plan is to address key constraints identified by the EU with regard to the Copenhagen criteria for stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities<sup>46</sup>.

19. In 2018, with support of the UN, the authorities in BiH initiated a country-wide process involving

extensive consultations to roll-out the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to localize the SDGs and targets. A first BiH Voluntary Review was presented at the High-Level Political Forum in New York in 2019 and a working group representing all the authorities in BiH has produced a draft SDG Framework for BiH<sup>47</sup>. There are strong, complementary linkages between the pathways for achievement of domesticated SDG targets for BiH, the priority actions for EU candidacy, and regional frameworks, including the Western Balkans Action Plan<sup>48</sup>. The SDGs represent an important peace-building agenda as they address the drivers and root causes of instability and conflict. Together, these represent the critical, complementary guiding frameworks for cooperation between the authorities in BiH, the UN system and other collaborating partners for country-wide and local-level planning, implementation and monitoring for SDG achievement. Furthermore, they represent alignment points for Cooperation Frameworks beyond 2025. Progress toward achievement of domesticated SDG targets, as reported in regular BiH Voluntary Reports, will inform the preparation and implementation of successive Cooperation Frameworks, ensuring a country-wide vision for sustainable development.

44 EC, Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union, Brussels, 29 May 2019

45 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022, BiH authorities, October 2019.

46 EC Opinion, *ibid.*, 13.

47 Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH, June 2019 (DRAFT).

48 UN system-wide commitment to strengthen its support for trust-building and dialogue in the region, as agreed by UN leadership in 2019

## 2.3 Progress toward the SDGs

- 20.** The human development index (HDI) value for BiH in 2018 was 0.769— placing the country in the high human development category and 75th out of 189 countries and territories<sup>49</sup>. When discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.658, a loss of 14% due to inequality in the HDI variables. BiH has a gender inequality index (GII) value of 0.162, ranking it 38 out of 162 countries in 2018. This reflects impressive gains in life expectancy and reduced maternal mortality. Lagging indicators for BiH are access to secondary education, political representation, and low female participation and gender pay gap in the labour market.
- 21.** The HDI offers average measures of human well-being. It does not provide an understanding of vulnerability and social exclusion. The DPA created a complex governance structure with discriminatory provisions against minorities and non-constituent citizens (for example, see Sejdic-Finci case law). This structure has adversely affected the country's functionality, including reform efforts and progress towards EU integration, as highlighted in the 2019 EC Opinion.<sup>50</sup>
- 22.** The 2019 Sustainable Development Report provides a globally comparable index and dashboards for monitoring SDG achievement with country data. For 2019, BiH has an overall index score of 69, suggesting it is 69% or over two-thirds of the way towards SDG achievement. Its rank is 69 out of 162 countries. The SDG dashboard indicates the following SDGs as priorities: 5. Gender equality, 8. Decent work and economic growth, 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 13. Climate Action, 15. Life on land, and 16. Peace justice and strong institutions<sup>51</sup>. Achieving the SDGs in BiH will require broader partnership and financing frameworks that can only be generated by increased engagement between authorities in BiH, the private sector, and international financial institutions.
- 23.** In this context the BiH-UN system cooperation will necessarily place emphasis on high level technical and policy advice to strengthen country capacities, systems, and procedures so that the authorities in BiH can strengthen services, in line with international standards and reach-out to vulnerable groups. The concept of 'leave no one behind' is aimed at eliminating the multidimensional causes of poverty, inequality and discrimination, reducing multiple vulnerabilities and strengthening the country's resilience to shocks and crises.
- 24.** Pressing concerns are the entrenched patriarchal attitudes and deeply rooted stereotypes about the roles and responsibilities of men and women within the family and in society. Gender-based exclusion exists at many different levels Traditional gender roles are still widespread in BiH and are reflected in indicators ranging from education and labor-force participation to the composition of the parliaments in BiH.

49 UNDP, Human Development Indicators: Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2019. Between 2000 and 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina's HDI value increased by 15%. The BiH HDI of 0.769 is above the average of 0.75 for countries in the high human development group and below the average of 0.779 for countries in Europe and Central Asia.. Discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.658, a loss of 14% due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. This is below the average loss due to inequality for high HDI countries of 18% but higher than the average for Europe and Central Asia at 12%.

50 Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union (29 May 2019).

51 Sustainable Development Report 2019, Sachs, J. et al., 2019. [BiH Country Profile, 2019](#).

## 2.4 Gaps and challenges

25. The CF builds-upon the extensive consultations about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in BiH that were initiated in April 2017 and further expanded in May 2018 and June 2019. These involved over 800 people, including representatives of the authorities in BiH, civil society groups, the private sector, and academia. The consultations catalyzed the preparation of the BiH Voluntary Review of progress towards SDG achievement and the draft SDG Framework in BiH, and they informed the UN system's Common Country Analysis, a main analytical resource for the CF. These reports highlight the major gaps and challenges for achieving the 2030 Agenda, to which the priorities and outcomes of the CF respond<sup>52</sup>. These concern<sup>53</sup>:
26. **Democratic governance, human rights and peace:** More coherent and transparent governance institutions are needed that are accountable and free from corruption. These are essential for greater transparency and more effective administration of the complex governance system in BiH. Ongoing activities aimed at strengthening the independence, integrity and professionalism of the judiciary, police, prosecutors, and other formal institutions need to be complemented by measures that would strengthen peoples' understanding of, and participation in, making and monitoring policies, laws, and strategies. Recognition of equality and non-discrimination in the legislative framework and ensuring the right of everyone to vote and to be elected, and to take part in the government, is central to enhance the perceived fairness and legitimacy of laws and to make strengthen
- social cohesion. Country-wide, accession to the EU is seen as providing the momentum to strengthen effective institutions and foster better governance, peace and the rule of law.
27. **Education:** Improved access to and quality of education is seen as critical to future, sustainable development. Major concerns include: ongoing divisive approaches in education systems in some parts of the country including access to education for marginalized groups, insufficient quality, affordable early childhood education, enhanced quality of learning and student learning performance, insufficient opportunities for vocational education and skills development, and limited knowledge about sustainable development and natural resources management. There are no mechanisms to systematically monitor and measure the effectiveness of education spending and learning outcomes to support the policy-making process
28. **Health and wellness:** Accelerated and more inclusive economic growth will depend on a healthy, fit population<sup>54</sup>. The longer-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will significantly impact the overall health of population in BiH, in all aspects of physical, mental and social well-being. These consequences are expected to be most severe in population groups who have underlying health challenges (such as the elderly) and who are more vulnerable to interruption of educational processes and job and income losses. Universal immunization coverage of children 18-29 months old is 61%, considerably below the target of 95%<sup>55</sup>. Sexual and

52 (1) The BiH Voluntary Review (VR), April 2019; (2) Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH (SDG Framework), Working Draft, June 2019; (3) UN Common Country Analysis for BiH, UN, 2019 (draft).

53 UN Common Country Analysis for BiH, UN, 2019 (draft). These gaps and challenges were identified from the Zamisli 2030 (Imagine 2030) public consultations, supported by the UN system, on the SDGs and the future of BiH. The consultations were initiated in April 2017 and expanded in May 2018 and June 2019.

54 The Reform Agenda states: the key challenge for the health systems in BiH is 'to improve accessibility, quality, efficiency and sustainability for all citizens, in the context of a declining and ageing population, a highly fragmented system of insurance and service delivery, poor financial management and an exodus of health care workers'.

55 RCC2018 risk assessment. BiH is one of the three countries in the region certified as high-risk for polio. Bottlenecks include weak and insufficiently funded programme management and health promotion, strong anti-vaccine movements in the region, lack

reproductive health services are of variable quality and not provided equally across BiH. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer, and injuries, are rising dramatically, accounting for 94% of all deaths, country-wide<sup>56</sup>. Rates of overweight and obesity are growing with about 1 in 4 adults classified as obese and the need to improve knowledge and awareness about healthy eating and active lifestyles.

- 29.** Harmonization of policies and services between the health systems in BiH remains a challenge in BiH in terms of streamlining services, and improving access and quality throughout the country.<sup>57</sup> Another challenge is the pronounced territorial, gender, and age imbalance of health workers in BiH, and their ongoing out-migration to better paying countries with better working conditions. Current health expenditure was 9.2% of GDP in 2016, relatively steady since 2006<sup>58</sup>. However, the quality of the health services remains inadequate as noted in the Reform Agenda, with the mandatory health insurance coverage yet to be fully achieved in all health systems in BiH. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is placing additional burdens on health systems in BiH, both on service delivery (health financing and human and material resources) and on demand for services (psychosocial support, immunization, increased health seeking behaviour and consumption of medicines and medical products). Future health systems reform in BiH must focus on emergency preparedness

and planning, in order to increase resilience to future pandemics.

- 30. Economic potential and job creation:** Inequality of opportunity, segregation in the labor market, and the lack of decent work is one of the main risks undermining the country's development trajectory and the achievement of the SDG Agenda. The development and adoption of a comprehensive employment policy framework and paving the way to local employment plans, is a priority for the authorities in BiH with responsibilities concerning employment and social policy. Agriculture and tourism, tied to effective natural resource management, are sectors with strong growth potential.

- 31. Climate-resilient, natural resources management:** The degradation of water, air<sup>59</sup>, forests, and agricultural land, as well as the accelerated pace of biodiversity loss are creating health problems and putting sustainable economic growth at risk. These risks are associated with an incomplete legal and policy framework not yet aligned with the EU Acquis and the slow pace of implementation<sup>60</sup>. Climate change is contributing to pronounced rainfall variability and increasing temperatures, which are causing more frequent and intense droughts and increasing the likelihood of floods and landslides. Country-wide there is high exposure to natural hazards, especially floods and landslides,<sup>61</sup> with more than 20% of its territory prone to flooding<sup>62</sup> and an estimated 260,000 people exposed to significant flood and

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of demand and the lack of targeted interventions for Roma. The coverage for certain vaccines such as MMR is continuously decreasing (MCV1 in 2013 was 92% while in 2017 fell to 69%). 1/3 of districts in the country report coverage of DTP3 vaccine at less than 80% which is far from the required 95% coverage. Procurement of the vaccines does not take place in a harmonized manner across the authorities in BiH, which decreases the opportunities of the country for price negotiations or delivery times.

<sup>56</sup> WHO, [BiH-Non-communicable diseases country profile 2018](#), dtd Oct 2019.

<sup>57</sup> There are at least three separately governed and mutually independent health systems in BiH (FBiH, RS, BDBiH), with further devolution of the FBiH system into 10 independently governed cantonal health systems. The insufficient level of harmonization between the health care systems also constitutes an obstacle to free movement and leads to differences in equity and access to health services. This results in a structural difference in the exercise of the right to health care for all, depending on their place of residence.

<sup>58</sup> WHO, Global health expenditure database, dtd Nov 2019. Total current health spending (CHE). General government health expenditures (GGHED) were 6.5% of GDP in 2016. These were higher than spending rates in Croatia (CHE: 7.2%; GGHED: 5.6%) and Slovenia (CHE: 8.5%; GGHED: 6.1)

<sup>59</sup> Air pollution in BiH far exceeds WHO and EU standards and causes one of the highest average mortality rates from air pollution in the world. According to the WHO, BiH is losing 22% of its GDP (US\$ 7,228 million) annually due to air pollution. CCA, *ibid.*, 17.

<sup>60</sup> UNDP BiH (2019), *In-depth climate change vulnerability assessment*.

<sup>61</sup> The 2019 Inform Global Risk Index.

<sup>62</sup> World Bank, *Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery*, available at: <https://www.gfdrr.org/bosnia-and-herzegovina>

landslide risks<sup>63</sup>. Major threats to biodiversity include unsustainable use of land and forests, habitat conversion, vegetation succession and invasive alien species, overexploitation of natural resources, waste mismanagement, inadequate fire protection, illegal hunting and fishing and climate change. Environmental policy constraints and poor implementation are major barriers for EU accession. These also constitute a major opportunity and driver to strengthen environmental policy and governance. BiH has an abundance of natural resource wealth that is not being sustainably managed, requiring a country-wide strategy to support the vision of an environmentally clean and sustainable BiH. The authorities in BiH remain insufficiently prepared to address natural hazards and disaster risks.

**32. Gender equality and women's empowerment:** In terms of exercising civil and political rights of women in BiH, there is still ongoing inequality and under-representation, and the Gender Equality Law of BiH is being violated. A key factor impeding the political participation of women is the partial application of gender quotas prescribed by the Gender Equality Law which was integrated into the Election Law of BiH. The gender quota is not yet applied consistently when it comes to appointments in the executive authority, public company boards, nor is it applied in elections in local communities. There is great potential to increase the economic participation of women: [Women's participation in the labour force](#) is the lowest in the region at 35% in 2019, women have a lower employment rate than men (25% compared to 44%) and a higher unemployment rate (20% compared to 17%). Each of these gaps is greater for young women ages 15 to 29. Despite legal provisions, a gender pay gap exists and persists without regard to qualification, education and age. While the Istanbul Convention concerning violence against women and girls has been implemented at the strategic level, actual implementation is

slow. Vertical and horizontal linkages between relevant institutions law enforcement, justice, and support bodies are not yet established. A mechanism has been established to support preventive action, response and protection in cases of domestic violence and there has been an ongoing harmonization of regulations, training of professionals, and enhancement of data collection. Violence against women from persons other than an intimate partner is not being strategically addressed.

- 33.** The COVID-19 pandemic poses additional challenges for efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in BiH<sup>64</sup>:
- ▶ The majority of health care and social workers are women and face increased risks to infection with COVID-19;
  - ▶ Women and girls are called upon to provide the lion's share of unpaid care, especially for sick family members;
  - ▶ There are concerns that increased family isolation and reduced access to social services may increase vulnerability to gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence.
- 34.** Underlying these major gaps and challenges are two critical bottlenecks: 1) The absence of a country-wide vision for sustainable development and 2) systemic weaknesses in statistical data and analysis. Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will ensure a more inclusive lens for analysis and help to measure progress towards the SDGs, ensuring that no one is left behind. This includes sources of data from human rights institutions and civil society organizations in BiH. However, attaining a clear picture of the demographic situation and population profile in BiH, including disaggregated information on characteristics such as sex, age, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, is severely hampered by the lack of country-wide, reliable data.

63 On average, floods impact annually about 100,000 people and about US\$600 million in GDP. Risks related to climate variability were highlighted by the 2014 floods, which led to more than 20 deaths, 90,000 people displaced and billions of dollars in damages (an estimated 15% of GDP. UNDP BiH (2017), *Flood and Landslide Housing Risk Assessment*.

64 UN, COVID-19 and Human Rights - We are all in this together, April 2020. 11.

**3**

**Cooperation for  
the 2030 Agenda**

## 3.1 Theory of change<sup>65</sup>

### BiH-UN Cooperation Framework: Summary theory of change

**By 2030, achievement of the priorities in BiH, including the sustainable development goals and domesticated SDG targets will depend upon sustainable and diversified economic growth, with benefits that are more widely and fairly shared**

**By 2025, this will depend upon:**

- ▶ A stronger policy and regulatory environment to enable low-carbon development, spur business development, support the creation of green and decent jobs for all, and enhance environmental management,
- ▶ Conditions for more inclusive and higher quality education that offer all children and young people the 21st century skills they will need for employment success in a modern, EU-oriented labour market,
- ▶ More efficient, fair, inclusive, and gender-responsive health and social services that respond to the context of an ageing population and high levels of out-migration, and that better serve vulnerable groups,
- ▶ Practical reforms to strengthen democracy through good governance, human rights and the rule of law and more accountable institutions to deliver effective public services that are gender-responsive and inclusive of vulnerable groups, and
- ▶ Increased levels of mutual respect, trust and empathy between people and communities across all of BiH.

**35.** This cooperation framework is driven by the priorities and domesticated SDG targets<sup>66</sup> in BiH. To contribute to these priorities and targets, cooperation aims to achieve a set of inter-connected changes that will strengthen institutional and community level conditions for **sustainable and diversified economic growth, with benefits that are more widely and fairly shared** across all people, particularly those that are vulnerable. There are five main conditions for this change:

**36.** First, cooperation efforts must address the structural weaknesses of the economy. These are a major driver of poverty and exclusion, with over 170,000 households and half a million people in BiH living below the BiH poverty line<sup>67</sup>. Factors impeding faster and more inclusive growth are: an over-reliance on consumption growth, inefficient markets, low labour force participation rate in the formal economy, especially for women and young people, limited access to finance<sup>68</sup>, insufficiently developed business clusters and value chains, unclear property rights and a cumbersome

65 A summary diagram of the theory of change is provided in Annex A.

66 (1) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs as expressed in the emerging SDG Framework in BiH and domesticated SDG targets; (2) Future accession to the European Union, as expressed in the Action Plan for implementation of priorities from the European Commission Opinion and Analytical Report; (3) The Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda), 2019-2022; and (4) The human rights commitments of BiH and other agreed international and regional development goals and treaty obligations.

67 Poverty in BiH is higher among the older population (65+) and children (age 0-14 years), as their respective poverty rates were 20% and 19%. Poverty rates were higher among households with unemployed head of household. Poverty rates are higher for rural areas (22%) than for urban (11%) The Gini coefficient was 33 in 2017, higher than in Serbia (28.5) and Albania (29.0), almost similar to Montenegro (31.9), and lower than in Macedonia (35.6). UNDP, HD data explorer <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BIH>.

68 There is a higher barrier for women. World Bank, [Access to Finance for Female-Led Micro, Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 2018.

regulatory environment, and corruption. Some 80% of BiH exports are concentrated in the hands of ten companies and the shares of GDP devoted to savings and investment are below that of countries in the region, depriving BiH of needed capital and new technology to drive business competitiveness. Since the 2013 census and until 2017, around 150,000 citizens left BiH<sup>69</sup> – amongst them highly qualified workers and young people, to seek better education, employment, and higher incomes elsewhere. In parallel, there is over-exploitation of natural resources. The degradation of water, air, forests, and agricultural land, as well as the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss are putting sustainable economic growth at risk<sup>70</sup>. These challenges are associated with an accountability deficit, primarily in the governing structures but also in the general public, an incomplete legal and policy framework not yet aligned with the EU Acquis and the slow pace of implementation of reforms and existing strategies and policies. Overall, this situation undermines the prospects for a growing, diversifying economy and prosperity that is more widely shared<sup>71</sup>.

