

UBRAF Working Group

Note for the record - Fourth Meeting – 1 September 2021

Follow-up points:

- Working Group members to send their further feedback on the draft 2022-2026 UBRAF (V4) to the Secretariat and detailed feedback on the draft 2022-2023 Workplan (V1) to the Secretariat by 2nd September 2021.
- Secretariat to share the draft Note for Record and schedule the next call.

1. Welcome and short introduction

- The Chair welcomed the members of the Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) Working Group to the fourth call and appreciated their engagement and support for the new UBRAF development as well as the work of the Secretariat on the new version of the draft UBRAF documents. A few members were unable to join the meeting but have provided feedback through other channels.
- The agenda of the meeting was introduced and adopted.

2. Approval of the Note for the Record of the third call

- The draft Note for the Record was approved with no comments and will be posted on UNAIDS website.

3. Update on revised UBRAF version and feedback from members

- The Secretariat appreciated all the very useful comments received and provided an update on its work to integrate them and complement some sections in the new version draft UBRAF, summarized as follows:
 - Reaffirmed in the introduction that all aspects of the Joint Programme's work are aligned with national priorities
 - Clarifications around the use of the *inequalities* vs. *inequities* language, which was based on the terminology use in the Global AIDS Strategy and Political Declaration and reflects inequities that can lead to the broader inequalities in the HIV response but stressing the aim to reach the global 2025 targets among people living with HIV and all key populations. In addition to that, improved clarity around the use of key terms such as gender assessment tools, etc. though in-text or footnotes clarifications.
 - Clarifications around what the UBRAF is and isn't, and on the Joint Programme's accountability through the UBRAF within the broader UNAIDS accountability structure. The assumptions, risk management and contingency planning section was further refined, include on unintended consequences and contingency planning and an accountability statement was added. The section on the resource allocation methodology is still being finalized.
 - Adding of Annex 3: Regional Priorities for 5 years to show the Joint Programme's action-oriented prioritization for the results as well as Annex 4: Division of Labour

- The Secretariat further explained that all received comments on performance monitoring (incl. M&E) are well noted and will be used at a later stage when the performance indicators are developed for the December PCB.
- **General feedback:** The Chair invited the UBRAF Working Group members to provide feedback/suggestion to further improve the new version. He and Working Group members appreciated all the work and the integration of comments and feedback so far, acknowledging that it may be challenging to take up all suggestions. In general, a lot of support was expressed for the revised UBRAF draft on which there was no further comments.
- **Feedback from Donors:** The Secretariat further informed of a call held with a few donors who appreciated the draft UBRAF but were concerned about the clarity of the results framework and the extent to which it speaks to role of the Joint Programme in supporting the implementation of the Global AIDS Strategy, suggested to reduce the degree of complexity and the density of language and show clearer links between actions and consequences including criteria for resources and action. The donors suggested another exchange and, to streamline the feedback process, the Secretariat suggests inviting the Chair of the UBRAF Working Group who gladly accepted to join it.

4. Update on the draft 2022-2023 Workplan & Budget and feedback from members

- The Secretariat outlined the draft 2022-2023 Workplan and Budget developed through a consultative joint planning process across the Joint Programme and welcome the Working Group for feedback. The overall structure includes deliverables by result areas, regional priorities and linkages to the most relevant global AIDS targets and priority actions under UNAIDS Secretariat functions.
- **General feedback:** The chair and other Working Group members appreciated the clear, good and easy to follow structure, listing of Cosponsors contributing to specific results and of other partners associated for each output. However, result area outputs come across as a general list of issues from past UBRAFs and it was suggested to show how the new UBRAF is more targeted programmatically and financially to achieve the new strategy and linkages to the global AIDS targets.
- **Community-led response:** Stressing the importance of the result area “Community-led response”, it was suggested to make it more specific and, as for other cross-cutting areas such as gender equality and young people, link to other result areas. This was recognized as indeed key to achieve bigger impact noting the areas were differentiated in the document mainly for clarity purpose.
- **Measuring actions:** The Working Group pointed out that it is still unclear how the actions under the Secretariat functions (which are quite broad) and regional priorities will be measured. Linkages between the high-level action for the 5 years and the results could be clearer. It was suggested, if possible, to visually link the global targets to deliverables. Furthermore, as the strategic 5y UBRAF focuses more on what is to be achieved it is recommended for the 2y Workplan and Budget to concentrate more on what the Joint Programme will be concretely doing by using a more action-oriented language. The Joint Programme’s budget is but a small % of the overall responses for the global AIDS response. Cosponsors’ accountability is through the results they focus on (informed by the Global AIDS Strategy and evidence review that informed it) and related annual reporting.

- **Fully funded HIV response:** The Working Group welcomed the inclusion of several important aspects in Result Area 8 and suggested possible additions including an improved link of expenditures tracking and reporting by giving more details on the type of reporting and how this process is routinized across regions and countries. There is a need to better showcase how impact is measured relying on 'value for money' assessments with ongoing monitoring mechanisms. Users' fees are important obstacles for access to services. Strengthening of financial information systems especially at decentralized levels and human resource capacity building could be more prominent. Ensuring reporting of expenditure against the UBRAF structure to in country partners is also important for more transparent accountability. Clarification was made between Results Area 8 which summarizes what the Joint Programme will do to support countries for a fully funded HIV response and tracking thereof (including of the Joint Programme's contribution) and the Joint Programme's reporting mechanisms, including financial reporting under the UBRAF.
- **Division of Labour:** It was recommended that the Division of Labour map the convening and partner Cosponsors against the UBRAF outputs rather than the Global AIDS Strategy and 2018 DOL areas to better show clear linkages to results. This would help improve the alignment of Cosponsors responsibilities in the two UBRAF documents as the 2y Workplan and Budget serves as a concrete operational plan of the 5year UBRAF. The Division of Labour is a 'living tool' with an embedded principle of flexibility for adaptation to various regional & country contexts when operationalized. A more robust review would take place when other complementary information will be available.

5. Update on resource allocation and overall budget/ funding

- The Working Group looks forward to the draft budget information, including the estimated resources needs (with funding scenarios) and resources allocation and see the use of results-based budgeting in the next draft. A summary of the estimated budget by Cosponsors by region and cost categories would also be useful.
- The Secretariat shared that discussion have further progressed at senior level within the Joint Programme and it is hoped that a consensus will be reached shortly. Until then, the status quo (current UBRAF) serves as the basis for the budget planning and updates will be made when available. This will be tabled for the next call when there is more clarity.

6. Next steps including timeline

- The Secretariat presented and proposed next steps clarifying the 'pending and new pieces' for review and timeline.
- Working Group member were invited to share further feedback on the draft UBRAF and draft 2022-2023 Workplan and Budget (V1) by email latest by 2nd September 2021. There will be another opportunity to review 2022-2023 Workplan & Budget (V2) and, as useful and given potential for further improvements, outreach will be done to individual members for specific feedback in line with their respective expertise.
- **Next meeting:** date of the fifth meeting to be later communicated.

7. Closing remarks

- The Chair and the Secretariat thanked the Working Group members for their great engagement and valuable contribution and welcomed their feedback and comments via email.