



Joint Programme Document

1. COVER PAGE

Country: Republic of Belarus

Joint Programme title: Support to the efforts of the Republic of Belarus in nationalization and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

Joint Programme outcome: Assistance provided to the Republic of Belarus to nationalize and localize the Sustainable Development Goals

<p>Joint Programme period: 3 years</p> <p>Proposed start and end dates for the Programme: 2022 — 2024</p> <p>Fund management modality: pass-through</p> <p>Managing or administrative agent: UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF)</p>	<p>Total estimated budget*: USD 3,462,891</p> <p>Out of which:</p> <p>1. Funded budget: USD 3,462,891</p> <p>2. Unfunded budget: 0,00</p> <p>*Total estimated budget includes both programme cost and indirect support costs</p> <p>Programme Financing Sources:</p> <p>The Government of the Russian Federation: USD 3,462,891</p>
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UN organizations	
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Joint Programme “Support to the efforts of the Republic of Belarus in nationalization and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals”

2. Executive summary

The general Joint Programme objective is to support the efforts of the Republic of Belarus to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Republic of Belarus has been actively incorporating the SDGs into its policy planning process at the national and regional levels. The approaches, outlined in the SDGs Implementation Roadmap for Belarus designed upon the MAPS mission in late 2018, have been endorsed by the national partners. However, not all dimensions included in the document are being fully implemented due to limited funding. These dimensions, in particular, include regional planning, monitoring and implementation of SDGs. The functioning of the SDG implementation and promotion mechanisms established in the Republic of Belarus is an important element for accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as it supports not only the sustainable development national dialogue, but also professional dialogue with the UN agencies on methodological issues of setting indicators and achieving the SDGs. The effective functioning of this system also requires additional funding, which is envisaged by the Joint Programme.

To address these issues, the proposed Joint Programme structure comprises four components.

The actions of **Component 1** will be aimed at building capacity of the national and regional decision-makers on the SDGs’ issues, direct involvement of citizens (including youth), CSOs and the business community in the SDGs’ implementation processes, support for Government-public dialogue on sustainable development, as well as development of a methodological framework for the SDG-based decision-making (methodology for assessment of draft regulations for their compliance with SDGs, conducting expert reviews of regulations from the viewpoint of demographic resilience, as well as calculating the SDG indicators, etc.). These actions will be complemented by awareness campaigns to promote the principles and ideas of SDGs and progress towards their achievement.

Under **Component 2**, expert assistance will be provided to localize SDGs and to integrate SDGs into the national and regional planning system. These actions will be complemented by supporting pilot (demo) SDG initiatives capable to demonstrate practical outcomes of the “SDG accelerators” at the local level focusing on the SDG Acceleration Platforms advised by the MAPS mission to Belarus.

Component 3 will support development and operation of a system for collecting, monitoring and evaluating the SDG data. Central to this component is the process of improving data collection and assessment methodologies for the selected SDG indicators.

Component 4 will focus on ensuring effective the Joint Programme management and inter-agency coordination both among the UN agencies and the national Joint Programme partners.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Belarus will be the Joint Programme National Executing Agency (NEA) on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus and will be responsible for the general Joint Programme coordination.

The Joint Programme beneficiaries include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Belarus, the National Statistical Committee (Belstat) of the Republic of Belarus, Regional Executive Committees and the Minsk City Executive Committee, other government agencies, and other organizations, the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, academic and educational institutions, CSOs, and private sector entities.

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The Government of the Russian Federation will be the Joint Programme donor transferring funds to UNDP through a cross-cutting modality for the Joint Programme implementation. The Administrative Agent, UNDP’s Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), will be responsible for financial management, with each participating UN organization having programmatic and financial responsibility for the funds entrusted to it. UNDP as the Convening Agent being accountable for coordination of programmatic activities and submitting the consolidated narrative report based on submissions provided by each participating UN agency. In the collaboration, a Joint Coordination Unit comprising the participating UN agencies and chaired by the Convening Agent will be established to strengthen synergies across the agencies’ Joint Programme activities.

3. Situation analysis

The Republic of Belarus is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is taking important steps to implement it at the national and local levels.