- 37.** Second, and in order to make the shift to a more diversified, knowledge-based economy, renewed efforts are needed to strengthen the performance of the education, health, and social protection and social welfare systems and improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of services. Weaknesses in the education and skilling systems in BiH (formal, non-formal, and technical-vocational) are evident in the unemployment rate amongst young people

(15-24 years) which, at 47% in 2018, is one of the highest in Europe<sup>72</sup>. Amongst women (15-24) the rate is 52%. The main causes are: Few decent jobs in the formal sector, poor overall quality of the education systems, contributing to skills-mismatches for school-leavers, traditional gender roles and lack of jobs with provisions to help balance work and family life, and little coordination between education systems offerings and labour market demands. Establishing a foundation for learning in the early years is essential for learning and employment success in later years. The preschool enrolment rate at 17% for children ages 3 to 6 is the lowest in Europe, with a big gap between urban and rural areas and between employed and unemployed parents.

- 38.** Third, and despite robust health spending at 9.2% of GDP in 2016<sup>73</sup>, better health outcomes for all people in BiH are challenged by performance concerns and limited financial protection for vulnerable groups. As noted in the Reform Agenda and evident during the COVID-19 crisis, the quality of the health systems in BiH remains inadequate and mandatory health insurance coverage yet to be fully achieved in all health systems in BiH.<sup>74</sup> This limits access to essential health services and threatens the sustainability of priority public health interventions. In 2015, spending on social protection assistance at 4% of GDP was on par with Slovenia and Croatia, but only about 1% goes to the poor and socially excluded. Among the poorest 1/5th of households, most do not receive contributory social protection benefits<sup>75</sup>.

69 EC, [Analytical Report](#) accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the EU, Brussels, SWD (2019) 222 final, 29 May 2019, 89.

70 Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has a particularly rich biological and habitat diversity. See: GEF, UNEP, BiH, [Biodiversity CHM-BiH](#), dld Nov 2019.

71 For example, the World Bank reports that, as of 2017, 55% of the university-educated workforce of BiH was living and working abroad. World Bank, Migration and Brain Drain in Europe and Central Asia, WORLD BANK ECA ECONOMIC UPDATE FALL 2019, 62, 65.

72 [ILOSTAT database](#), dld Oct 2019.

73 WHO, [Global health expenditure database](#), dld Nov 2019. Total current health spending (CHE). These were higher than spending rates in Croatia (CHE: 7.2%) and Slovenia (CHE: 8.5%)

74 There are 13 different health systems in BiH. This complicates the way services are provided, increases management and coordination costs, and adversely affects the rationality of management of health care institutions.; World Bank, Bosnia and Herzegovina [Human Capital Index](#), 2018.

75 (1) World Bank ASPIRE [Atlas of Social Protection-BiH Profile](#) (2015 data), dld Nov 2019.; (2) UNDP calculations, based on data (for most recent year available) from the ILO World Social Protection Report 2017-2019.

39. Fourth, sustainable inclusive growth and the effective delivery of quality public services will depend upon more effective governance and rule of law. The highly complex, multi-tier governing structure provided under the Dayton Peace Agreement often creates challenges to effective governance and **rule of law**<sup>76</sup> and the work to deliver human rights commitments of BiH. These are instrumental for the stability and growth of the economy<sup>77</sup>. Discriminatory provisions in the Constitution against minorities and the non-constituent peoples have led to their political, economic and social marginalization<sup>78</sup>. Furthermore, there is high distrust by people in the rule of law and in public institutions in general which in turn, challenges law enforcement and safety and security of people. Different forms of organized crimes are interconnected also in their effects on the economy and the rule of law.
40. Fifth – and foundational to each of the changes above - there is a critical need to increase trust amongst people and in their governing institutions, creating a foundation for more durable social cohesion<sup>79</sup>. Nearly a quarter of a century after the end of the conflict, relations in BiH and the wider region between different groups and communities remain fragile. Society continues to confront strong divisive rhetoric that perpetuates fear and mistrust that impedes constructive dialogue and interaction and diminishes prospects for a common vision for the country.
41. Important **assumptions** for cooperation are: 1) That the current, multi-tier governing structure in BiH will continue for the duration of the CF, with increased reliance on local level planning and decision-making; 2) That the *SDG Framework in BiH and domesticated SDG targets* will be endorsed by the authorities in BiH with a country-wide mechanism for implementation; 3) That strong engagement with international human rights bodies and mechanisms will continue; and 4) That there is increasing recognition of the need to address discrimination, exclusion and vulnerability in the policies and programmes of the authorities in BiH and to collect timely and reliable disaggregated data to cooperation are described in detail in **section 5**.

## 3.2 Strategic priorities for cooperation

42. The theory of change and the necessary pre-conditions for achievement of priorities in BiH afford four priorities for cooperation between the authorities in BiH, the UN system, and other local and international partners. They were identified on the basis of country analytic work and validated through multi-stakeholder consultations. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, none of priorities concerns a single sector or single stakeholder. Rather they represent a nexus of change and partnerships that, combined, offer an effective pathway for BiH-UN system cooperation to make tangible, measurable contributions towards the priorities in BiH. The four strategic priorities are:
- I. Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth**
43. The cooperation outcome is an integrated response to these challenges, promoting the implementation of strategies and policies for

76 The recent EC opinion on BiH's application for EU membership highlights the large gap between the requirements of the EU Acquis and the prevailing conditions in BiH, especially with regard to the Copenhagen criteria for stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. EC Opinion, *ibid.*, 13.

77 These weaknesses are particularly evident during times of crisis, when a rapid, coordinated response across all of BiH is needed. (e.g. migration inflows, floods, and other natural disasters).

78 For example: Implementation of ratified human rights treaties is constrained by limited accountability mechanisms, making it a challenge to identify the proper duty-bearer for a particular provision or recommendation.

79 Peace and Development Assessment: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Working draft, Sept 2019.

economic growth that is more inclusive, sustainable and geared toward maximizing resources for social protection and investments in quality health, education and other public services. This requires a shift towards a low-carbon and resilient economy and living. The UN system will support a stronger policy and regulatory environment and stimulus measures to enable low-carbon development, spur business development and increased competitiveness, and support the creation of green and decent jobs, complemented by environmental action. Tangible results will include stronger climate change mitigation policies, the introduction of low carbon technology and digital economy strategies and plans, more small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in main economy sectors applying sustainable business models, stronger active labour market measures (ALMPs) to connect young people, especially young women and vulnerable groups, with good jobs in the formal economy, and stronger incentives for investments in innovation and research and development (R&D). These will be backstopped with coordinated implementation of natural and cultural resource management policies and plans, in line with the EU and international standards.

## II. Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection

44. Under this priority, the UN system will support two critical and complementary outcomes, central to a more inclusive and fair society:

1) The first concerns more inclusive and higher quality education, focused on 21st century skills<sup>80</sup> and employability of people, especially the young and vulnerable. Cooperation will support conditions for more inclusive and higher quality education that offer all children and young people the 21st century skills they will need for employment success in a modern, EU-oriented labour market. Renewed political will and innovative efforts are needed to strengthen the education systems performance and learning outcomes, and to forge

closer links between the education and training systems with the labour market and employer's organizations.

2) The second outcome is to improve the quality and affordability of health services and social protection for all people in BiH, and especially vulnerable groups. This is urgent. Cooperation will strengthen the institutional conditions for more efficient, fair, and inclusive health and social protection systems, including multi-sectoral referrals to prevent and offer protection from gender-based violence and violence, abuse and exploitation of children. An equity focus, with improved spending analysis and targeting, will be supported to ensure that health and social protection programmes and services are responding effectively to the situation of vulnerable groups.

## III. People centered governance and rule of law

45. In partnership with the authorities in BiH, the cooperation outcome will support practical governance reforms, in line with the priorities in BiH. These will enable the authorities to partner more effectively with people to shape and deliver transparent, fair, and more responsive policies, laws and public services and this includes the response to the current mixed movement of asylum-seekers and migrants in the country. For example: cantons and local governments will be supported to develop SDG-aligned development plans and monitoring systems, acquire new capabilities and mechanisms to strengthen people consultation and participation in policymaking, and shift towards e-governance to modernize public performance and make public services more effective and accessible. Stronger focus will be placed on the accountability and integrity of the public service, with focus on public utilities. Efforts will also focus increasing women's participation in political and economic decision-making. A stronger focus will be placed on sustainable and resilient urban development.

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80 21st century transversal skills (e.g. communication, team work and networking, critical thinking and problem solving, initiative and resilience) and deep skills in one or more trades e.g. ICT, boilermakers, millwrights, welders. EC, Skills for Industry Strategy 2030, 2019. See also; ILO, [Skill-up](#), dtd Nov 2019; AES, [What are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills](#), dtd 2020.

46. At cantonal and local levels, tangible new skills, abilities, and mechanisms will be developed to strengthen people consultation and participation in policymaking, and revise or develop policies and programmes that are gender-responsive, and inclusive of other vulnerable groups. UN system agencies will continue to support the authorities in BiH to collect SDG-related data and use it to strengthen the evidence base for governance-related policies and plans that are aligned with the long-term sustainable goals as set forth in the emerging SDGs Framework in BiH as well as to tap into financing from private sector for SDGs implementation. The expected results under this priority are instrumental for the success of efforts to diversify the economy and to deliver more effective and inclusive basic services.

#### IV. Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion

47. This priority is a critical enabler for all other priorities and related outcomes and for the EU accession and SDG-related priorities in BiH. Society is still recovering from the war-related pain and trauma, affecting intra- and inter-community relations. This legacy is not limited to survivors of war crimes and includes their immediate families and local communities. As such, it represents a major obstacle to collective healing and community cohesion.

Increased levels of mutual respect, trust, and empathy between people and communities is instrumental for sustainable and faster growth, enhanced rule of law, and effective governance and delivery of basic services.

48. The UN system will support and engage with young people who are the largest recipients of trans-generational trauma. This can lock them into group-thinking and prevent meaningful engagement with people perceived to be outside their socio-political or ethnic groups. At the same time, cooperation will also target non-traditional actors, such as the religious communities, along with the media and academia, to create local enabling environments for direct people engagement, volunteerism and dialogue. People will have access to new public and online spaces and opportunities to engage in constructive actions and discussion about their communities and local authorities will have new skills and mechanisms to engage with and respond to their constituencies. Amongst others this is expected to promote critical thinking and zero tolerance for all forms of violence. This priority represents a major 'demand-side' strategy, with a focus on young people. Cooperation results will complement institutional governance reforms under priority III to strengthen people demands for greater transparency and accountability in public administration and services.

## 3.3 Intended development results

49. Under the four priorities, there are five expected outcomes. Collective efforts by the authorities in BiH and the UN system will make a tangible contribution to progress against a set of higher-level impact indicators have been

chosen as sentinels<sup>81</sup>. These will be tracked to gauge the overall direction and contribution of BiH and UN system cooperation results, country-wide, to 2030<sup>82</sup>:

81 Sentinel indicators are complementary to outcome performance indicators. Where outcome indicators are used to measure intended results (institutional and behavioural), sentinel indicators are used to signal wider changes in the system in which programme(s) operate, alerting the CF partners to system level change and, where necessary, the need for follow-up investigation and analysis. See: [Sentinel Indicators: A Systems-Based Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation](#), 2015.

82 Based upon: Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH, June 2019 (DRAFT), Annex 1.

Priorities in BiH		11 Sentinel impact indicators to 2030
SDG Framework (cross-cutting) Human Capital for 21st Century; Leave No One Behind	<p><i>SDG Framework: Smart growth</i></p> <p>Reform Agenda I. Sustainable and Accelerated Economic Growth, Increased Competitiveness of the Economy and Improved Business Environment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Net migration rate<sup>83</sup></li> <li>2. Unemployment and employment rates by sex (SDG 8.5.2)<sup>84</sup></li> <li>3. Shortfall in women's estimated GNI (SDG 5.a, 10.2, proxy)</li> <li>4. Energy intensity, in terms of primary energy and GDP (SDG 7.3.1)</li> </ol>
	<p><i>SDG Framework: Good governance and public sector management</i></p> <p>Reform Agenda II. De-politicisation, Increased Sustainability and Efficiency of State-owned Enterprises</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Rule of law (SDG 16.3.1, proxy<sup>85</sup>)</li> <li>6. Voice &amp; accountability<sup>86</sup> (SDG 16.7.2, proxy)</li> </ol>
	<p><i>SDG Framework: Equal Opportunities</i></p> <p>Reform Agenda III. Comprehensive Reform and Improved Quality of the Health Care Systems</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Child mortality rate, by sex (under-five years) (SDG3.2.1)</li> <li>8. Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease, by sex (SDG 3.4.1)</li> </ol>
	<p><i>SDG Framework: Equal Opportunities</i></p> <p>Reform Agenda IV. Policies that Provide Opportunities to Youth, Women and other Vulnerable Groups</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Proportion of population living below the national (relative<sup>87</sup>) poverty line, by location, sex and age (SDG 1.2.1)</li> <li>10. Share of poorest 20% of households receiving social assistance, by area (SDG 1.3.1)</li> <li>11. Gini index of income inequality (SDG 10.1.1, proxy)</li> </ol>

50. Cooperation will be guided by the following guiding principles: (1) Inclusion and equity to 'leave no one behind', (2) Human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE), (3) Sustainability and resilience, and (4) Accountability, including the availability and use of quality data. At a programmatic level, under a chapeau of 'leaving no one behind' there are a set of mutually reinforcing programming approaches for cooperation by the authorities in BiH, the UN system and other partners<sup>88</sup>:

► **Cross-sector collaboration and coherent policy support:** The interconnected, complex nature of the CF priorities and outcomes requires: 1). Cross-sectoral and participatory

policy approaches, including implementation and monitoring, and 2) Enhanced coordination between existing BiH working bodies for cross-sector results, and to create open spaces for dialogue and consensus around shared priorities.

► **Implementation: 'renewed focus on delivery at cantonal and local government levels':** This will involve efforts to link policy to budget for implementation, with effective implementation at local level with local actors, involving them more effectively in monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The authorities in BiH and the UN system will support a culture of measurement, monitoring, evaluation, and learning with working mechanisms to monitor and manage

83 See: [Net migration rate](#), UN Population Division. There are multiple BiH and international sources of information for the pace and scale of out-migration. The UN system will work with BiH statistical authorities to agree on the indicators for the purposes of monitoring and reporting. In particular, measures are needed to gauge levels of migration amongst young people and the professions.

84 The labour force participation rate of women will also be monitored to consider a change in the numbers of women that have stopped looking for work and are not captured in unemployment rates. It was 35% in 2019, using the modeled ILO estimate.

85 This is the domesticated indicator for SDG 17.7.2 from BiH SDG Framework (draft). World Bank World Governance Indicators data. Indicator ranges from approximately -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) governance performance.

86 This is the domesticated indicator for SDG 17.7.2 from BiH SDG Framework (draft). World Bank World Governance Indicators data, measuring the "extent to which citizens believe they participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, association, and media. Internationally comparable indicator values range from -2.5 (weak) to +2.5 (strong) governance performance".

87 Relative poverty defined as 60% of the median income (Eurostat methodology)

88 Including: Parliaments, the private sector, international financial institutions, civil society organisations, media, universities, and independent research and policy institutions.

for results and identify and address data gaps for country priorities and related SDGs.

- ▶ **Young people's participation:** Across all priorities and outcome, cooperation efforts must focus on giving young people (15-30 years), especially girls, women and from vulnerable groups, a greater stake in country-wide development.
- ▶ **Gender mainstreaming:** Gender discrimination, a gender divide in the labour market and occupational segregation, and gender-based violence remain critical concerns<sup>89</sup>. Across all outcomes, the partners will address gaps in the legislative and institutional framework for the observance of international human rights law, working towards greater consistency in implementation of recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms, and to contribute to stronger institutional capacities for gender analysis and gender-responsive programming<sup>90</sup>.
- ▶ **Technology transfer and digital transformation:** Anticipating future skills needs and applications across the priorities and outcomes to drive innovation opportunities for sustainable growth and inclusive society.
- ▶ **Data and statistics:** Across all outcomes, strong policies and plans and effective implementation will depend upon disaggregated **data and evidence**<sup>91</sup>. Under each outcome the UN system will support the statistical institutions in BiH to strengthen data collection, monitoring, and reporting on the relevant SDGs, with a focus on addressing critical data gaps and leveraging qualitative data, from civil society organizations and the Human Rights Institutions in BiH.
- ▶ **Capacity development** is central to all programming approaches. For each priority, the UN system and BiH authorities will identify critical capacity gaps on the basis of capacity assessments and innovative measures to address institutional bottlenecks.

## 3.4 Cooperation outcomes

**51.** Based upon on the theory of change and priorities in BiH, the following section describes the five outcomes for cooperation between the authorities in BiH and the UN system<sup>92</sup>. Each section describes the theory of change, including the expected outcome, key indicators of progress, strategies and concrete conditions or results expected from cooperation, that are essential for success. These concrete results

are the key contributions expected from UN system cooperation. Together these sections offer a more detailed theory of change for how cooperation between the authorities in BiH and the UN system will catalyse and contribute to priorities in BiH, including domesticated SDGs and targets. The results matrix including indicators, baselines, targets, data sources, and partners is provided in Annex B.

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89 UNDAF Evaluation, *ibid.*, 17; SDG Framework in BiH., *ibid* 17-18.

90 For example: Inclusive labour market policies and codes for more female-friendly workplaces, addressing the gender gap in incomes."

