



Sarajevo, 31 January, 2015

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Subject: 2014 Annual Report of the Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Major Developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina

It has been a difficult year for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The economic and financial crisis, coupled with the lack of progress on the political agenda, as well as the lack of a common vision for the future, resulted in increased social tensions and further undermined the stability of the country. The continued unresponsiveness of the political elites in BiH to the pressing political and socio-economic issues came to a head in February 2014, when initially peaceful social protests in several major cities in BiH turned violent. As a result, numerous government buildings were destroyed and burned, and several cantonal governments were forced to resign. While the nature of the protests was largely socio-economic, the crisis in Mostar was at the brink of turning inter-ethnic. The possibility of such a violent outbreak had been predicted by the Conflict Analysis conducted in 2013 by the UN as part of the Common Country Assessment.

Just as the economy in Europe and BiH showed limited recovery signs in the first quarter of 2014, BiH was faced with yet another major challenge in the form of the heaviest floods in the 100-year recorded history. The massive flooding caused by the heavy rains in May affected a quarter of the country's territory and approximately one million of its population and further exposed BiH's vulnerability to natural disasters and the country's systemic weaknesses in disaster preparedness, including complex governance and a lack of human and financial resources to deal with large scale emergencies. The Recovery Needs Assessment conducted by the BiH authorities and supported by the UN, the EU and the World Bank estimated that the damages amount to approximately \$1.67 billion, while the economic losses exceed \$1.04 billion. The average annual economic losses resulting from disasters, based on incomplete data, reaches about one percent of the country's GDP.

In the midst of the humanitarian and recovery response to the floods in BiH, the country entered the pre-election campaign, further distracting attention of the authorities from crisis response. Nevertheless, on 12 October, the elections were held in a peaceful and orderly manner, with relatively few irregularities reported. Although the interethnic relations are usually at the center of each election campaign, this time the focus was on employment, the economy, floods recovery and corruption to a large extent. In flood-affected areas, voters overwhelmingly voted for opposition parties – a testimony to the population's disgust with crisis response. The elections resulted in a mixed combination of the new and old political coalitions coming into power at different levels of the complex governing structure in BiH, which may create a lengthy government formation process and a challenge in speaking with one voice. At the time of this writing 3 and a half months after elections, the prospects for government formation at State and Federation BiH levels still seems elusive.

Overall, BiH continues to struggle in terms of its internal functioning and its progress towards European Union (EU) membership. Political impasse and institutional deadlock over matters such as governance and rule of law, and the EU accession process highlight the difficulties in finding compromise and a common vision for moving BiH beyond the legacy and divisions of the war. The new political leadership at the presidency level has emphasized the need to focus on common interests instead of divisions and ethnic fears as the underlying principle for its work in the next mandate which provides a glimmer of optimism for the next 4-year period. The absence of a national development planning process, and state-wide agreed development objectives and priorities remains a major development challenge, further complicating a coherent response to the new offer of reforms and progress towards the European path tabled by key member states and commonly referred to as the 'British-German Deal'.

2. Highlights on progress on joined up work

i. Post-2015 Development Agenda in Bosnia and Herzegovina

National Post-2015 consultations on the theme Culture for Development lead by UNESCO, UNFPA and UNDP, with significant support from the RC Office and partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina were conducted in the period July – October 2014.

Consultations encompassed 6 sub-themes: 1) Culture and Poverty Reduction 2) Culture, Sustainable Cities and Urbanization; 3) Culture and Education; 4) Culture, the Environment and Climate Change; 5) Culture, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; and 6) Culture, Inclusion and Reconciliation. The consultation methods used were workshops, questionnaires, online citizen survey and focus groups with youth. A total of 454 individuals were consulted and provided the UN team with a wealth of data to further inform both national and global discussions on the role of culture and its impact on development. Given that the full National Post-2015 Consultations were not conducted in the country in 2013, UNCT in BiH particularly welcomed the opportunity to hold such consultations on the theme of Culture for Development.