91 Disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location

92 92Outcomes are high level changes related to institutional performance or the behaviours of people and their communities. They describe: (1) How people are acting differently to improve their lives and those of their families and communities or (2) How institutions are performing in new ways to support people in these efforts. Outputs describe new skills and abilities, products or services. These are the concrete results of cooperation between BiH authorities and the UN and they are expected to demonstrate innovation. The outputs expected from BiH-UN system cooperation will be developed as part of detailed Joint Work Plans (JWP) for each outcome

## I. Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth

*Outcome 1. By 2025, people benefit from resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth ensured by the convergence of economic development and management of environment and cultural resources*

### Theory of change

- 52.** The theory of change underlying this outcome is that economic growth will be made more resilient, inclusive and sustainable by the design and implementation of reforms to promote the shift toward a low-carbon economy. The UN system will support a stronger policy and regulatory environment and stimulus measures to enable low-carbon development, spur business development and increased competitiveness, and support the creation of green and decent jobs, complemented by environmental action. The COVID-19 response and recovery stimulus measures provide an opportunity to further advance the climate friendly technologies and approaches to climate change, environment protection and reversal of biodiversity losses as stipulated in the recent call by the UN Secretary-General<sup>93</sup>.
- 53.** The outcome will make an important contribution to the implementation of reform priorities for sustainable economic growth and opportunities for young people, women and vulnerable groups. Accelerated economic diversification and more widely shared prosperity in BiH will also depend upon the sustainable management of its natural wealth. Linking economy and environment, the cooperation outcome will support the design and implementation of more integrated and inclusive policies and programmes for the management of environment, agriculture, and culture resources. BiH and UN cooperation will focus on building tangible bridges between sectoral policy-making bodies for coordinated implementation of natural and cultural resource management policies and plans, in line with the EU and international standards. Cooperation is also expected to support the authorities in BiH to implement recommendations from the 2020 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to promote sustainable economic and social development, providing a solid foundation for the enjoyment of people's rights<sup>94</sup>.
- 54.** By 2025, the success of BiH and UN cooperation efforts will be seen in:
- ▶ More SMEs registered in emerging fast growing, low carbon economy sectors,
  - ▶ More of these firms with female participation in ownership or leadership positions,
  - ▶ More working places made available for members of vulnerable groups,
  - ▶ The existence of innovation and R&D strategies with costed action plans for targeted sectors and enhanced implementation of fiscal strategy and measures to promote innovation and R&D spending, especially for [sustainable consumption and production](#) and 'green' business practices,
  - ▶ An increase in the number of public-private partnerships (PPP) and start-ups in emerging areas such as renewable energy, green building technologies, biotech to improve agri-business and information and communications technologies (ICTs).
  - ▶ Stronger alignment of existing policy and legal frameworks for environment, sustainable forest management, agriculture, and culture, with EU and international standards, including for gender equality and women's empowerment,
  - ▶ Expansion and adequate management and funding of protected areas, in partnership with civil society and the private sector,
  - ▶ Action plans to explore and tap into potential growth in sustainable agri-business and tourism, linked with effective management of environmental and cultural resources,
  - ▶ More local governments implementing action plans to strengthen their preparedness and response to natural hazards and industrial accidents, including radiation emergency preparedness and radon exposure control, with the cooperation of civil society.

<sup>93</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1062752>

<sup>94</sup> UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\): Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), A/HRC/43/17, 19 December, 2019.

55. This is a complex and highly inter-connected area for cooperation. There are six necessary conditions to establish the institutional foundations and provide the right incentives and market signals for a more dynamic, growing economy and the creation of decent jobs. Close cooperation between the authorities in BiH, the UN and other partners in the private sector and civil society will produce tangible new skills and abilities, products and services to support these conditions:

56. First, **enterprise transformation strategies and frameworks** are needed in BiH, focused on SMEs and increased business competitiveness. These will provide fiscal and other programmatic incentives (e.g. business incubator and development services) that promote low-carbon production, increase productivity, provide access to financing and technology, and facilitate entry to EU markets. SMEs will be among some of the hardest hit by the economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic and urgent stimulus measures are needed to avoid bankruptcies and long-term unemployment. Attention will be focused on tailoring incentives and supports for women, young people, and marginalized groups. A key element of the strategy is reform of industrial and business regulations and standards to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and green business practices. This will involve a 'green' economy jobs assessment including a gaps analysis related to technology and financing. The authorities in BiH require enhanced planning and implementation capacities for green growth, enhanced water management and agricultural development. Critically, the gender dimensions of 'management' need to be examined in policy, programmes and budgets in order to address systematic barriers that prevent women from taking a fuller role in environmental management and agri-business.

57. Second, regulations, procedures, and services for the **start-up of new businesses** and access to training and credit and will be made simpler

and more easily accessible on e-government platforms. The authorities in BiH and the UN support the design and implementation of the **E-government strategy & policy** to ensure that systems are accessible, secure, user and mobile friendly. Quality entrepreneurship and business development services will be made available and expanded through 'one-stop-shop' service centers that can also support more aggressive adoption of ICT. The UN system will support the authorities in BiH to engage with and mobilise the **BiH diaspora** to play a greater role in development, including in investment and business development. A new scheme will be developed and piloted to attract members of the BiH **diaspora** and new graduates in STEM<sup>95</sup> fields, to address high-skill gaps in the labour market.

58. Third, in **agriculture and agri-food**, the large share of rural population in BiH demands more concerted efforts to increase sustainable agricultural production and farm incomes, focused on small-holders. The UN system will support BiH efforts to raise land productivity, increase the production of locally cultivable food crops, and increase agricultural exports. This will depend on integrating small-scale farmers into value chains and forging links with small and medium-sized agro-enterprise 'processors' (SMAEs). This will improve access to markets, increase farm incomes, and generate decent employment. In the near to mid-term, the BiH market is most important for small-holders and SMAEs. Production for export is a longer-term aim that will require the coordinated introduction of a quality management system such as HACCP or ISO certification. Competition domestically and with EU-based farmers requires a differentiation strategy based on quality, brand development, and may involve specialization in traditional and local specialties. A coherent country-wide strategy and action plan is needed to enhance small-holder productivity, support them to identify market niches, and create commercial linkages with SMAEs to add-value and get more products to market<sup>96</sup>. In addition, capacities

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95 STEM: Science, technology, engineering, maths

96 FAO, Processor driven integration of small-scale farmers into value chains in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: A synthesis paper,

will be strengthened to apply biotechnology to improve agricultural production and food safety monitoring, in line with EU standards.

- 59.** Fourth, climate change and its effects on environmental resources do not adhere to administrative boundaries. Effective management for sustainable economic growth requires a functional, country-wide coordination mechanisms for 'horizontal' policy design and implementation among relevant institutions at all levels, focused on the inter-actions between environment, energy, agriculture, and livelihoods, especially for rural communities and vulnerable groups. Initiatives must all demonstrate adherence to the requirements of the EU Acquis, particularly chapters 11 (agriculture and rural development), 12 (food safety), 15 (energy), and 27 (environment).
- 60.** Fifth, the authorities in BiH alone cannot adequately respond to the complexities and inter-actions between climate, environment, agriculture, and economic diversification. The authorities in BiH and the UN system will pilot 'partnership hubs' to bring private and public stakeholders together to discuss common interests and potential partnerships in support of sustainable development.
- 61.** Sixth, BiH has a high exposure to natural hazards with a risk index rating of 3.7/10, the highest of Western Balkans countries<sup>97</sup>. An estimated 20% of BiH territory and 280,000 people are exposed to significant flood risks and landslides are an increasing challenge with more than 260,000 people living in areas of significant risk<sup>98</sup>. Climate change is contributing to pronounced rainfall variability and increasing temperatures, which are causing more frequent and intense droughts and storms<sup>99</sup>. The degradation of water, air, forests, and agricultural land are accelerating the loss of biodiversity and increasing the risk of catastrophic shocks. Vulnerability to flooding and other disaster risks underscores the importance of links between inclusive and sustainable economic growth, more integrated policy-making, disaster-risks reduction, and sustainable resource management.
- 62.** The integration of environmental considerations into sectoral policies and legislation is at an early stage in energy, mining, transport, agriculture, forestry and health sectors, and has yet to be initiated in the tourism and education sectors. While BiH established a Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013, this has not yet been able to support effective coordination of comprehensive disaster-risk reduction initiatives country-wide. Vulnerable communities and groups are affected disproportionately by disasters as they have limited access to productive assets for coping and early recovery and less exposure to early warning systems. There is need for effective, robust, well-coordinated disaster risk reduction and response systems, especially at the local level. This entails capacity development for disaster preparedness, and pre-and post-disaster management for relevant authorities in BiH and the availability of quality, disaggregated poverty and inequality statistics for improved spatial planning.
- 63.** Combined, the cooperation outcome and contributing results and strategies will create stronger conditions for sustainable and more inclusive economic growth by reducing barriers for SME formation, enhancing conditions for formal, decent employment, supporting climate resilience and biodiversity protection, and creating incentives and partnerships for the transition to renewable energy. Cooperation is expected to make specific and valued added contributions for a more dynamic economy, and more widely shared prosperity, especially for women and vulnerable groups.

2014.

97 INFORM Global Risk index, available at <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/>

98 On average, floods impact about 100,000 people annually and estimated loss to GDP of US \$600 million. The severe 2014 floods led to more than 20 deaths, the displacement of 90,000 people, and estimated economic losses of 15% of GDP. See (1) INFORM Global Risk index, available at <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/>; (2) World Bank, *Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery: BiH*; (3) UNDP BiH (2017), *Flood and Landslide Housing Risk Assessment*.

99 UNDP BiH (2019), *In-depth climate change vulnerability assessment*

## II. Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection

**64.** There are two proposed outcomes for cooperation:

- ▶ The education and employability outcome will support conditions for more inclusive and higher quality education that offers all children and young people the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills they will need for employment success in a modern, EU-oriented labour market.
- ▶ The health and social protection outcome will focus on policy, legal, and capacity changes for more efficient, fair, and inclusive health

care and social protection and social welfare systems and services.

**65.** Both outcomes have an equity focus, placing emphasis on improved spending analysis and targeting, monitoring the quality and coverage of services, and responding effectively to the situation of vulnerable groups. Demand-side interventions are focused on supporting targeted rights holders to claim their rights to effective education, health and social protection services.

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*Outcome 2. By 2025, people benefit from more inclusive and higher quality educational programmes focused on 21st century skills for enhanced employability, well-being and active participation in society*

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### Theory of change

**66.** The theory of change underlying this outcome is that the educational performance of all young people is instrumental for their employment success in a modern, EU-oriented labour market<sup>100</sup>. The cooperation outcome is to create conditions for more inclusive and higher quality education that offers 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to all children and young people. Renewed political will and innovative efforts are needed to strengthen the education systems performance and learning outcomes, and to forge closer links between the education and training systems with the labour market and employer's organisations. Equity in education is a concern, as children, especially girls, from poor households and from minority groups suffer higher class repetition rates and drop-out rates. Cooperation is expected to support the authorities in BiH to implement recommendations from the recent UPR to ensure inclusive and quality education for all children, and especially minority groups<sup>101</sup>.

efforts will be seen in:

- ▶ More children taking part in organized, quality early learning and pre-schools,
- ▶ Increased coherence and quality of the formal education and TVET systems,
- ▶ Reduced numbers of young people, especially women and members of vulnerable groups, not in education, employment, or training,
- ▶ Stronger policy alignment and working relationships between the education and training systems and the labour market and employer's organisations.

Cooperation between the authorities in BiH and the UN system will focus on four important conditions that will contribute to these changes.

**67.** By 2025, the success of BiH and UN cooperation

**68.** First, the educational performance of young people is instrumental for the achievement of the Reform Agenda and progress toward EU accession. A renewed focus on quality in teaching and learning is essential. The UN system will support improved teacher

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<sup>100</sup> World Bank's Human Capital Index. A child born in BiH today will reach only 62% of their productive potential when they grow up as compared to a child born in countries with best education and health care. When assessing education in BiH, the report shows that on average children can expect to complete 11.7 years of schooling by age 18. However, this is only equivalent to 8.6 years of effective learning.

<sup>101</sup> UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\): Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), A/HRC/43/17, 19 December, 2019.

training curriculum and programmes that will enable teachers to use active teaching and learning methods. These involve a shift away from traditional, passive methods that focus on rote repetition and the reproduction of knowledge toward higher-order thinking skills to gain insight, appraise critically, and apply new knowledge in team or group settings. More teachers will have completed the updated minimum teacher training requirements, especially at primary level, and new systems will be established to monitor qualifications as well ongoing professional development. The authorities in BiH and the UN system will explore Technology Innovation Labs ([UNTIL](#))<sup>102</sup> to increase the connectivity of classrooms and create platforms for collaborative problem solving for sustainable development challenges in BiH, such as climate change. In order to address divisions and violence in schools, teachers, parents, religious leaders, media and parents have new skills to speak out and encourage open dialogue.

69. Second, a foundation for success in the early years (0-3yrs) is essential for this shift. Research shows that a dollar invested in quality early childhood programs [yields a return](#) of between \$6 and \$17 dollars<sup>103</sup>. The authorities in BiH have established multi-sector working groups for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and programmes and initiatives have been adopted<sup>104</sup>. BiH and UN cooperation will focus on implementation, quality assurance,

and performance monitoring to ensure the quality and affordability of day cares and kindergartens, especially in under-served areas. UN support will include policy and service development to strengthen the early identification of developmental delays and appropriate education systems responses. This will support efforts to ensure that the new generation of young people in BiH is ready to learn and thrive.

70. Third, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), are being called-upon to produce a new generation of entrepreneurs, managers and skilled workers. But they are insufficiently equipped to provide the marketable skills that employers want. It must find ways to boost offerings, tied with market needs, enhance teaching and learning performance and whet the appetites of young people for the entrepreneurial challenge.

Fourth, new mechanisms will be developed and piloted to connect employer organisations with decision makers in the education and training institutes and universities to strengthen the connection between education, skilling and employability. These will help to guide the active labour market measures (under outcome 1) in targeted municipalities to support school leavers, the unemployed and underemployed to seek out new training and new careers opportunities.

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102 UNTIL will function as a Laboratory and tool, offering innovative technologies, including AI, Blockchain, and Internet of Things (IoT), advisory support and guidance for problem solving through hands-on workshops, immersion-learning, and incubated projects.

103 Economic analysis of ECD investments show estimated future returns on investment, through higher productivity and wages, amounting to 13% per annum. Short-term programme costs are more than offset by the immediate and long-term benefits through reduction in the need for special education, better health outcomes, reduced need for social services, lower criminal justice costs, and increased productivity. See: (1) Lancet Series [Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale](#), 2016; (2) [Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy](#), and [There's more to gain by taking a comprehensive approach to ECD](#), J.J. Heckman at the [Heckman Equation](#), dld Nov 2018; (3) UNICEF, [Evidence for ECD Investment](#), Dec 2015; (4) OECD, [Investing in high quality early childhood education and care](#), OECD, dld Oct 2017; (5) World Bank, [Investing in Early Childhood Development](#), Review of the World Bank's Recent Experience, 2015. 2-3, 32, 58., [Why invest in ECD?](#), dld Nov 2019.

104 A strategic ECD programme for 2016-2021 for RS has been adopted. In 2018 Standards and Norms of Health Care Services in the FBiH were revised to include innovative integrated early childhood development (IECD) services as part of the primary healthcare package. It promotes universal coverage of IECD and Early Childhood Interventions (ECI) services mainstreamed within the health sector and funded through the ten Cantonal Health Insurance Funds

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*Outcome 3. By 2025, people have access to better quality and inclusive health and social protection systems*

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### Theory of change

- 71.** In line with the priorities in BiH, the theory of change underlying this outcome is that quality, affordable public health care and social protection and welfare services will contribute to improved and more resilient, secure livelihoods and stronger economic performance. The cooperation outcome is to create conditions for more efficient, fair, resilient and inclusive health care and social protection and social welfare systems and services.
- 72.** The COVID-19 pandemic is placing health systems and services under tremendous strain. The authorities in BiH will need to make difficult decisions to balance pandemic response with the maintenance of other essential health services, without risking system collapse. Many routine and elective services may be postponed or suspended. In addition, when routine practice comes under threat due to competing demands, simplified purpose-designed governance mechanisms and protocols can mitigate outright system failure. Establishing and maintaining effective screening, triage, and targeted referral of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 cases is essential. Vulnerable groups may not have equal access to timely, quality information about infection risks and quality preventive and curative health services.
- 73.** Efforts to analyse and find efficiencies in health and social protection spending and targeting of services will be a major focus of cooperation efforts. The UN system will support an equity focus to ensure that health and social protection programmes and services are resilient and responding effectively to the situation of vulnerable groups. This includes support for emergency preparedness and planning in order to increase the resilience of these systems to future pandemics but also include road safety.
- Cooperation will enable the authorities in BiH to implement recommendations from the recent UPR to strengthen health-care services and to address the issue of universal health care, especially for vulnerable groups<sup>105</sup>.
- 74.** This is an urgent priority: The rapidly ageing population, combined with out-migration, is placing existing social protection and social welfare services under great strain. In 2017, there were only 1.45 formally employed workers to support one pensioner; fewer than 30% of citizens of BiH of retirement age received old-age pensions; and only 2% of the unemployed received unemployment benefits<sup>106</sup>. These demographic shifts will have significant implications for growth, living standards and fiscal sustainability.
- 75.** By 2025, the success of BiH and UN cooperation efforts will be seen in:
- ▶ More effective planning, budgeting and spending on health and social protection services,
  - ▶ More people, especially from vulnerable groups, enjoying health insurance or expanded coverage under the health systems,
  - ▶ Improved capacities of health care professionals for overall resilience of the health systems and provision of services<sup>107</sup>.
  - ▶ More effective referral mechanisms in health, social and child protection systems to connect vulnerable groups to essential services.
- Cooperation between the authorities in BiH and the UN system will focus on four important conditions that will contribute to these changes.
- 76.** First, **investments must flow more predictably** and cost-effectively to where

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<sup>105</sup> UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\): Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), A/HRC/43/17, 19 December, 2019.

<sup>106</sup> (1) UNDP calculations, based on data (for most recent year available) from the ILO World Social Protection Report 2017-2019; (2) World Bank ASPIRE data base (2015 data).

<sup>107</sup> This includes technical assistance and training to expand radiotherapy and nuclear medicine services for effective treatment of non-communicable diseases, as well as radiation protection of patients.

identified needs are greatest, including at the subnational level. Too often, plans and strategies intend to reach excluded and marginalized groups, but the associated budgets and implementation measures are insufficient. Strengthened health and social protections systems require a renewed focus on quality assurance, improved financing and health information systems, improved technical capacities of health care professionals and the cost-effectiveness of medicines, vaccines and medical devices. Key health stakeholders will have enhanced capacities to undertake results based budgeting and fiscal space and costing analyses to improve efficiency of health and social protection spending. Health and social welfare institutions have enhanced capacities to develop policies and legislation leading to universal health coverage and improved coverage of social protection benefits and social welfare services. BiH and UN cooperation efforts will support local authorities to develop and implement targeted approaches that are tailored to local conditions and needs.

**77.** Second, renewed efforts are needed to increase the coverage of essential **immunization and family planning services**. The UN system will help to address the structural factors that have reduced programme effectiveness. For immunization, this includes more investments in health promotion to counteract vaccine hesitancy, improve procurement planning and develop targeted approaches to address districts with the lowest coverage. For family planning, renewed efforts are needed to finance and deliver quality services for all women country-wide, in line with the 2012

Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in BiH. This includes pregnancy, prenatal and postnatal care.

**78.** Third, a **focus on vulnerability and non-discrimination** must be institutionalized. Line ministries, agencies and CSOs will have enhanced capacities to deliver a multi-sectoral response to all forms of violence in line with international standards. Vulnerable groups will have new information resources and mechanisms to help them to exercise their rights to health, social protection and protection from all forms of violence. At local levels, the UN system will support strengthened, multi-sectoral mechanisms and referral systems to prevent and offer protection from gender-based violence and violence, abuse and exploitation of children.

**79.** Fourth and instrumental to all changes above, improved **data** are essential for effective targeting and management of health and social protection spending and programmes. For all health, social, and child protection systems in BiH a great challenge concerns the lack of **sex-disaggregated data**, especially for vulnerable groups. This provides little insight into their access to services and quality of life. Legal, institutional and socio-economic barriers impede their fair access to services, making them more vulnerable and exposed to violence, health risk factors and poverty. The UN system will support the relevant authorities in BiH to strengthen capacities to systematically collect, analyze and use disaggregated data to inform policy development with special focus on most vulnerable groups.

### **III. People centered governance and rule of law**

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*Outcome 4. By 2025, people contribute to, and benefit from more accountable and transparent governance systems that deliver quality public services, and ensure rule of law*

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#### **Theory of change**

**80.** The Reform Agenda offers a direct response to the EC Opinion, with priorities to address major structural challenges that impede effective

governance and rule of law. In line with this agenda, the theory of change underlying this outcome is that practical reforms to make

governance systems more accountable and transparent will enable the authorities in BiH to deliver effective public services, strengthen their relationships with people and build greater public confidence in the institutions in BiH and rule of law.

81. More accountable and transparent governance systems will enable the authorities in BiH to partner more effectively with people to shape and deliver more responsive policies, laws and public services, including in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the situation of refugees and migrant in the country. Efforts will also focus on leveraging technology to modernize public performance and support digital governance, as well as increasing women's participation in political and economic decision-making.
82. At cantonal and local government levels, tangible new skills, abilities, and mechanisms will be developed, in partnership with the authorities in BiH to strengthen citizen consultation and participation in policymaking, and revise or develop policies and programmes that are gender-responsive, and inclusive of other vulnerable groups for targeting and service delivery. UN system agencies will continue to support the authorities in BiH to collect SDG-related data and use it to strengthen the evidence base for governance-related policies and plans that are aligned with the long-term sustainable goals as set forth in the emerging SDGs Framework in BiH as well as to tap into financing from private sector for SDGs implementation. The expected results under this priority are pre-conditions for the success of efforts to diversify the economy and to deliver prosperity that is more fairly shared (outcome 1). Cooperation is expected to support the authorities in BiH to implement recommendations from the recent UPR to protect and promote human rights through an evidence-based approach and to strengthen human rights policy coordination between

authorities to address discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups<sup>108</sup>.

83. By 2025, the success of BiH and UN cooperation efforts will be seen in:
- ▶ Improved perceptions about, and increased satisfaction with, the transparency and quality of key public services;
  - ▶ Implementation of international standards of governance at local levels, especially related to gender equality;
  - ▶ Increased use of e-government platforms to facilitate day-to-day business and transactions.
  - ▶ Strengthened implementation of country-wide strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and violence against children and to promote greater public roles for women.
  - ▶ Improvement in objective measures about how well policies and services are reaching vulnerable groups and providing genuine opportunities for them to improve their livelihoods, especially displaced families, and refugees and migrants.
84. There are six necessary conditions for more accountable, transparent institutions that can deliver effective and efficient public services and enforce the rule of law:
85. First, streamlined and 'smarter' policy and regulatory framework development<sup>109</sup> is a must for tangible progress on priorities for EU-accession and SDG-related targets. This will require improved working mechanisms for coordination of effective implementation between authorities. Enhanced performance monitoring is also central to moving beyond the impasse that has prevented implementation of governance reforms. New review mechanisms and ways of working with objective data and statistics are needed by authorities and civil society groups to better reflect vulnerability and gender equality concerns implementation measures for policies, programmes, and related budgets.

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108 UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\): Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), A/HRC/43/17, 19 December, 2019.

109 This involves a shift away from *'regulate and forget'* toward a **regulatory framework that is adaptive, open to experimentation, focused on results, and collaborative** across sectors, administrative jurisdictions and with the private sector. Deloitte Insights, [The Future of Regulation – Principles for regulating emerging technologies](#), dld Oct 2018.

86. Second, these efforts will be accompanied by public administration and civil service reform efforts to shift toward merit and performance-based employment in public service and a professional civil service that is more resilient to political interference. Good governance benchmarks and public report cards vetted by objective 3rd parties have the potential to institutionalize new merit-based standards and respond to people's demands for accountability. In targeted ministries and departments, civil servants will be able to demonstrate new skills<sup>110</sup> for evidence-based policy innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and public consultation. In all the above, the authorities in BiH will have new skills and abilities to improve access to justice, uphold their commitments to human rights and non-discrimination, strengthen capabilities for disaster and emergency preparedness and response, including coordination between relevant authorities in BiH, and provide better functioning protection mechanisms and humanitarian assistance for vulnerable groups.
87. Third, businesses, communities, and people need to see tangible changes and benefits from this traction in governance performance. Authorities need to move closer to people with a renewed 'service provider' mindset: This means new channels and mechanisms to deliver quality services in a more direct manner to people and businesses. Authorities will be supported to implement e-government platforms and digital technology services to streamline access to public services and increase people's abilities to provide feedback about their quality and timeliness and to call-out, safely, instances of discrimination and abuse of power.
88. Fourth, increased traction for governance reforms, and more people-centered policy and services will need the assurance that comes from enhanced community and border management. Relevant authorities in BiH will have new capacities to prevent illicit arms trafficking, improve border and freight management and provide reliable data, supporting increased interdictions and arrests. Community safety management plans will be developed in selected municipalities to help combat organized crime and efforts will continue to support the authorities in BiH to effectively manage war remnants and halt the proliferation of SALW.
89. Fifth, the migration management and asylum system needs further strengthening to adequately respond to increased migrant and refugee flows which began in 2018. BiH lacks adequate and sustainable reception capacity, primarily for vulnerable individuals with specific needs, and there are no comprehensive integration programs. The UN system will support the authorities in BiH to establish a sound protection environment with new capacities and mechanisms for status determination procedures, fair protection processes and documentation, strengthened responses for unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), and enhanced legal frameworks and effective coordination.
90. Sixth, and central to this and all other outcomes, cooperation will continue to address traditional **gender roles and gender-based exclusion** that are still widespread in BiH, reflected in indicators ranging from labor-force participation to the composition of the BiH parliament. While the legal and institutional frameworks for women's rights and gender equality are largely in place, gender-based discrimination continues to exist at many levels<sup>111</sup>. The most significant inequalities are economic: employment and access to economic resources, family planning, unpaid work, family care, property ownership, pay gaps, entrepreneurship opportunities, and

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110 See 6 characteristics of a ['high performing' civil service](#) M. Jarvis, Mowat Centre, School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Toronto, 2016.

111 The Constitution of BiH includes the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), and the country has ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention). The CEDAW commitments and recommendations of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, as well as other UN recommendations on women's human rights and gender equality, are included in the priorities of the third Gender Action Plan 2018-2022. In 2015, BiH adopted a Framework Strategy for the implementation of Istanbul Convention for the period 2015-2018. BiH is regularly reporting on its progress towards international bodies for gender equality and advancement of women's human rights; civil society is closely following all reporting and is submitting alternative reports accordingly.

traditional and patriarchal values. Women, and especially those from poor households and rural areas, are largely excluded from decision-making and from communication channels with their authorities. This limits their capacities to raise their voice and express their needs. Roma women and girls often doubly discriminated against<sup>112</sup>. Domestic violence is persistent and under-reported, with few effective protection measures. Women's political participation remains low and women are not equal in decision-making processes in public and private life<sup>113</sup>.

**91.** The UN system will work with the authorities in BiH to support effective implementation of existing country-strategies and plans, in line with international commitments and standards. Mechanisms and responses will be strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and to increase their participation decision-making in public life. The UN system will also help to identify and address major gaps in the availability of sex-disaggregated data, particularly for vulnerable groups and to enhance understanding and

policy response to address legal, institutional and socio-economic barriers.

**92.** For all the above, local partnerships at cantonal and local government levels will be explored to deliver integrated, quality work packages that can bring faster, more visible changes to people's lives. Effective local action plans, implementation, and monitoring will highlight components that can be taken quickly to scale country-wide.

**93.** Combined, the outcome and contributing results and strategies will make specific and valued added contributions for more coherent and transparent governance institutions that are free from corruption. Governance reforms are often opaque and difficult to communicate to the interested public. BiH-UN support for the governance initiatives under the Reform Agenda will benefit from a closer alignment with specific requirements under the Acquis and related to specific Copenhagen criteria as well as specific, domesticated SDG targets. These offer the possibility of a new narrative about trust in the authorities in BiH, peace and the rule of law while strengthening authorities' resilience to shocks and crises.

#### **IV. Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion**

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*Outcome 5. By 2025, there is stronger mutual understanding, respect and trust among individuals and communities*

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##### **Theory of change**

**94.** This cooperation outcome is an enabler for all other outcomes and for the EU accession and SDG-related priorities of the authorities in BiH. The theory of change underlying this outcome is that increased levels of mutual respect, trust and empathy between people and communities across all of BiH will help to address the reconciliation deficit and contribute to greater social cohesion and stability. Without greater trust and confidence

in society, efforts to diversify the economy, strengthen the quality of and delivery of basic services, and enhance governance and rule of law cannot succeed. Cooperation is expected to support the authorities in BiH to implement recommendations from the recent UPR to eliminate social exclusion and all forms of discrimination and ensure the political participation of all individuals, at all levels of governance<sup>114</sup>.

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112 Rural women and Roma women have limited access to social protection benefits and to health insurance compared to urban women and men.

113 UN Common Country Analysis for BiH (CCA), UN, 2019 (draft), 26-27, 36.

114 UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\): Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), A/HRC/43/17, 19 December, 2019.

**95.** By 2025, the success of BiH and UN cooperation efforts will be seen in:

- ▶ More people and especially young people expressing higher levels of trust in society and a view that reconciliation is possible;
- ▶ More people and especially young people expressing trust in people from other religions and political convictions;
- ▶ Larger numbers of people and especially young people taking part in community level initiatives that promote dialogue and peacebuilding, and fewer hate-related incidents.

**96.** Four conditions are necessary for the achievement of the outcome. These concern tangible new skills and abilities, products and services that will be produced in close cooperation by the authorities in BiH, the UN and other partners in civil society:

**97.** First, local environments of trust are needed for more sustained engagement and dialogue between individuals, especially amongst those from divided communities and those who feel disenfranchised, excluded, and without hope. The UN system will partner with local organizations to design and deliver informal education, events, and services that promote increased citizen engagement and strengthen social cohesion, tolerance and mutual understanding. Young people are potential ‘game changers’, providing alternative voices for social cohesion in divided communities. To this end, a special focus will be placed on youth serving organizations and leaders who will be provided opportunities to develop new capacities to design and deliver trauma transformation and peacebuilding programmes with their peers. The UN system will also support initiatives to strengthen social cohesion in migration-affected communities.

**98.** Second, local authorities also require new skills to engage with and respond to their constituencies, to embrace rather than avoid local complexities, and to ensure that dialogue is matched with improved, quality basic

services (under outcome 2) more effective local governance, including respect for human rights and gender equality and respect for human rights (under outcome 3).

**99.** Third, a stronger demand-side component is needed to identify champions for change amongst the authorities, local governments, and community leaders and groups. They may be business leaders, social media influencers, religious leaders, journalists, or academics, and they can increase demands for concrete governance reform and hold officials to account for their commitments. Changing mindsets and encouraging new behaviours among people to claim their rights to good government and quality services will encourage constructive, critical thinking and help to make society resilient to corruption and patronage systems. New approaches to public consultations and citizen engagement are needed to demonstrate a willingness of those in power to be held accountable for substantive policy choices and programmes and for the cost-effective use of public resources.

**100.** Finally, UN and international partners must work more effectively to converge and scale up fragmented peace-building initiatives in BiH and the Western Balkan region to create a critical mass of support to prevent conflict and sustain the peace. For the UN system, this will be guided by the Western Balkans Action Plan<sup>115</sup>. The Plan calls for increased engagement, including by UN senior officials, of authorities at all levels of government, to actively reduce tensions and divisions between communities and states. Under the Plan, the UN is also seeking to support agents of change that could help contribute to dialogue, trust-building and reconciliation, and to support transitional justice initiatives. The UN will also engage key international actors, including the *EU, OSCE, and bilateral ODA partners*.

**101.** Combined, the outcome and contributing results and strategies will make specific and valued added contributions to help rebuild

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<sup>115</sup> UN system-wide commitment to strengthen its support for trust-building and dialogue in the region, as agreed by UN leadership in 2019.

trust and to encourage constructive dialogue. Without these intangible, non-technical aspects of the transition process, the region

will continue to struggle to break-down barriers between groups and their leaders and to address rooted, structural challenges.

## 3.5 Synergies between outcomes

**102.** In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each of the priorities and outcomes embody a **nexus of important key changes**. There are important linkages between the outcomes:

- ▶ *Within* outcome 1, accelerated economic diversification and shared prosperity in BiH will depend upon the sustainable management of its considerable natural wealth. Efforts are needed to reduce fragmentation in policy frameworks and to promote more integrated and sustainable economic policy making in line with low carbon, green economy principles.
- ▶ Economic diversification under outcome 1 will depend upon credible and relevant reform of employment policy and with efforts under outcome 2 to forge effective, ongoing institutional coordination between employers and decision-makers in education and training institutes. This is essential to close the skills gaps or the discrepancy between the skills of workers in BiH, especially young people, and those demanded in the labour market for businesses to compete locally, regionally, and with EU competitors<sup>116</sup>.
- ▶ Efforts to strengthen the governance of the health and social protection systems under outcome 3 will depend upon legislative and regulatory reforms for stronger public administration under outcome 4. In particular efforts to strengthen institutional capacities to implement existing country-wide frameworks and strategies related to gender-based violence and violence against children (outcome 4) will be complemented by local level initiatives through health and social services to implement effective referral and protection mechanisms

for more rapid progress (outcome 3).

- ▶ Under outcome 4, support to the authorities in BiH to implement accepted recommendations from human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms will help to meet international standards for rule of law, access to justice, and gender equality. It will also contribute to the implementation of all outcomes, and particularly the conditions for sustainable economic growth and opportunities for young people, women and other vulnerable groups. This will help to form stronger links between economic transformation and the exercise of human rights such as to rule of law and non-discrimination.
- ▶ Outcome 5 related to trust and social cohesion represents a major 'demand-side' approach to strengthen people dialogue and also to increase demands for greater transparency and accountability in public administration and services. It is instrumental to all outcome, but especially outcomes 1 (sustainable economy) and 4 (good governance) to build confidence in decision-making processes of the authorities, knowing their voices are being heard.

**103.** For all outcomes:

- ▶ Planned results are expected to help reduce key factors that drive out-migration and 'brain drain'. In particular this will be seen in the synergies between efforts to improve access to higher quality health care, strengthen the education system, improve the policy and regulatory environment for business development and job creation, enhance governance performance at local levels, and increase social cohesion, especially amongst young people.

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<sup>116</sup> These links could pave the way for the development of a comprehensive employment policy framework and local employment plans with high levels of private sector engagement.

- ▶ The UN system will continue to address **gender-based exclusion**, which continues at many levels. Traditional gender roles are still widespread in and can be seen in a range of indicators ranging from gender-based violence to labor-force participation to representation of women on national and local councils. The UN system will continue to support the authorities in BiH to meet their international commitments by addressing gaps in legislative and institutional frameworks and building capacities for gender analysis and gender-responsive programming
- ▶ Sound policies and effective strategic planning, budgeting, and performance management will depend upon **reliable, disaggregated statistics** and a greater focus on actual implementation and performance monitoring. Attention is needed to produce data disaggregated by gender, age groups, income groups, employment, education, forced displacement and disability status, and for systematic sharing and communication<sup>117</sup>. The UN system will work with the statistical bodies of the authorities in BiH to strengthen the quality and availability of data for effective policymaking and programme implementation.
- ▶ Partnerships and implementation strategies will examine **local, area-based convergence** of cooperation efforts at cantonal and local government levels and with community actors. Tailored joint initiatives will be designed with local authorities to bring faster, more visible changes to people's lives. Effective monitoring will highlight components that can be taken quickly to scale country wide.
- ▶ A response to the high disaster risks in BiH is provided under outcome 1 (para 57-58) with enhanced disaster preparedness and response at local levels. The UN system will continue to advocate and support robust, well-coordinated disaster risk monitoring and response systems in BiH and across sectors.