The findings of the consultations in BiH indicate that citizens and professionals in the cultural domain clearly recognize culture as a potential catalyst for comprehensive societal change at many levels – from sustainable economic development, income generation and jobs creation to environmental protection and preparedness for climate change; gender equality, change of gender stereotypes and women's empowerment, improved urban and rural living; and peace, security and social inclusion. It was also recognized that the change implies a transformational role of formal and informal education, media including continuous awareness-raising of the general population, greater participation of youth. The need to support capacity development of public servants in education, teachers, local leaders, media professionals and citizens was recognized as a key issue that needs to be urgently addressed in order for a transformational process to start and gain momentum. The final report with a wealth of information collected from citizens contributed to the Global Culture and Development Dialogue for Post-2015 Agenda. In addition, in December 2014, the Office of the RC conducted a MY World global survey campaign in order to collect more votes from BiH. A 3-day campaign was organized in two cities – Sarajevo and Banja Luka – with over 3,000 votes collected and entered into the online database.

ii. Support to the national government in integrating a human rights based approach into national development processes

In 2014, the Office of the RC continued to provide programmatic, analytic and logistical support to the UNRC and the UNCT in 5 key pillars: UN Coordination, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Peace and Development and UN Communications. The Office was in particular active in facilitating and contributing to the elaboration of the 2015-2019 UNDAF against the QCPR recommendations and the SOPs for DaO and the UNDAF Joint Work Plans. The process benefitted from a human-rights-based approach to programming UN assistance. The RCO participated in preparations of new joint UN programmes addressing the process of national reconciliation, transitional justice and conflict-related sexual violence, as well as empowerment of women and addressing needs of people with disabilities. Other contributions included analytical support in the political and security aspects, production of SITREPs during important periods, monitoring and evaluation and communication. Through a dedicated Human Rights Adviser team in the RCO the UNCT expanded its capacities to address the human rights challenges in BiH from the UPR-support and advocacy perspective. Throughout 2014, support to national consultations on the UPR process in BiH was provided. Joint UNCT report on implementation of the UPR recommendations as a contribution to the 2014 BiH UPR process was submitted in March 2014. Support was provided to members of the Government Working Group with drafting and submission of the 2nd cycle UPR report. Support included logistical support, assistance with development of the WG agenda, materials and methodology of drafting the 2nd cycle UPR report on four occasions during the year. The HRA is also providing support to the BiH Ombudsperson's Office in conducting a functional review to bring it into line with much needed reforms and certification.

iii. Progress on preparedness, crisis and post-crisis transition results achieved in cooperation with UN peacekeeping, peace building, political, and humanitarian actors

The May 2014 floods are estimated to have caused damage and destruction impact in the amount of USD 1.73 billion. One million people (27% of the population) of the country have been affected. Around 90,000 people were temporarily displaced from their homes and more than 40,000 took extended refuge in public or private shelters or moved in temporarily with relatives and friends. More than 43,000 homes have been damaged or flooded and up to 2,000 destroyed. The UN stepped in to coordinate emergency relief efforts and liaise as key interlocutor between BiH authorities and international community, including UN Humanitarian system. Assessments, briefings and timely information provided generated interest from the IC in BiH and facilitated donor support to emergency and recovery efforts. The UN together with the European Union and the World Bank provided technical expertise to governments for development of Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA). Experts from FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, WFP and WHO contributed to development of the RNA.

The UN emergency floods response and immediate assistance to flood-affected populations has been exemplary. With OCHA support, UN agencies provided approximately USD 9.7 million for emergency humanitarian response and early recovery support to most affected areas. A total of 6 UN planes delivered 90 tons of aid and emergency equipment. In the first weeks of the emergency response, UN convoys and network of field offices throughout BiH enabled the provision and delivery of more than 1,000 tons of emergency items and supplies to some 40 affected municipalities based on real needs on the ground, thus avoiding secondary livelihood destruction in urban and rural areas.

The UN Response phase was quickly replaced by Recovery efforts in July 2014 through two dedicated UN joint programmes: One being exclusive EU-funded, while the other combined funding by UN and nearly 12 bilateral donors. The EU-funded Floods Recovery Programme, worth EUR 43.5 million, was initiated in August and to date has rehabilitated, rebuilt, and/or supported: close to 2,000 homes built or under construction, 101 educational institutions, 4 health facilities, 5 municipal buildings, 5 centres for social welfare, 15 bridges, 12 roads, 3 water supply systems, 10 SMEs, and 100 agricultural holdings. The UN Floods Recovery programme, worth USD 14.8 million, was initiated in June and to date has rehabilitated, rebuilt, and/or supported: 2 educational institutions, 4 playgrounds, 2 water systems, and 10,100 livelihoods. A similar amount is foreseen for implementation in 2015. Transition from Recovery to Resilience-building is being prioritized and will continue in 2015.