**104.** Lastly, stronger regional cooperation is needed in areas such as population development, water, energy, environment, sustainable transport, transit and connectivity, trade,

statistics, gender equality, and socio-economic recovery after COVID-19. In particular, the United Nations adopted a region-wide plan of action in June 2019 that calls for increased engagement, including by UN senior officials, of authorities at all levels of government, to actively reduce tension and divisions between communities and states. Under the Plan, the UN seeks to support agents of change that can contribute to dialogue, trust-building and reconciliation, and to support transitional justice initiatives. The UN will also engage key international actors, including the EU, OSCE and bilateral ODA partners. The CF and the plan of action are complementary as the United Nations helps create an environment that should be governed by common socio-economic priorities and aspirations; and greater opportunity, stability and security for all groups and all countries in the region. These efforts tie into the broader sustaining peace work of the United Nations as well as the Secretary-General's own call for a concerted effort for solutions leading to long-term stability in the Western Balkans.

**105.** The COVID-19 pandemic is a transboundary concern, affecting all persons and the functioning of every sector. Regional cooperation is essential for the overall socio-economic recovery in terms of harmonization of the security, economic and health measures and policies, but also strengthening preparedness going forward through exchange of lessons learnt and best practices. Effective response across BiH will require much greater internal coordination between relevant authorities in BiH as well as regional and international cooperation on matters including: Surveillance, rapid response and case investigation, monitoring and controlling border entry points while not stifling flows of essential workers and commodities, including personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers, and effective communication and coordination with international laboratories<sup>118</sup>.

<sup>117</sup> To better understand education and employment challenges for girls and women it will be important to develop capacities in household and time-use surveys in BiH

<sup>118</sup> WHO, [COVID-19 STRATEGY UPDATE](#), 14 April, 2020.

## 3.6 Sustainability

**106.** Notwithstanding the complex governance arrangements and programme environment in BiH, the CF priorities and outcomes are a clear, validated response to priorities in BiH. This is a first, essential element of sustainability. Additionally, cooperation results will be addressed through capacity development and enhanced cross-sector collaboration. Tangible capacity development<sup>119</sup> that will extend beyond training and skills development, to generate sustainability, support the scaling-up of good practices, and address any discriminatory attitudes and practices. The UN system and the authorities in BiH will base capacity development initiatives on sound capacity assessments and innovative

measures to address institutional bottlenecks that impede results at local levels. The partners will continue to promote stronger, deeper engagement with the private sector, as drivers of economic diversification, and with civil society groups to create more space for their services at community level, and especially for vulnerable groups.

**107.** The authorities in BiH and the UN system will pursue cross-sectoral approaches. Including mechanisms to encourage greater inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination for enhanced planning, implementation, and monitoring in line with international standards.

## 3.7 UN comparative advantages and UNCT configuration

**108.** The UN is committed to harnessing its comparative advantages to work jointly and more effectively with country partners to embrace new ways of thinking and doing. The priorities and expected outcomes of this cooperation are catalytic, cross-sectoral, and based upon multi-stakeholder engagement and action. Full implementation will draw upon the comparative advantages of the UN system:

- ▶ A **longstanding presence** in the country, providing institutional and contextual knowledge with a unique direct access to decision takers at all levels of the complex and fragmented governing structure in BiH,
- ▶ A trusted, **neutral partner**, in a politically sensitive and divisive context of BiH upholding international **commitments**, norms and

standards, in line with the international commitments of the authorities in BiH,

- ▶ **A convener** of current and potential partners supporting SDG achievement in BiH, including the relevant authorities in BiH, civil society groups and community partners, the private sector, and regional and international partners, including IFIs;
- ▶ Application of **cross-sector approaches** and coordination for complex cross cutting issues such as efforts to address exclusion and vulnerability ('no one left behind'), gender equality and women's empowerment, climate change and rights-based approaches to development,
- ▶ Wider **cross-border, regional, and thematic perspectives** to respond to the sustainable development agenda and SDGs,
- ▶ **Evidence-based policy advice and technical**

<sup>119</sup> Capacity development: Capacity development is the process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole create and strengthen their skills and abilities for positive economic, social, and environmental change. A capacity development approach will inform all aspects of this CF.

- expertise**, including advocacy for vulnerable groups in laws, policies, and national and sector programmes, and
- ▶ Support for the collection, analysis, and use of **disaggregated data**, including through household surveys, in line with international standards.
- 109.** In particular the UN system will place greater emphasis, compared to past frameworks, on its normative, convening, and facilitating roles. Policy, legal, and technical advice, in line with the international commitments of BiH and international standards, will be at the fore of cooperation efforts. Service delivery and the use of parallel implementation arrangements will only be considered in the absence of alternative capacity in BiH and civil society institutions.
- 110. UNCT Configuration:** In order to deliver fully on their commitments under this CF, the UN system has identified new capacities and resources that are required to support the achievement of planned results. In keeping with the emphasis of cooperation on policy advice, technical assistance, and capacity development, most of the new support will be provided by advisory and technical assets from regional offices and headquarters of UN system agencies, with any gaps addressed with external technical expertise. The additional support will be front-loaded during the first years of the CF drawing mainly on core UN system resources and other resources mobilized from major donors. Many of the new areas of substantive expertise are important for achieving the expected synergies between outcomes (see 3.5). They include:
- ▶ Strengthened efforts to promote **peace-building and social cohesion** with a broader systems approach, building on the achievements and lessons from the Dialogue for the Future (DFF) initiative;
  - ▶ Increased capacities to engage with finance authorities in BiH to support SDG costing exercises and advocacy for SDG-related spending priorities, and to establish new partnerships to mobilize **financing for the SDGs**;
  - ▶ Expanded partnerships and implementation strategies to **localize the emerging SDG Framework in BiH**, focusing on local, area-based convergence of governance reform and quality social services at Cantonal and Municipal levels, with community partners;
  - ▶ Improved mechanisms and processes to convene and engage more regularly with **civil society organizations, private sector, financing institutions and other stakeholders** and to develop stronger partnerships for CF implementation and monitoring (support from regional bodies and HQ of UN agencies);
  - ▶ Strengthened support for **environmental governance** including implementation of ratified international conventions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and using advancements in science, technology and innovation;
  - ▶ Enhanced efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities of BiH authorities and internal UN system capacities to respond quickly and coherently to sudden onset emergencies;
  - ▶ Strengthened focus on **advocacy and support for human rights** considerations in the policies and programmes of BiH authorities, linked to implementation of accepted UPR recommendations;
  - ▶ Enhanced UN system capacities to support the statistical institutions in BiH to respond to **SDG-related data gaps** with cost-effective methodologies to produce disaggregated statistics and digital data management in support of evidence-based policy making; and
  - ▶ Expanded capacities in support of UN system **business operations harmonization**.

**4**

**Implementation  
plan**

**111.** Implementation of the CF is based on the principle of partnership with relevant the authorities in BiH, on the basis of the BiH Constitution. In order to ensure coherence

and effectiveness for the achievement of CF results, country-wide, implementation will take place with a coordinated approach involving relevant authorities in BiH.

## 4.1 Implementation strategy and strategic partnerships

**112.** The authorities in BiH and the UN system will employ cost-effective and coherent mechanisms to plan, finance, deliver, monitor and report on CF results and their expected contribution to priorities in BiH. Based upon the detailed cooperation results and strategies described in section 3 and the results matrix (Annex A), emphasis is placed on the achievement of planned outcomes, and coordinated, coherent efforts to make tangible, measurable contributions to priorities in BiH.

**113.** Mindful of the comprehensive ambition and inter-sectoral nature of the CF results and the SDGs targets in BiH, including the financial needs, stronger and expended partnerships will be forged beyond the authorities in BiH. This will include close collaboration with the civil society, private sector, academia, community groups, and international partners, the IFIs and the EU in particular, in order to leverage broader capacity and resource baseline for the achievement of the SDGs targets in BiH. This will be achieved through a stronger convening role of the UN system bringing together all the relevant stakeholders in a coordinated and strategic manner on key SDGs-related policy discussions. At the strategic level, this will be achieved on an annual basis using the annual reporting and

planning process for a broader consultative process with the authorities in BiH and other stakeholders on the strategic direction of the CF implementation. This will be complemented by strong advocacy efforts on the benefits of the SDGs implementation for government and non-government stakeholders. At the technical level, the UN system will continue strengthening and expending partnerships at the projects level engaging additional non-traditional partners and leveraging further potential for sustainable development efforts in BiH.

**114.** Financing strategies and approaches will be developed to address (1) Funding gaps for CF outcomes and, pending its endorsement by the authorities in BiH, (2) Achievement of the SDG Framework in BiH and domesticated SDG targets<sup>120</sup>. For the SDG framework this will involve costing of the framework and mapping and alignment of sector budgets against the SDG pathways and drivers. All funding and financing strategies will promote cost-sharing and stronger partnerships with the private sector, including individual donors and corporate partners. New sources of finance will be identified, including options for blended finance and influencing the policy environment to facilitate greater resource flows for SDG-related country priorities.

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120 Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH, June 2019 (DRAFT).

## 4.2 Governance

**115.** The CF will be executed under the overall co-ordination of the CF Steering Committee in BiH. Coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programmes are noted in Annex B. The authorities in BiH, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. The CF will be made operational through the development of joint UN work plan(s) (JWPs) and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed CF and endorsed JWPs and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the CF and JWPs<sup>121</sup>.

**116.** Governance arrangements for the CF will enhance joint work and reduce duplication:

### Steering committee

**117.** 117. The CF Steering Committee (SC) provides strategic guidance and direction and reviews overall performance of the CF. Membership and decision-making will be inclusive, adapted to the BiH context. It is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and a designated coordinating representative of the authorities in BiH. Its members will comprise representatives of BiH authorities and the heads of UN system agencies. It meets at least once per year and may be convened by the co-chairs as required. The work of

the SC will be supported by the office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RCO), acting as secretariat. Discussions and decisions of the SC will be reported to relevant levels of the authorities in BiH for formal information sharing and accountability. Regular liaison and information-sharing will be established between the SC and the future institutional mechanism for the SDG framework in BiH to ensure full alignment of the CF with SDG-related planning and implementation activities in BiH.

### Programme Management Team (PMT)

**118.** To maximize strategic coherence across the expected outcomes, a single PMT will be established. It monitors achievement of planned CF results and advises the SC and UNCT on opportunities and challenges in the evolving programme environment. The Programme Management Team (PMT) is a technical coordination mechanism that supports CF implementation by performing five core functions: (1) Joint analysis and data collection, (2) Annual planning, monitoring and reporting, (3) Cross-agency coordination of development activities, and (4) Identification of joint initiatives, including potential joint programmes, and (5) Identification of new sources of funding for CF results and financing for wider SDG achievement in BiH. Using a single joint work plan (JWP) for all CF outcomes, the PMT coordinates and monitors the achievement of CF results and their contribution to priorities in BiH. The PMT will liaise closely with existing country sector or thematic coordination bodies. It will also establish a mechanism, such as an advisory platform or group, to ensure regular

<sup>121</sup> In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

consultation, networking, and coordination with partners in civil society, academia, and the private sector.

- 119.** The PMT is co-chaired by a Head of Agency, on a rotating basis, and the chief of the RCO, subject to UNCT designation. The co-chairs act on behalf of the entire UNCT to ensure effective coordination of the PMT and implementation of its core functions in support of CF implementation and monitoring. Members of the PMT comprise the senior programme staff from each UN system agency involved in the CF. They are accorded the authorities needed to represent their agencies in the PMT and provide consolidated contribution on behalf their agencies to the work of the PMT. Secretariat support for the PMT is provided by the RCO. The PMT will coordinate and engage additional UNCT staff and relevant capacities to the extent required for more effective implementation of its core functions.

### Joint Work Plan

- 120.** The PMT prepares a single, biennial Joint Work Plan (JWP), in consultation with the authorities in BiH, for all the CF outcomes. The JWP reflects planned cooperation outputs, all key UN system-supported activities, delivered jointly or by individual agencies, resources that are required and available as well as funding gaps. The JWP is an important and effective tool to maximise synergies across the CF outcomes and avoid duplication as well as reduce transaction costs for the UNCT as well as the BiH partners. During the annual review and reporting exercises, the biennial JWP will be reviewed, re-assessed and potentially adjusted in line with new and emerging priorities in the country.

### Operations Management Team and Business Operations Strategy

- 121.** The Operations Management Team (OMT) provides support and advice to the UNCT and SC about efforts to harmonize business

operations and contribute to the delivery of CF results. The OMT will explore opportunities for common back office services for timely and cost-effective support for procurement, finance, human resources, logistics, ICT, and facility management. The OMT will also be responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring of the subsequent UNCT Business Operations Strategy, outlining mid-term strategic goals for greater UNCT operational cohesion, effectiveness and efficiency in line with the ongoing UN reform efforts. The OMT is chaired by a (resident) Head of Agency on a rotational basis. Members are drawn from among the senior operations officers from UN system agencies.

### United Nations Communication Group (UNCG)

- 122.** A United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) will work to increase awareness and visibility of CF results. It pools communication expertise and resources and enhances joint communication. It is chaired by a Head of Agency on a rotational basis, who reports directly to the UNCT on the group's planned activities and results.

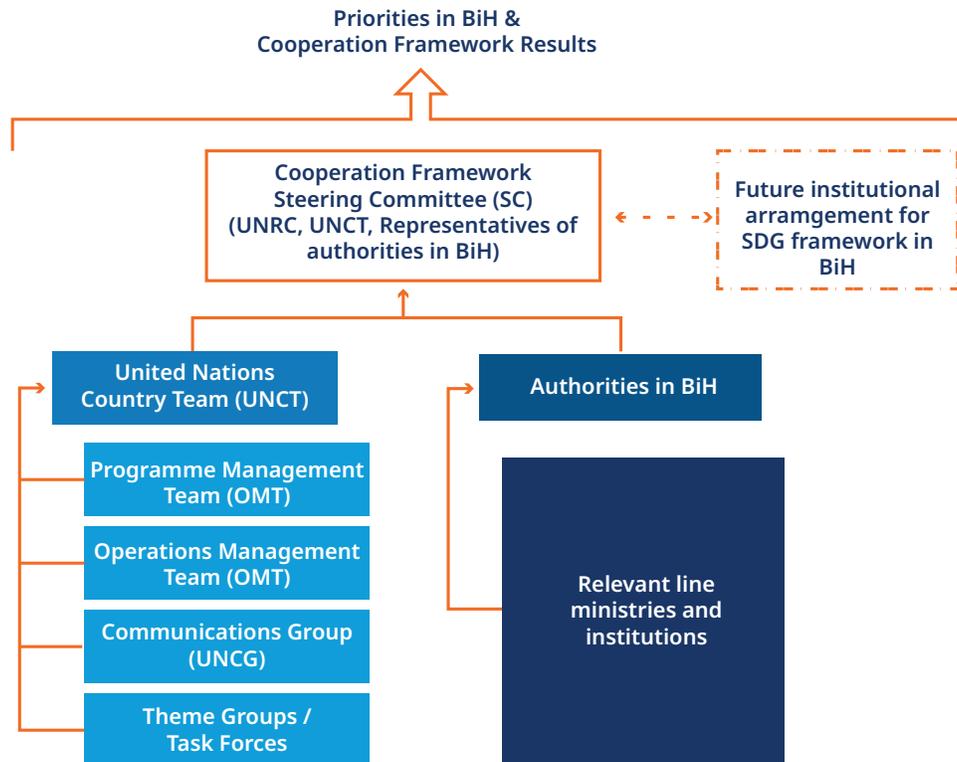
- 123.** In addition, the SC and UNCT may establish working groups in thematic areas such as Gender Equality and Young people, and to address substantive concerns that have a regional dimension, such as migration management. These groups will share information and support the integration of thematic concerns during CF implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Upon decision of the UNCT and in line with identified needs, ad-hoc UNCT Task Teams may be established addressing a specific issue within a limited timeframe.

- 124.** In case of emergencies, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) will be activated to support Government efforts in terms of humanitarian response and will ensure synergies between humanitarian and developmental processes in order to build resilience and mitigate future natural hazards or other emergencies.

125. All internal UNCT coordination bodies are expected to closely coordinate their work for effective implementation of the CF. The UNCT is the overarching decision-making and reporting mechanism for all internal UNCT coordination bodies. Chairing authorities, set

at the level of Heads of Agencies, will update and inform the UNCT on the work of the UNCT coordination bodies during regular UNCT meetings ensuring full alignment and synergy across their work.

Figure: Governance arrangements for the CF



### Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers

126. UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF use a harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT). All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

127. Cash transfers for activities detailed in the joint work plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred to a relevant authority in BiH for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:
  - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
  - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

- 128.** Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.
- 129.** Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities shall depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN<sup>122</sup> Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.
- 130.** Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.
- 131.** In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner within 14 days.
- 132.** In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 14 days.
- 133.** The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.
- 134.** Where the UN system agencies provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.
- 135.** A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of joint work plans will be used by Implementing Partners (IPs) to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the UN organization will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. IPs will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the IP.
- 136.** Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the WPs only.
- 137.** Cash received by the Government and national NGO IPs shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds, unless prescribed differently by agency requirements. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures

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122 For the purposes of these clauses, 'the UN' includes the IFIs.

is not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

- 138.** In the case of IPs that are international NGOs, CSOs, and IGOs, cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds, unless prescribed differently by agency requirements.
- 139.** To facilitate scheduled and special audits each IP receiving cash from a UN system agency will provide the UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:
- ▶ All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by a UN system agency, together with relevant documentation
  - ▶ All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partners' internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed
- 140.** The findings of each audit will be reported to the IP and UN system agency. Each IP will furthermore:
- ▶ Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors,
  - ▶ Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UN organization that provided cash, and to the SAI, before submitting it to the UN system agency,
  - ▶ Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations,
  - ▶ Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations, to the UN system agencies and to the SAI, on a quarterly basis or as locally agreed.

- 141.** The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by third party audit services.

### **Resource Mobilization Strategy**

- 142.** The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the CF, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system agencies' support may be provided to Non-Governmental [and Civil Society] organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual work plans (WPs) and project documents.
- 143.** Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes.
- 144.** The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.
- 145.** Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the CF. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the work plans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN system agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to the UN system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

# 5

**Monitoring and  
evaluation**

## 5.1 Monitoring plan

- 146.** Monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and learning (MEL) functions for the CF are based upon the expected CF results and indicators in the results matrix (Annex B). The CF is a living framework. Arrangements for MEL will enable authorities in BiH and the UN system to compare actual progress against expected results, track and report on resources mobilized and delivered, identify lessons, and adapt results and strategies to respond to changes in socio-economic conditions and emerging priorities. The primary responsibility for MEL rests with the SC and UNCT on the basis of regular monitoring and reporting by the Programme Management Team (PMT) and the relevant authorities in BiH. The CF reporting methodology and data collection will rely on the official data provided by the relevant authorities in BiH to the extent available. It will also consider the reporting and data collection methodology defined in the emerging SDGs Framework in BiH.
- 147.** In addition to monitoring progress toward the outcome indicators provided in the results matrix, the authorities in BiH and the UN system will track changes in the sentinel impact indicators (para 45) and other domesticated SDG indicators provided by the statistical agencies in BiH. Gaps in data will be addressed through ongoing support to BiH statistical offices, and surveys or other studies identified as a part of cooperation. Targets for CF outcomes are preliminary and provisional pending further alignment with the policies and plans of BiH authorities. As far as possible data for baselines and targets will be disaggregated by sex, age groups, area, income, and sub-population groups, especially vulnerable groups as defined in the CF.
- 148.** Throughout the MEL process, ownership and leadership by the authorities in BiH is essential to sustain the demand for CF performance information and to use that information for learning, managing, and adjusting strategy and resources for greater impact. The authorities in BiH and the UN system will, together, identify priorities for ME capacity strengthening.
- 149.** Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:
- a. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN system agencies,
  - b. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
  - c. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

### Risks

- 150.** On the basis of country analytic work, the major risks to cooperation and sustained progress toward achievement of the SDGs are:
- ▶ Potential institutional deadlock, lack of the coordinated and dedicated approach towards the sustainable development agenda and constraints in decision-making and financing for

- critical country-wide frameworks and policies;
- ▶ Potential changes in the process, criteria, and requirements for EU accession, providing additional hurdles for BiH candidacy;
- ▶ Unfavorable economic and trade trends, including global recessionary fears, that could negatively affect the BiH current account and balance of trade, and the ability to implement development initiatives;
- ▶ Further deterioration of people's trust in the institutions and systems in place, with a greater spread of apathy and even greater numbers of people emigrating;
- ▶ Deepening social polarization which may impede dialogue and social cohesion in the country, increasing the potential for conflict;
- ▶ Major talent and labour gaps created by population decline due to out-migration, low fertility and population ageing;
- ▶ High risks from natural hazards and potential emergencies and insufficient institutional and local preparedness to respond;
- ▶ Decreasing international commitments and financial support due to the status of BiH as an upper middle-income country and prolonged institutional challenges; and
- ▶ Increase of refugee and migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to geopolitical developments or changes in neighboring countries' approaches towards migrants and refugees.

Each of these risks is worsened by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic which is creating a severe, immediate strain on health systems, governance and fiscal balance, trade and commerce in Europe, including the Western Balkans, from mid-February 2019

## 5.2 Review and reporting

- 153.** Effective review and reporting will: Compare actual progress against expected results, communicate the contribution of cooperation results to priorities in BiH, and identify any required adjustments to cooperation results, strategy, and resources to respond to the

**151.** In the longer run, the most critical risk for BiH is the ongoing out-migration and loss of young people and the most skilled professionals and workers, combined with an ageing population. Without concerted efforts to reverse this trend, it will have major, negative impacts on economic development and the sustainability of health, social protection, and education systems.

**152.** The risk management strategy involves:

- ▶ Stronger, more sustained cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, led by the SC. This will help to sustain links between the planned CF results and the policies and plans of the authorities in BiH, and to ensure that data and evidence are being used to influence CF implementation.
- ▶ Efforts to operationalise existing policies, strategies and service delivery frameworks of the authorities in BiH and to build new capacities for effective, cross-sectoral approaches at Cantonal, Municipal and community levels, with a focus on vulnerable groups.
- ▶ Consistent, impartial advocacy and policy dialogue, based on the SDGs, to develop cost-effective models and options to enhance the quality and coverage of essential services, within programmatic and budgetary constraints.
- ▶ Ongoing review and updating of the contingency plans of the authorities in BiH and the UN system to respond to disasters and emergencies.
- ▶ A CF financing strategy, driven by the SC, that promotes stronger partnerships with civil society, the private sector, and IFIs.

evolving programme context. The primary responsibility for assessing the progress of CF implementation rests with the CF Steering Committee (SC) and UNCT. This is done on the basis of routine monitoring and reporting by the PMT against detailed results and activities

described in the JWP. As noted above, UN system agencies will strengthen the capacities of the statistical agency and institutes in BiH to produce disaggregated data, aligned with the SDGs<sup>123</sup>, and to strengthen the dissemination and use of data and statistics for evidence-based policy formulation and planning.

**154.** The main steps involved in monitoring, review and reporting about planned CF results are:

- ▶ Regular progress monitoring and annual reviews using the results and indicators provided in the CF Results Matrix (Annex B) and the JWP. These reviews will enable the partners to: a. Share information, b. Track the achievement of CF outputs and their contribution toward CF outcomes and to country priorities and related

SDG targets, c. Review major assumptions and risks, and d. Identify new opportunities or needed adjustments to planned results, strategy, and resources.

- ▶ Preparation of one annual CF results report<sup>124</sup> that describes actual outputs delivered against those planned in JWP and progress towards the CF outcomes and to priorities in BiH, the sentinel impact indicators (para 40) and other domesticated SDG indicators and targets, as shown in the results matrix (Annex B). Reporting will rely on the official data provided by the relevant authorities in BiH, to the extent available, and be strengthened by the relationship between the SC, UNCT and the SDGs Framework's institutional implementation mechanism in BiH.

## 5.3 Evaluation plan

**155.** Evaluation of the CF in early 2024 will be used to measure achievements and to support the formulation of the next CF. The evaluation will assess the relevance of the CF outcomes, the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation by UN system agencies and partners, and the sustainability of results and their contribution to priorities in BiH and related SDG targets. In addition to these standard criteria, the evaluation will gauge

the extent to which human rights and gender equality considerations were incorporated in the overall design and implementation of the CF and it will involve inclusive and diverse stakeholder engagement<sup>125</sup>.

- 156.** A costed multi-year joint monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan for the CF will be prepared separately.

123 For example, by: Sex, income, education level, and disability status.

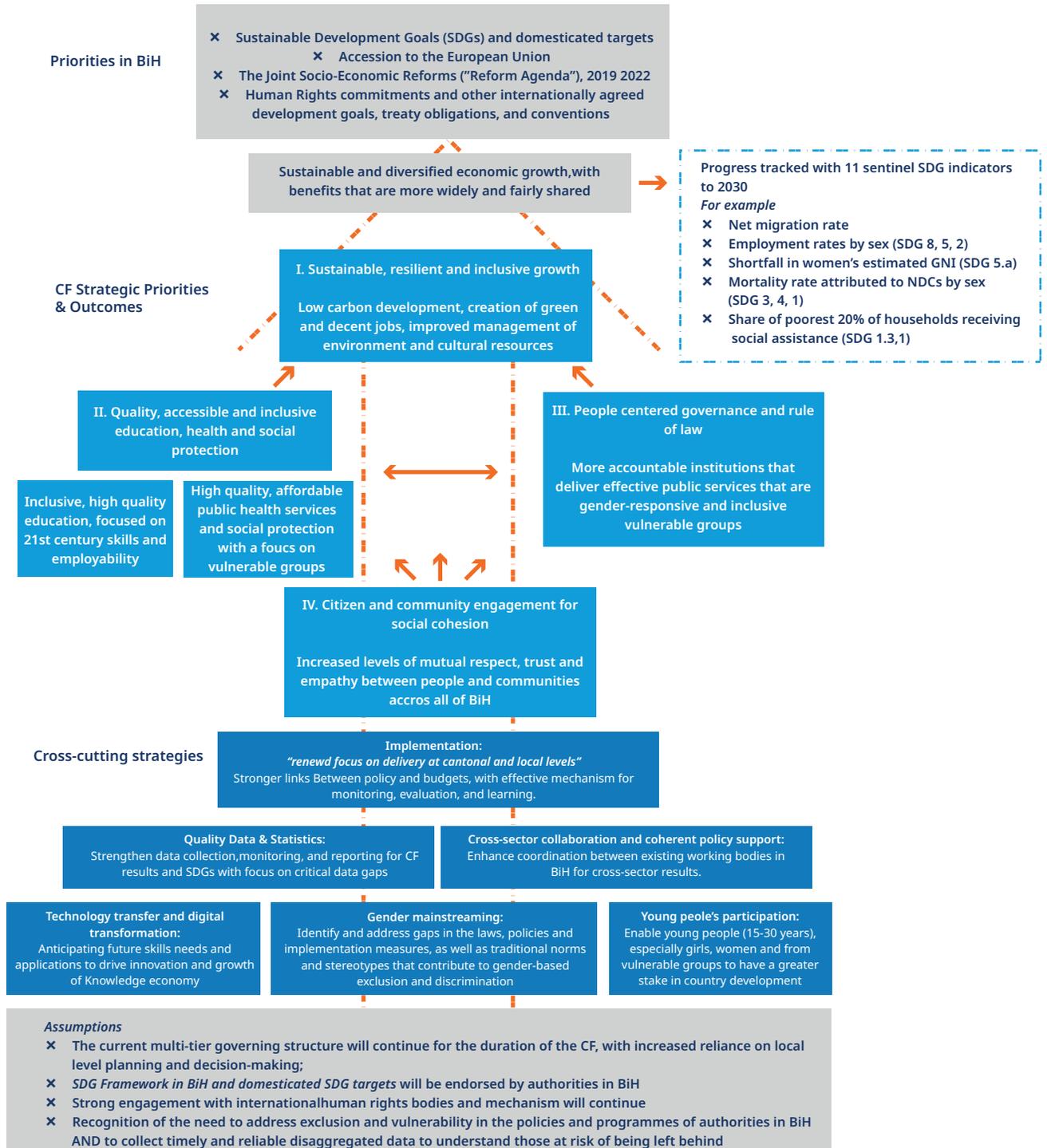
124 The progress update will follow the UNSDG Standard Operational Format and Guidelines for Reporting Progress on the Cooperation Framework.

125 These criteria and considerations per: The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), [Norms and Standards for Evaluation](#), 2017.

# Annex A. Theory of Change

## Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNited Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021- 2025

### Theory of change



## Annex B. Results Matrix

The outcomes of BiH-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) make a direct, tangible contribution for the achievement of the priorities of authorities in BiH, the priorities for EU accession, and related Sustainable Development Goals and targets (SDGs).

- ▶ **Outcomes are high level changes** for which there is collective accountability of authorities in BiH, UN system agencies and implementing partners, including civil society organisations, community groups, the private sector, and international financial institutions. Outcomes are changes in institutional performance or the behaviours of people and their communities. They describe: (1) How people are acting differently to improve their lives and those of their families and communities or (2) How institutions are performing in new ways to support people in their efforts.
- ▶ **Outputs describe new skills and abilities, products or services.** The outputs, together, make a contribution toward the expected outcome. The planned outputs from cooperation between the authorities in BiH and the UN system will be developed as part of detailed **Joint Work Plans (JWP)** for each outcome.

### Indicators, targets, and linkages:

Indicators for the CF are *measurable*, aligned with the indicator framework for the SDGs<sup>126</sup>, and with the main target indicators in emerging SDG Framework for BiH. This helps to demonstrate a theory of change between cooperation results and the SDG-related priorities of the authorities in BiH. Indicators, baselines, and targets will be reviewed and aligned, as needed, with existing and new sector strategies and plans of authorities in BiH.

The *linkages* between CF outcomes and the priorities in BiH are shown at the top of the results matrix for each outcome.

Targets for CF outcomes are *preliminary* and *provisional* pending further alignment with policies and plans of authorities in BiH.

Vulnerable groups: Unless otherwise specified, vulnerable groups comprise: Households below the BiH poverty line (17% 2015), and those headed by women and younger people, victims of domestic violence and war-time victims of rape, disadvantaged children and young people, people with disabilities, unemployed persons, the Roma, LGBTI, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), minority returnees, refugees and asylum seekers, persons under subsidiary protection, persons at risk of statelessness, victims of human trafficking, and groups of people at risk from climate change and natural disasters. There are other vulnerable groups in BiH that are not the primary focus of UN system cooperation: Elderly isolated persons, alcohol and drug addicts, prisoners and former prisoners, persons living with HIV and AIDS.

126 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>; <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

BiH & UN Results Matrix [2021-2025]		
CF priority: Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth		
<p><b>SDGs and targets</b><sup>127</sup>: 1. No poverty: 1.2, 1.4; 2. Food security: 2.3; 5. Gender equality: 5.c; 6. Clean water &amp; sanitation: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; 7. Affordable clean energy: 7.2.1; 8. Decent work &amp; economic growth: 8.5.2; 9. Industry and innovation: 9.4.1; 10. Reduce inequality: Gini index of income inequality (proxy: 10.1.1, 10.2.1); 11. Sustainable cities, communities: 11.3.2, 11.6.1, 11.6.2, 11.b.1; Responsible consumption and production: 12.5.1; climate change: 13; 15. Life on land: 15.1.2, 15.4.1, 15.b.1</p> <p><b>Sentinel impact indicators</b><sup>128</sup>: 1. Net migration rate<sup>128</sup>; 2. Unemployment and employment rates by sex (SDG 8.5.2)<sup>129</sup>; 3. Shortfall in women's estimated GNI (SDG 5.a, 10.2, proxy); 4. Energy intensity, in terms of primary energy and GDP (SDG 7.3.1)</p> <p><i>SDG Framework in BiH (draft)</i>: 1. Good governance: ii. Rule of law and fundamental rights; 2. Smart growth: i. Entrepreneurship and innovation, ii. Green growth, iii. Smart natural resource management, iv. Environmental protection; Cross-cutting: Human capital for 21st and Leave no one behind</p> <p><i>EU accession</i><sup>130</sup>: (1) IPA-3 Public Administration Reform, Cross-border, Regional cooperation (connectivity, energy and climate change); (2)</p> <p><i>Joint Socio-Economic Reforms, 2019-2022</i><sup>131</sup>: I. Sustainable and Accelerated Economic Growth, Increased Competitiveness of the Economy and Improved Business Environment IV. Policies that Provide Opportunities to Youth, Women and other Vulnerable Groups</p> <p><i>'Implementation of these socio-economic measures is mutually reinforcing' and will '...facilitate BiH's integration in regional and European value chains. Further connectivity with neighbouring countries in transport and energy will strengthen the country's access to, and integration in, the regional market.'</i> - Preamble</p> <p><i>Regional framework(s) and targets</i>: Western Balkans Action Plan<sup>132</sup>; (3) Address challenges in the area of rule of law, including impunity, (4) Strengthening strategic coherence and effectiveness-UN and key stakeholders</p>		
Outcome	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners <sup>133</sup>
<p><b>Outcome 1.</b> By 2025, people benefit from resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth ensured by the convergence of economic development, and management of environment and cultural resources</p>	<p><b>1.a No.</b> Policy, financial or other stimulus measures endorsed to promote sustainable, green economy and low-carbon growth and living</p>	<p>BiHs: » Relevant authorities in BiH</p> <p>UN: » ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, IOM, UN Women, UNODC, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP</p>
	<p>Baseline (2019): 17</p> <p>Target (2025): 25</p> <p>Source: Reports by relevant authorities in BiH UN programme reports</p>	
	<p><b>1.b No.</b> Comprehensive employment policy frameworks, in line with international standards (<i>EPF have focus on young people, including gender equality provisions and sex disaggregated data</i>) (→ SDG 8.5.2) (Y/N)</p>	<p>Other Partners: Relevant CSOs, international partners, and representatives of private sector and academia</p>
	<p>Baseline (2019): 1</p> <p>Target (2025): 2</p> <p>Source: Reports by relevant authorities in BiH UN programme reports</p>	

127 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

128 See: [Net migration rate](#), UN Population Division. There are multiple BiH and international sources of information for the pace and scale of out-migration. The UN system will work with statistical authorities in BiH to agree on the indicators for the purposes of monitoring and reporting. In particular, measures are needed to gauge levels of migration amongst young people and the professions.

129 The [labour force participation rate of women](#) will also be monitored to consider a change in the numbers of women that have stopped looking for work and are not captured in unemployment rates. It was 35% in 2019, using the modeled ILO estimate.

130 Priorities for EU accession informed by: (1) Prospective outline of IPA-3 priorities, discussion with EU Delegation Office, BiH, Oct 2019. (2) European Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019.

131 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022, BiH Authorities, October 2019.

132 UN system-wide commitment to strengthen its support for trust-building and dialogue in the region, as agreed by UN leadership in 2019.