In the sphere of peacebuilding, the UNCT (UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO) is implementing a PBSO-funded 2 million USD peace and reconciliation project with the Presidency of B&H in the fields of culture, youth and education. In the field of peacekeeping the UN in BiH has taken an active role by supporting BiH efforts at enhancing its contribution to UN peace operations by organizing policy-level activities, such as expert level workshops and facilitation of a visit of the MOD to DPKO HQ in 2014, and development of a policy paper on the subject, as well as the organization of a regional conference at the senior level on peacekeeping in 2015. Collaboration with DPA remains robust in a number of areas, including peacebuilding efforts (Presidency initiative), as well as technical support to the Parliament of BiH for the constitutional reform agenda.

3. Results of joined up approaches

i. New partnerships formed in 2014

A critical partnership in the aftermath of floods was one established between the UN, WB, EU and BiH Authorities during the Recovery Needs Assessment, which was conducted in June 2014. A strong partnership with the EU pre-existent before the disaster, led to a quick division of labor between the two organizations, where the EU managed the European Civil Protection Mechanism coordination, while the UN was asked to lead the Humanitarian and in-country IC coordination. Partnership with the EU led to the selection of the UN as the implementer of choice for their recovery allocations. ECHO, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, US, Ireland, Netherlands, UK, France, Japan, Romania, Slovakia also entrusted UN

to implement recovery actions with their funds. Unfortunately, this development is also a reflection of donor concerns regarding lack of structures/capacity to deliver, as well as corruption and mismanagement preventing the provision of resources directly to the authorities.

A Joint Programme “Dialogue for the Future” started in June 2014, and is implemented by UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF. The programme originally conceived by the Secretary General and President Izetbegovic with facilitation by the UN RC prior to the SG visit to BiH in 2013, has forged a strong partnership with BiH Presidency as a key promoter and partner in the programme efforts to strengthen dialogue for peace, intercultural understanding, tolerance and coexistence in BiH. This partnership is important and rather unusual, given that this is the first time the BiH Presidency initiated and is involved in a programme of this type, which gives the programme particular influence and authority. With regard to supporting B&H to enhance its contribution to UN peacekeeping, new partnerships have been established with relevant B&H institutions, including the Ministries of Defence, Security and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Armed Forces of B&H and its Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC). Both FAO and UNODC have joined UNCT through their country presence and dedicated staff; FAO is located in the UN House and UNODC is located with partner institution – both agencies work has been fully integrated into the new One Programme Joint Work Plans.

ii. Results of joint resource mobilization

UNCT in BiH has had a large number of joint programmes over the years. In 2014:

- 2 joint programmes dealing with Protracted Displacement after the conflict completed their second year of implementation.
- The Joint UN Programme Dialogue for the Future was started in June 2014.
- Joint UN Programme in support of BiH efforts to address impunity for conflict related sexual violence was developed and the first phase of implementation started in September 2014.
- Joint UN Programme proposal in support of the BiH efforts to address the obligations under the Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol is being developed under UNDESA leadership.
- Joint UN Programme proposal in support of the BiH efforts to enhance the economic empowerment of women in BiH have been developed and submitted for targeted funding but was so far not successful in attracting resources, however, given the importance of the issues that the programme is aiming to address, further development of proposals and fundraising will continue in 2015.
- Joint resource mobilization relating to floods emergency response and recovery amounts to USD 83.3 million

Total amount to of resources mobilized in 2014: ...

iii. Innovations in programme and operations to address key development challenges

In absence of a National Development Strategy, the creation of One Programme (following government’s request for DaO) for the period 2015-2019 required an extensive consultation process with all relevant institutional partners, civil society and international community. Priorities in the One Programme stem from a Strategic Planning Retreat with key national partners held in October 2013, reinforced with priorities identified by citizens during the CCA process, which were collected via online survey, and fine-tuned through consultative sessions UN agencies had with partner institutions throughout 2014. The One Programme 2015-2019 departs substantially from the previous UNDAF in terms of identification of priorities and selection of its Development Pillars. Apart from the Rule of Law and Human Security and Social Inclusion pillars, which are the usual areas of focus for the UN, the new One Programme has Sustainable and Equitable Development and Employment and Empowerment of Women pillars, which tangibly and directly aim at reducing inequalities and supporting economic development of the country with particular focus on the most vulnerable populations. Given that UNCT in BiH is a year ahead of its peers in the region in terms of UNDAF development, elaboration of joint work plans, establishment of Result Groups are all new experiences for the team, where flexibility and common sense, as well as innovation are the key principles behind the process. UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF CPDs are fully

harmonized with the One Programme, with all three agencies going through the alignment with their respective Strategic Plans in parallel with the development of the One Programme. Integrating particular needs of specialized agencies in the One Programme also required ingenuity and flexibility, as well as elaboration of joint work plans in as simple and easy to follow format with the just right amount of information that will satisfy different agencies operational requirements, while not over-burdening the authorities with excessive complexity.