133 Partners to be more specifically defined during preparation of the biennial Joint UN Work Plans

<p><b>1.c No.</b> Active labour measures (ALM)<sup>134</sup> at local level designed in line with international labour standards (With focus on young people and including gender equality provisions and sex disaggregated data<sup>135</sup>) (→ SDG 8.5.2; 8.6.1 )</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2019):</u> 19</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> 38</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Reports by relevant authorities in BiH UN programme reports</p>
<p><b>1.d No.</b> Natural and cultural heritage sites with approved tourism management plan (→ SDG 8.9.1)</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2019):</u> 0</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> 3</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Reports by relevant authorities in BiH UN programme reports</p>
<p><b>1.e No.</b> People who benefit from safeguarded or new jobs and improved livelihoods as a result of UN support</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2019):</u> T: 28,057 W: 8,690 No. People whose jobs are safeguarded from COVID-19 crisis: N/A</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> T: 31,000 W: at least 9,200 No. People whose jobs are safeguarded from COVID-19 crisis: 400 (150 women)</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Reports by Agency for Statistics of BiH(quarterly) UN programme reports</p>
<p><b>1.f</b> Change in agriculture and rural development sector performance: a. No. Agriculture and rural development frameworks/strategies adopted that include gender equality provisions and sex disaggregated data b. No. Value chains strengthened c. % Increase in revenue of targeted agri-food operators (SMAEs)</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2019):</u> a. Frameworks/strategies:4 b. Value chains: 8 c. % Increase in revenue: 0</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> a. Frameworks/strategies: 9 b. Value chains: 12 c. % Increase in revenue: 20</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Reports by relevant authorities in BiH UN programme reports</p>
<p><b>1.g SDG Indicator 15.1.2</b> % Important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (a. Freshwater; b. Land)</p>		

134 Active Labour Market (ALM) measures most often involve a mix of five initiatives: (i) Training programmes to help workers improve their skills, often accompanied by income support; (ii) Public works programmes, often as part of public-private collaborations aimed at remote or poorer areas with large numbers of long-term unemployed; (iii) Employment subsidies for the hiring of unemployed persons, especially for groups facing significant barriers in the labour market, such as women, young people, and persons with disabilities; (iv) Self-employment and micro-enterprise creation policies and programmes that provide incentives and supports (micro-credit, business training, mentoring) for the start-up of SMEs; and (v) Public employment service (PES) to connect jobseekers and employers. ILO, [Finding proactive features in labour market policies](#): A reflection based on the evidence, 2018; ILO, [WHAT WORKS: PROMOTING PATHWAYS TO DECENT WORK](#), 2019.

135 ALM are particularly valuable for women, enabling young women to gain essential skills and work experience, as well as providing guidance in non-traditional work opportunities, and for adult women facilitating their re-entry into the labour market after breaks resulting from childbirth and child-rearing. Where women's labour force participation is low, ALM have shown greater, positive effects on employment for women than for men. Evidence shows that these results are strongest for skills-training programmes, and measures such as job-search assistance, hiring subsidies, and start-up grants. ILO, [Gender in employment policies and programmes: What works for women](#), EMPLOYMENT Working Paper No. 235 Employment Policy Department, 2017.

<p><u>Baseline (2015):</u> a: 6% b: 0</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> a: 10% b: 42%</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool, UNEP; Draft SDG Framework in BiH; World Bank; State legal acts</p>
<p><b>1.h SDG Indicator 13.2.1</b> Total annual emissions of carbon dioxide (in millions of metric tons)</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2014):</u> 25.539 Mt CO2</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> 23,000 Mt CO2</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Revised BiH Determined Contributions and the Energy and Climate Plan in BiH.</p>
<p><b>1.i SDG Indicator 11.6.2</b> Air Pollution / Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5 mean annual exposure - micrograms per cubic meter)</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2015):</u> 29.6</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> 21</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> WHO Global Health Observatory data-<a href="#">Exposure to ambient air pollution</a>; Draft SDG Framework in BiH document</p>
<p><b>1.j SDG Indicator 11.b.1/12.8.1</b> % Local authorities with local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 (a. No. ; b. Extent to which action plans include gender equity considerations and sex disaggregated data. Rating: 4. Full inclusion; 3. Partial; 2. Inadequate; 1. No inclusion)</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2020):</u> a. 40% b. Inadequate</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> a. 50% b. Partial</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Local authorities' strategies and reports. Note: propose indicator for SDG Framework group consideratio</p>

BiH & UN Results Matrix [2021-2025]				
CF priority: Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection				
SDGs and targets <sup>136</sup> : 3. Healthy lives and well-being: 3.4, 3.7; 4. Quality education: 4.1.1, 4.2.2, 4.7.1, 4.c.1; 5. Gender equality: 5.5, 5.a; 8. Decent work and economic growth: 8.3.1 (Proxy: Share of shadow economy in GDP), 8.5.2; 10. Reduced inequalities: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4				
Sentinel impact indicators: 1. Net migration rate; 2. Unemployment and employment rates by sex (SDG 8.5.2); 3. Shortfall in women's estimated GNI (SDG 5.a, 10.2, proxy)				
SDG Framework in BiH (draft): 1. Good governance: i. Efficient, transparent, inclusive and accountable public sector, ii. Rule of Law/Fundamental rights; 3. Equal opportunities: i. Adequate social security, ii. Inclusive employment policy; iv. Quality, inclusive education; Cross-cutting: Human capital for 21st and Leave no one behind				
EU accession <sup>137</sup> : (1) IPA-3 Rule of Law; Democracy & Human Rights; Public Administration; (2) Op9. Strengthen protection of the rights of all citizens, ensure implementation of non-discrimination, gender equality laws, Op9. Protection of human rights, non-discrimination; Op13. Improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups				
Joint Socio-Economic Reforms, 2019-2022 <sup>138</sup> : I. Sustainable and Accelerated Economic Growth, Increased Competitiveness of the Economy and Improved Business Environment IV. Policies that Provide Opportunities to Youth, Women and other Vulnerable Groups 'The skills that are needed to support a growing economy in the future are not being created and insufficient attention is paid to entrepreneurship and innovation in the education system.'				
Regional framework(s) and targets: Western Balkans Action Plan <sup>139</sup> : (3) Address challenges in the area of rule of law, including impunity				
Outcome	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
<b>Outcome 2.</b> By 2025, people benefit from more inclusive and higher quality educational programmes focused on 21st century skills for enhanced employability, well-being and active participation in society	<b>2.a SDG Indicator 4.2.2</b> Gross early childhood education enrollment ratio in pre-primary education (children 3-6 years), disaggregated by sex			BiH: » Relevant authorities in BiH  UN: » ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, IOM
	Baseline: (2019) T: 25% M: 26% F: 24%	Target (2025): T: 50% M: 50% F: 50%	Source: Preschool Education Platform in BiH; Reports by relevant authorities in BiH; Draft SDG Framework in BiH document	
	<b>2.b</b> Share of 15-year old girls and boys* who perform at PISA Level 2 or above in reading, mathematics, and science, by sex <sup>140</sup> (→ SDG 4.1.1)			Other Partners: » Relevant CSOs, international partners, and representatives of private sector and academia
	Baseline (2019): Reading: 46% (F: 55%; M: 38%) Mathematics: 42% (F: 43%; M: 42%) Science: 43% (F: 44%; M: 43%)	Target (2025): Reading: 55% (F: 55%; M: 55%) Mathematics: 55% (F: 55%; M: 55%) Science: 55% (F: 55%; M: 55%)	Source: PISA, OECD (2018, 2021, 2024)	

136 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

137 Priorities for EU accession informed by: (1) Prospective outline of IPA-3 priorities, discussion with EU Delegation Office, BiH, Oct 2019. (2) European Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019.

138 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022, BiH Authorities, October 2019.

139 UN system-wide commitment to strengthen its support for trust-building and dialogue in the region, as agreed by UN leadership in 2019

140 Girls scored better in reading (+30pts); No gender differences in math and science scores. OECD, Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), 2018 Bosnia and Herzegovina-Country Note, 2019.

<b>2.c SDG Indicator 8.6.1</b>		
% Young people (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training, by sex		
<u>Baseline (2017):</u> T: 24% M: 24% F: 24%	<u>Target (2025):</u> Total: 20% M: 20% F: 20%	<u>Source:</u> Draft SDG Framework in BiH document <sup>141</sup> ; BHAS data Note: EU average 2017: 10.8%
<b>2.d Presence of working cooperation between employers and decision makers in education and training institutes<sup>142</sup> (→ SDG 8.5.2; 8.6.1)</b>		
<u>Baseline:</u> No (2019)	<u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)	<u>Source:</u> Reports by relevant authorities in BiH; Programme reports

141 SDG WG and Data/Stats group may report on long-term unemployed and inactive, separately

142 This formal cooperation has the aim of providing a formal, regular platform to strengthen institutional relationships between employers and the education and training systems in BiH. This is intended to achieve stronger alignment between the curricula and programme offerings of the education and TVET systems with labour market needs. The structure of engagement will ensure a special focus on the situation of young people, women, and vulnerable groups.

BiH & UN Results Matrix [2021-2025]			
CF priority: Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection			
SDGs and targets <sup>143</sup> : 1. End poverty: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4; 3. Good health and well-being: 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8; 5. Gender equality 5.1, 5.2, 5.6; 10. Reduced inequalities: 10.2, 10.7, 4, 5 and 16. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children: 4.a, 5.2, 5.3, 16.1, 16.2.			
Sentinel impact indicators: 7. Child mortality rate, by sex (under-five years) (SDG3.2.1); 8. Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease, by sex (SDG 3.4.1); 9. Proportion of population living below the national (relative <sup>144</sup> ) poverty line, by location, sex and age (SDG 1.2.1); 10. Share of poorest 20% of households receiving social assistance, by area (SDG 1.3.1); 11. Gini index of income inequality (SDG 10.1.1, proxy)			
SDG Framework in BiH (draft): 1. Good governance: i. Efficient, transparent, inclusive and accountable public sector, ii. Rule of Law and Fundamental rights; 3. Equal opportunities: i. Adequate social security, iii. Efficient health care access; Cross-cutting: Human capital for 21st C and Leave no one behind			
EU accession <sup>145</sup> : (1) IPA-3 Rule of Law; Democracy & Human Rights; Public Administration; (2) Op8. 8. Effective migration management, asylum system, Op9. Strengthen protection of the rights of all citizens, Op9. Protection of human rights, non-discrimination; Op13. Improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups			
Joint Socio-Economic Reforms, 2019-2022 <sup>146</sup> : 'The reform of our respective health care systems will become one of our top priorities.' - Preamble III. Comprehensive Reform and Improved Quality of the Health Care Systems			
Regional framework(s) and targets: Western Balkans Action Plan <sup>147</sup> : (3) Address challenges in the area of rule of law, including impunity			
Outcome	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners	
<b>Outcome 3.</b> By 2025, people have access to better quality and inclusive health and social protection systems	<b>3.a SDG Indicator 3.8.1</b> Coverage of essential health services <sup>148</sup> (UHC)	BiH: » Relevant authorities in BiH  UN: » IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, UNODC, UNECE  Other Partners: Relevant CSOs, international partners, and representatives of private sector and academia	
	Baseline (2015): 57		Target (2025): 65
	<b>3.b</b> % Population with large household expenditure on health as a share of household total consumption or income (→ SDG 3.8.2)	Baseline (2011): a. 10% of household expenditure on health 8.6 b. 25% of household expenditure on health: 1.3	Target (2025): a. 10% of household expenditure on health: 6.5 b. 25% of household expenditure on health: 0.5
	<b>3.c</b> District or equivalent administrative unit with at least 80% coverage of DPT containing vaccine for children <1 year (→ SDG 3.2.1, 3.2.2)		

143 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

144 Relative poverty defined as 60% of the median income (Eurostat methodology)

145 Priorities for EU accession informed by: (1) Prospective outline of IPA-3 priorities, discussion with EU Delegation Office, BiH, Oct 2019. (2) European Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019.

146 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022, the authorities in BiH, October 2019.

147 UN system-wide commitment to strengthen its support for trust-building and dialogue in the region, as agreed by UN leadership in 2019

148 Universal Health Coverage – Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population). This indicator is intended to capture totality of coverage (universal, leaving no one behind) provided by health systems of WHO member states. Validity and reliability of the indicator depends on availability of good data from relevant authorities and sources. WHO will provide technical support to the relevant authorities in BiH to calculate the UHC indices based as part of the WHO ongoing technical programme in BiH and based on data and information collected through routine health statistics of the relevant authorities in BiH.

149 <http://apps.who.int/gho/portal/uhc-country.jsp>

	Baseline (2018): 67%	Target (2025): 100%	Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Form (annual) <sup>150</sup>
<b>3.d</b> % Women (15-49 years) with family planning needs satisfied with modern methods (SDG 3.7.1)			
	Baseline (2019): 21%	Target (2025): 25%	Source: UNFPA
<b>3.e</b> Extent of implementation of Action Plans <sup>151</sup> for prevention and control of NCDs (→ SDG 3.4.1) (Rating: 4. Fully implemented; 3. Partially; 2. Inadequately; 1. Not/Poorly implemented)			
	Baseline (2019): 2	Target (2025): 3	Source: WHO review of reports by the health authorities in BiH
<b>3.f</b> Social protection indicator (→ SDG indicator 1.3.1) Presence of consolidated social protection and labour (SPL) analysis* (including sex disaggregated data) and sector policy options with gender equality provisions to optimise social protection system performance (social protection; employment; education; health) <i>(*Comprising new or updated databases for spending on social protection and labour programs and analysis of benefits<sup>152</sup> for vulnerable groups)</i>			
	Baseline (2019): SPL analysis: N Policy options: N	Target (2025): SPL analysis: Y Policy options: Y	Source: Reports by the health authorities in BiH; Programme reports
<b>3.g</b> Percentage of children covered by child allowances (→ SDG indicator 1.3.1)			
	Baseline (2018): 14%	Target (2025): 25%	Source: Reports by the relevant authorities in BiH
<b>3.h</b> SDG indicator 16.2.1 % Children aged 2-14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month <sup>153</sup>			
	Baseline (2012): Psychological aggression: 42% Physical punishment: 40%	Target (2025): Psychological aggression: 30% Physical punishment: 30%	Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)
<b>3.i</b> No. Supported service providers/first responders who provide quality service for survivors of violence against women (VAW) in line with standards of Istanbul convention			
	Baseline (2015): 0	Target (2025): 4000	Source: Reports by relevant authorities in BiH; Programme reports

150 The possibility of reporting sex disaggregated data will be discussed with health authorities in BiH.

151 The Action Plans include: evidence-based national guidelines, protocols, and standards for the management of major NCDs through a primary care approach, including gender equality provisions and sex disaggregated data.

152 method of computing the distribution of public expenditure across different demographic groups. For example the benefit incidence of social protection and labor programs (SPL) to poorest quintile shows the percentage of total social protection and labor programs benefits received by the poorest 20% of the population (social insurance, social safety nets, and unemployment benefits and active labor market programs) See: [World Bank ASPIRE data](#), dld Feb 2020.

153 Quantitative indicators 16.2.1 (children experiencing violent discipline) and 5.2.1 (intimate partner violence) may be available, pending implementation of MICS and OSCE-led survey on violence against women.

BiH & UN Results Matrix [2021-2025]		
CF priority: People centered governance and rule of law		
<b>SDGs and targets<sup>154</sup>:</b> 5. Gender equality: 5.1, 5.a; 10. Reduced inequalities: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.7; 16; Peace justice and strong institutions: 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.b; 17. Partnerships for the goals: 17.18, 17.19.		
<b>Sentinel impact indicators:</b> 5. Rule of law (SDG 16.3.1, proxy <sup>155</sup> ); 6. Voice & accountability <sup>156</sup> (SDG 16.7.2, proxy); 9. Proportion of population living below the national (relative <sup>157</sup> ) poverty line, by location, sex and age (SDG 1.2.1); 11. Gini index of income inequality (SDG 10.1.1, proxy)		
<i>SDG Framework in BiH (draft):</i> 1. Good governance: i. Efficient, transparent, inclusive and accountable public sector, ii. Rule of Law/Fundamental rights; Cross-cutting: Human capital for 21st C and Leave no one behind <i>EU accession<sup>158</sup>:</i> (1) IPA-3 Rule of Law; Democracy & Human Rights; Public Administration; (2) Op4. Legal certainty-competencies BiH authorities, Op7. Fight against corruption, organised crime; Op8. Op8. Effective migration management, asylum system; Op9. Protection of human rights, non-discrimination; Op11. Ensure enabling environment for civil society, Op12. Guarantee freedom of expression, Op13. Improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups; Op14. Implement PAR; Ensure professional and de-politicised civil service		
<i>Joint Socio-Economic Reforms, 2019-2022<sup>159</sup>:</i> IV. Policies that Provide Opportunities to Youth, Women and other Vulnerable Groups ‘...all levels will do their utmost to increase cooperation and coordination in order to harmonize legislation to the highest extent possible and strengthen the country’s single economic space. This will be achieved by strengthening the coordination between all levels of government.’ - Preamble		
<i>Regional framework(s) and targets:</i> Western Balkans Action Plan <sup>160</sup> : (1) Engage leadership, (2) Empowering positive agents of change, (3) Address challenges in the area of rule of law, including impunity, (4) Strengthening strategic coherence and effectiveness-UN and key stakeholders		
Outcome	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
<b>Outcome 4.</b> By 2025, people contribute to, and benefit from more accountable and transparent governance systems that deliver quality public services, and ensure rule of law	<b>4.a</b> % Local governments and cantons with SDG-centred and gendersensitive strategies and implementation plans as part of a coherent development planning and management system  Baseline: 2019 Local governments: 0% Cantons: 0%  Target: (2025): Local governments: 60% Cantons: 80%	BiH: » Relevant authorities in BiH  UN: » IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UN Women, WHO, ILO, UNDRR  Other Partners: » Relevant CSOs, international partners, and representatives of private sector and academia

154 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

155 This is the domesticated indicator for SDG 17.7.2 from BiH SDG Framework (draft). World Bank World Governance Indicators data. Indicator ranges from approximately -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) governance performance.

156 This is the domesticated indicator for SDG 17.7.2 from BiH SDG Framework (draft). World Bank World Governance Indicators data, measuring the “extent to which citizens believe they participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, association, and media. Internationally comparable indicator values range from -2.5 (weak) to +2.5 (strong) governance performance”.

157 Relative poverty defined as 60% of the median income (Eurostat methodology)

158 Priorities for EU accession informed by: (1) Prospective outline of IPA-3 priorities, discussion with EU Delegation Office, BiH, Oct 2019. (2) European Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina’s application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019.

159 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022, BiH Authorities, October 2019.

160 UN system-wide commitment to strengthen its support for trust-building and dialogue in the region, as agreed by UN leadership in 2019

<p><b>4.b</b> Proportion of people who express confidence in their local authorities, by location (→SDG16.6.2; 16.7.2)</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2019)</u> Municipality: 2.3/4</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> Municipality: 2.7</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> CDA, Q-P8<sup>161</sup> (pending funding)</p>
<p><b>4.c SDG indicator 6.1.1, 6.2.1</b> % Population living in households with access to basic services</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2019):</u> Water: 75% Sanitation<sup>162</sup>: 41%</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> Water: 85% Sanitation: 50%</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Draft SDG Framework in BiH; World Bank; Programme Reports.</p>
<p><b>4.d SDG indicator 16.6.2</b> % Population satisfied with the last experience of use of public services</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2014):</u> 38%</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> 45%</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Draft SDG Framework in BiH document (data from Transparency International)</p>
<p><b>4.e</b> Violence prevention and response Extent of implementation of BiH authorities' strategies and protocols<sup>163</sup> to prevent and respond to violence* *gender-based violence and domestic violence (GBV/DV)<sup>164</sup>; violence against children (VAC)<sup>165</sup> (→ SDG 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 16.2.1, 3)</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2019)</u> GBV/DV: 30 VAC: 0</p>	<p><u>Target (2025)</u> GBV/DV: 100 VAC: 100</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Programme reports based on reports by the relevant authorities in BiH and CSO reports</p>
<p><b>4.f SDG Indicator 5.5.1 / 5.5.2</b> a) Share of seats held by women in country parliaments b) Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>		
<p><u>Baseline (2018):</u> a: 17% b: 26%</p>	<p><u>Target (2025):</u> a: 25% b: 26%</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Draft SDG Framework in BiH document; World Bank</p>

161 Assessment of confidence in major institutional bodies in BiH on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 indicating a high level of confidence. The police had the highest rating at 2.8; political parties the lowest at 1.8. Trust in UN system was rated 2.5. UN PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT FOR BiH, *ibid.* 12.

162 Sanitation includes public sewage network connections.

163 This indicator includes assessment of extent to which health and social protection referral mechanisms are responsive to VGs and implemented in line with international standards

164 Rating is based on the responses to a set of criteria with a maximum score of 100 points. Rating criteria informed by: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Bosnia and Herzegovina, CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/6, 12 Nov 2019. Paras 12, 14, 26, 34, 44.

165 Rating is based on the responses to a set of criteria with a maximum score of 100 points. Rating criteria informed by: Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Bosnia and Herzegovina, CRC/C/BIH/CO/5-6, 05 Dec 2019. Paras 25-29.

<b>4.g SDG Indicator 5.c.1</b> Existence of systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment			
<u>Baseline (2019):</u> Partially existing	<u>Target (2025):</u> Existing and functional at state and entity levels	<u>Source:</u> UN Women reports; reports by relevant authorities in BiH authorities' reports	
<b>4.h SDG indicator 17.18.1</b> a. % Domesticated SDG indicators in SDG Framework in BiH <sup>166</sup> that are available from statistical institutions <i>(*Pending approval of the SDG Framework and finalized indicator set)</i>			
<u>Baseline (2019):</u> a. TBD*	<u>Target (2025):</u> a. TBD*	<u>Source:</u> Statistical institutions in BiH; Statistics WG for SDG framework in BiH	
<b>4.i</b> Availability of socio-economic assessments of COVID-19 impacts of vulnerable groups and policy and financing options for stimulus support			
<u>Baseline (2019):</u> N	<u>Target (2025):</u> Y	<u>Source:</u> Reports by relevant authorities in BiH; Programme reports	

166 Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH (SDG Framework), Working Draft, February 2020. Domesticated SDG indicators including sub-indicators with disaggregation are counted as 'available' when the aggregate value AND at least one disaggregated sub-value is available from statistical institutions in BiH.

BiH & UN Results Matrix [2021-2025]				
CF strategic priority: Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion				
SDGs and targets <sup>167</sup> : 5. Gender equality: 5.2, 5.c; 16. Peace justice and strong institutions: 16.1, 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.b				
Sentinel impact indicators: 1. Net migration rate; 5. Rule of law (SDG 16.3.1, proxy); 6. Voice & accountability (SDG 16.7.2, proxy); 9. Proportion of population living below the national (relative) poverty line, by location, sex and age (SDG 1.2.1); 11. Gini index of income inequality (SDG 10.1.1, proxy)				
SDG Framework in BiH (draft): 1. Good governance: i. Efficient, transparent, inclusive and accountable public sector, ii. Rule of Law/Fundamental rights ; Cross-cutting: Human capital for 21st C and Leave no one behind				
EU accession <sup>168</sup> : (1) IPA-3 Rule of Law Democracy & Human Rights; (2) Op5. Promote environment for reconciliation, Op9. Protection of human rights, non-discrimination, Op11. Ensure enabling environment for civil society, Op12. Guarantee freedom of expression, Op13. Improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups 11. Ensure an enabling environment for civil society				
Joint Socio-Economic Reforms, 2019-2022 <sup>169</sup> : 'We recognise that...only a strong rule of law and safe and stable environment can bring about the necessary economic progress. '...more will be done to stem the persisting brain drain and allow youth and women to unleash their full potential.'- Preamble				
Regional framework: Western Balkans Action Plan <sup>170</sup> : (1) Engage leadership, (2) Empowering positive agents of change, (3) Address challenges in the area of rule of law, including impunity, (4) Strengthening strategic coherence and effectiveness-UN and key stakeholders				
Outcome	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
Outcome 5. By 2025, there is stronger mutual understanding, respect and trust among individuals and communities	<b>5.a</b> Proportion of people who express a general level of trust in society (→SDG16.1.4; 16.7.2)			BiH: » Relevant authorities in BiH
	<u>Baseline: (2019)</u> T: 23% M: 27% F: 19% Urban: 26% Rural: 19%	<u>Target (2025):</u> T: 24% M: 28% F: 20% Urban: 27% Rural: 20%	<u>Source:</u> 2019: Youth Perception Study (UN/Ryco Project), End line Survey (Regional DFF, 2020) United Nations in BiH. 2025: CDA, Question-P8 <sup>171</sup> (pending funding)	<u>UN:</u> » ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, IOM, UNFPA, UN Women, UNV, UNICEF  <u>Other Partners:</u> » Relevant CSOs, international partners, and representatives of private sector and academia
	<b>5.b</b> Proportion of people who state that a. Reconciliation and normalisation of relations has occurred ('mostly') and b. Reconciliation is possible ('5-10yrs') (→SDG16.6.2; 16.7.2)			
	<u>Baseline (2019)</u> a. 19 b. 15	<u>Target:</u> a. 21 b. 17	<u>Source:</u> CDA, Q-P12,13 <sup>172</sup> (pending funding)	

167 See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

168 Priorities for EU accession informed by: (1) Prospective outline of IPA-3 priorities, discussion with EU Delegation Office, BiH, Oct 2019. (2) European Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union EU, 29 May 2019.

169 Joint Socio-Economic Reforms (Reform Agenda) for the Period 2019-2022, BiH Authorities, October 2019.

170 UN system-wide commitment to strengthen its support for trust-building and dialogue in the region, as agreed by UN leadership in 2019.

171 Assessment of general trust levels, found that 71% of respondents indicated: 'You can never be too careful around people'. Among the 23% of persons responding that 'Most people can be trusted levels were higher for men (27%) than for women (19%) and for urban residents (26%) compared with their rural peers (19%)'. Prism Research and Consulting, UN PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT FOR BiH, 2019 (draft), 12.

172 Opinions about the current state of reconciliation and chances for future reconciliation. UN PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT FOR BiH, *ibid.* 18-19.

	<p><b>5.c</b> Self-assessed levels of trust and engagement amongst young people, where 1 is negative and 5 is positive<sup>173</sup>                  (1) Young people's (15-30) attitudes on inter-ethnic trust, cooperation, education and the media (→ 16.b.1)                  (2) Young people's attitudes on their civic engagement and partnership with government representatives (→ 16.7.2)</p>			
	<p><u>Baseline: (2019)</u>                  (1) 3.7/5                  (2) 2.4/5</p>	<p><u>Target:</u>                  (1) 4/5                  (2) 3/5</p>	<p><u>Source:</u>                  2019: Dialogue for the Future (DFF) 2 BiH End-line Perception Survey 2019 (indicators 3.a and 3.b)                  2025: CDA (pending funding)</p>	
	<p><b>5.d No.</b> Young people participating in community-level initiatives that promote dialogue, social cohesion and appreciation of diversity (→ 5.2; 16.1.3; 16.3.1; 16.b.1)</p>			
	<p><u>Baseline:</u>                  T: 25,000;                  F: 51%                  (most 15-30 yrs)</p>	<p><u>Target 2025</u>                  T: 27,500                  F: → 50%</p>	<p><u>Source:</u>                  2019: Dialogue for the Future (DFF) 2 BiH Joint UN Programme and other UN complementary projects;                  2025: CDA (pending funding)</p>	

173 This indicator represents the arithmetic mean of the coded responses to question Dp1 and can have a value between 1 (negative) and 5 (positive).

## Annex C. CF outcomes and human rights commitments of BiH

This annex describes major linkages between CF outcomes and the human rights commitments of BiH. This summary is based upon a detailed analysis of accepted recommendations from the 2019-2020 Universal Periodic Review (UPR)<sup>174</sup>.

### Outcome 1

- ▶ Poverty: Systemic gaps preventing vulnerable groups from enjoying their right to an adequate standard of living and social security, including regional disparities.
- ▶ The right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work: Systemic gaps concerning gender equality,
- ▶ including concerning the prohibition of slavery, forced labour, and trafficking of persons.
- ▶ Right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

### Related Human Rights:

- Right to an adequate standard of living [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 27]
- Right to social security [UDHR art. 22; ICESCR art. 9; CRPD art. 28; CRC art. 26]
- Equal rights of women in economic life [CEDAW arts. 11, 13, 14(2)(g), 15(2), 16(1)]
- Equal rights of women to financial credit and rural infrastructure [CEDAW art. 13(b), art. 14(2)]
- Right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work [UDHR art. 23; ICESCR arts. 6, 7, 10; CRPD art. 27; ILO Core Labour Conventions and ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work]
- Prohibition of slavery, forced labour, and trafficking of persons [UDHR art. 4; ICCPR art. 8; CEDAW art. 6; CRC arts. 34-36]
- Prohibition of child labour [CRC art. 32; ILO Convention No. 182]
- Equal labour rights of migrant workers [CMW art. 25]
- Promotion of conditions for international migration [CMW art. 64]
- Right of migrants to transfer their earnings and savings [CMW art. 47(1)]

### Outcome 2

- ▶ Ending divisive approaches in education – one of the most salient issues, also hindering efforts towards social cohesion and conflict transformation.
- ▶ Specific concerns regarding the access to education for Roma, persons with disabilities, and minorities

### Related Human Rights:

- Right to education [UDHR art. 26; ICESCR art. 13], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 28, 29]; persons with disabilities [CRC art. 23(3), CRPD art. 24]; and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art. 14]
- Equal rights of women and girls in the field of education [CEDAW art. 10]
- Right to work, including technical and vocational training [ICESCR art. 6]
- Prohibition of all practices of segregation and discrimination in education [CERD art.2(2),3,5 (e-v); ICESCR art. 2(2), 13; CEDAW art. 2; CRC art. 2, 28]
- International cooperation [UDHR art. 28; DRtD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 23(4), 28(3)], persons with disabilities [CRPD art. 32], and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art.39]

174. (1) UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\): Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), A/HRC/43/17, 19 December, 2019. (2) UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Bosnia and Herzegovina – Addendum, A/HRC/43/17/Add.1, 9 March 2020.

### Outcome 3

- ▶ Specific concern related to the accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of health care services
- ▶ Specific concern related to sexual and reproductive health

#### Related Human Rights:

- Right to life [UDHR art. 3; ICCPR art. 6], particularly of women [CEDAW art.12] and children [CRC art. 6]
- Right to health [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12], particularly of women [CEDAW art. 12]; and children [CRC art.24]
- Special protection for mothers and children [ICESCR art.10]
- Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application [UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)]
- Right to safe drinking water and sanitation [ICESCR art. 1; Equal access to water and sanitation for rural women [CEDAW art. 14(2)(h)]
- Right to adequate food and the right to safe drinking water [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11]
- Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28]
- International cooperation [UDHR art. 28, DRtD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to the right to health and children's rights [ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4]

### Outcome 4

- ▶ Compliance with international obligations and legal harmonization: Legislative reforms are necessary, including amendments to the Constitution and Election Law to remove provisions that prevent some citizens from participating in elections.
- ▶ Legislative fragmentation, weak policy coordination and monitoring: Strengthen the national mechanism for coordination, implementation and reporting on human rights recommendations to give greater effect to the human rights guarantees at all levels.
- ▶ National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) which is not yet established. It was recommended that BiH provide additional competencies to the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman, notably to act as the national preventive mechanism against torture.
- ▶ Non-judicial accountability mechanisms, such as national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (NHRIs) compliant with the Paris Principles - the independence of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman if affected by the non-transparent appointment and dismissal of the Ombudsman by the Parliamentary Assembly. The Institution requires strengthening of its capacities to carry out its mandate to promote and protect human rights.

#### Related human rights:

- Right to equality and non-discrimination [UDHR art. 2; ICESCR art. 2(2); ICCPR arts. 2(1), 26; CERD art. 2(2); CEDAW art. 2; CRC art. 2; CRPD art. 5; CMW art. 7; DRtD art. 8(1)]
- Right to participate in public affairs [UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25; CEDAW art. 7; ICERD art. 5; CRPD art. 29; DRtD art. 8(2)]
- Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association [UDHR art. 20(1); ICCPR art. 21-22; ICESCR art. 8; ICERD art. 4-5 (ix); CEDAW art. 7(c); CRC art. 15, CRPD art.29]
- Right to access to information [UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art. 19(1)]
- Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women [CEDAW arts. 1-5] and girls [CRC art. 2], particularly in legislation, political and public life (art. 7), economic and social life (arts. 11, 13), and family relations (art. 16)]
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities [CRPD art. 9], children [CRC art. 23], and rural women [CEDAW art. 14(2)]

### Outcome 5

- ▶ Transitional justice: Shortcomings in three areas, namely prosecution for most grave human rights violations, undermined justice and lack of remedies for conflict related sexual violence, weak progress in establishing the whereabouts of missing persons and guaranteeing reparation and compensation for families.
- ▶ Respecting the diversity of society by promoting freedom of assembly, independent and pluralistic media, freedom of expression, and safety of journalists; the need for constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information, freedom of expression and freedom of the press and the media, including immunity from political influence.
- ▶ Preventing advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence: Strengthening legal provisions as well as actual investigation, prosecution and monitoring of hate crimes.
- ▶ Social cohesion and solidarity by promoting knowledge of human rights through educational institutions – a few recommendations in this respect are to be found under SDG4.

### Related human rights:

- Right to freedom of expression and access to information [ICCPR art.19]
- Prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred and discrimination [ICCPR art.20 (2); CERD art.4]
- Right to access justice, due process and remedies [UDHR arts. 8, 10; ICCPR arts. 2(3), 14-15; CEDAW art. 2(c)]
- Right to participate in cultural life [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 15; ICERD arts. 5, 7; CRPD art. 30; CRC art. 31]
- Right to life, liberty and security of the person [UDHR art. 3; ICCPR arts. 6(1), 9(1); ICPED art. 1] including freedom from torture [UDHR art. 5; ICCPR art. 7; CAT art. 2; CRC art. 37(a)]

## Annex D. Legal annex

Whereas the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) have entered into the following relationships:

Agency	Agreement
FAO	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between BiH and UNDP applies
ILO	A Memorandum of Understanding concluded between BiH and ILO on 6 February 2013
IOM	A Cooperation Agreement concluded between BiH and IOM on 21 June 1995.
UNDP	The 'Standard Basic Assistance Agreement' signed between BiH and UNDP on 7 December 1995. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP's assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP's Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNSDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this Cooperation Framework together with a work plan (which shall form part of this CF and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
UNEP	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between BiH and UNDP applies
UNESCO	An Agreement between UNESCO and BiH Concerning the Establishment of a UNESCO in Sarajevo on 30 August 1995.
UNFPA	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between BiH and UNDP applies
UNHCR	A Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between BiH and UNHCR on 18 April 1994.
UNICEF	A Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between BiH and UNICEF on 13 October 1993.
UNODC	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between BiH and UNDP applies
UN Women	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between BiH and UNDP applies
UNW	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between BiH and UNDP applies
WHO	A Basic Agreement concluded between BiH and WHO on 15 June 1994.
For all UN system agencies including: UNECE, UNDRR, OHCHR, assistance to authorities in BiH shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures	

- a. The COOPERATION FRAMEWORK will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the authorities in BiH.
- b. The authorities in BiH will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.
- c. Without prejudice to these agreements, the authorities in BiH shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission.
- d. The authorities in BiH shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the authorities in BiH. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The authorities in BiH will be responsible for dealing with any

claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by authorities in BiH and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

- e. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the authorities in BiH shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the authorities in BiH.
- f. Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".
- g. Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.