The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) was shared with DOCO and has been included in the UNDG and HLCM reports to the respective bodies as part of the BOS Pilot Program, and has been circulated as good practice among the UNDG Business Operations Network. The UN House is functioning well, as more and more services get harmonized and offered to the UNCT, reducing cost, while improving effectiveness. New SOPs now provide an extended agenda for harmonization in 2015 and beyond.

Innovative approaches in the absence of OCHA or HC designation for the RC had to be undertaken during the crisis with “quasi-cluster system” deployed in relevant areas of WASH, Health, Recovery and Livelihoods, Logistics and CIMIC, etc. Communications efforts relating to floods emergency response and recovery were innovative, interesting and effective, with original information products (such as new minefield maps after the floods) and factsheets, which informed the IC and wider community as well as BiH authorities. These went beyond the usual advocacy and communication products.

4. Upcoming opportunities for 2015

In 2015, the RC and UNCT will keep a close watch on the development of the political situation, closely related to security and stability in the country and introduce adjustments into the One Programme as required. Close cooperation with DPA and the SG’s office will continue and increase as the situation warrants. An update of the Conflict Dynamics Assessment is to be completed in January 2015 in order to understand risks and shifts in peoples’ perceptions of stability after the demonstrations, floods and October 2014 elections.

Signature of the One Programme 2015-2019 for BiH and endorsement of associated Joint Work Plans will be a priority for the UNRC in the first quarter of 2015. Starting a new UNDAF and DaO in the absence of elected governments will pose challenges, but the UN is well adapted to operating in such a complex environment from the previous cycle.

Continuation of the floods recovery efforts are foreseen to last until the last quarter of 2015, but an even more important priority will be a gradual transition from recovery to resilience-building and broader Disaster Risk Reduction strategies to deal with multiple natural and industrial threats. A joint UN approach is currently being developed in this regard. A sub-regional Human Development Report on Resilience is being prepared with contributions from other UN Agencies expected. This will provide scientific and evidence-based input into joint programming.

The UNCT will also proceed towards launching or consolidating implementation of the next generation of other joint UN programmes in line with priorities identified with the BiH counterparts and in support of achieving the 2015-2019 One Programme outcomes, as indicated in 3.ii.

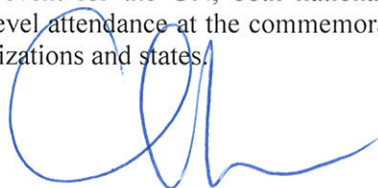
As UN programmes at the local and regional level are expected to mobilize over USD100 million in funding in the coming 12-18 months, the RC is launching an analysis into inequalities and disparities at sub-regional and municipal level. A Human Development approach will be applied when identifying disparities and inequalities and the assessment will have economic, social, and quality of life dimensions.

Early in 2015, completion of the functional analysis of the status and independence of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH is foreseen, as well as provision of information, advice, support and capacity development, as needed, to the NHRI and Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR). As a complementary measure, the RC Office will also facilitate and compile a UNCT contribution in the context of the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

RCO and UNCT will work closely with UNDESA on developing joint approaches relating implementation of the Convention on People with Disabilities and youth issues. UNCT also intends to improve gender mainstreaming in the new programming cycle through dedicated expertise from UN Women as well as their leadership in the Result Group for Pillar 4 of the UNDAF on Empowerment of Women.

Post-2015 and SDGs national consultation and Post-2015 and SDGs campaign are also foreseen to start in September 2015 – guidance will be required from the HQ in this respect.

As a final note, 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement and of the Srebrenica massacre, which will be an important event for the UN, both nationally and globally. The RC has requested the SG Office consider high-level attendance at the commemorations in BiH. Other high-level attendees are expected from major organizations and states.



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