The Institute of the National Coordinator for the achievement of the SDGs (National SDG Coordinator) was established by Decree 181 of the President of the Republic of Belarus dated May 25, 2017. The same Decree defines the list of state bodies and other organizations responsible for SDG implementation. Under the auspices of the National SDG Coordinator, the National Institutional Mechanism for achievement of the SDGs was set up to achieve the SDGs in the Republic of Belarus. It includes:

- The Council for Sustainable Development, including cross-sectoral working groups on environment, economy, social issues, education, SDG monitoring and evaluation;
- The Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Development;
- The Partnership Group for Sustainable Development;
- The Public Council on Drafting and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Strategies;
- Regional Groups for Sustainable Development;
- The SDG Promotion Communications Media Coordination Group;
- SDG Youth Ambassadors.

Based on the outcomes of the National Sustainable Development Strategy until 2030 (NSDS-2030) and the 2030 Agenda Principles, the National Sustainable Development Strategy until 2035 (NSDS-2035) was drafted and approved in the Republic of Belarus. The NSDS-2035 drafting process coincided with the process of drafting and approving the Social and Economic Development Programme for 2021-2025 and the state programmes for a new five-year programming cycle.

In 2017, the National Indicators System to monitor the SDGs’ progress was established, which, as of August 1, 2021, included 264 indicators, of which 162 indicators were aligned with the global indicators list, and 102 proxy indicators had data meeting the requirements indirectly, while 77 indicators had national targets.

The Belarusian National SDG Reporting Platform (NRP) [<http://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by>] developed by Belstat — with the support of UNDP and UNICEF — was launched in 2018. This resource ensures real-time tracking of how Belarus progresses in achieving SDGs.

The Republic of Belarus has been working to involve youth in the process of achieving SDGs; the institute of the SDG Youth Ambassadors has been established; the Youth Policy aligned with SDGs has been approved.

The Government of the Republic of Belarus supported the UN agencies campaigns to promote SDGs in various target groups. The Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus has established the SDG Promotion Communications Media Coordination Group, which is operational.

In 2018, the MAPS mission visited the country, and, based on its findings, the Belarusian SDG Implementation Roadmap was developed. The approaches outlined in this Roadmap have been endorsed by the national partners, and the approaches include the following set of the SDG Acceleration Platforms:

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- i) Green transition to inclusive and sustainable growth (SDGs 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15);
- ii) Future generation orientation on (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16);
- iii) Digital transformation and social innovation (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17);
- iv) Gender equitable society (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16).

4. Strategies including lessons learned and the proposed Joint Programme

The Joint Programme actions are consistent with the Country Programmes of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO for 2021-2025, and they define activity dimensions that are common for UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO under the SDGs’ implementation process.

Currently, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF — together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus — implement a Joint Programme aimed at supporting operations of the SDG Achievement Process Management Design in the Republic of Belarus. In 2019, UNICEF, together with Belstat, successfully completed the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 6), which became the data source for 21 SDG indicators.

UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF have supported operations of the Public Council on the Formation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Strategies, as well as they have assisted the development of NSDS-2035 and interacted with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, and other government bodies to draft state programmes for 2021-2025 aligned with the SDGs.

Lessons learned:

The process of the SDG nationalization in the Republic of Belarus has been supported at the highest country level. This support level has made it possible to include the SDGs as national development indicators. Achievements of the Republic of Belarus in this process have been recognized by the UN agencies, and they can be replicated by other countries of the region and globally.

It is not only the Government that is involved in the implementation of the SDGs in the Republic of Belarus. Awareness of the civil society, academic and business communities about the 2030 Agenda as well as their willingness to engage in the implementation of the SDGs have been noted. Public consultations and the My World type survey around the formulation of NSDS-2035, related plans and programmes, and their implementation help strengthen the commitment of the whole society to implement the 2030 Agenda in Belarus.

As a number of the SDG indicators are concerned, national stakeholders have noted lacking national methodologies similar to international methodologies for calculation of the SDG indicators, as well as practices, competencies and adequate capacities to collect the SDG data, to monitor and evaluate the progress in achieving the SDGs and the set the SDG indicators. At the same time, it has been identified that there is no financial capacity to engage international expertise to address these challenges.

The proposed Joint Programme

To advance the 2030 Agenda, the Joint Programme will bring together various UN agencies and national partners to ensure long-term sustainability of the Joint Programmes’ outcomes. The Joint Programme will be implemented by consolidating the available arrangements of integrated planning, resource allocation improvement, and innovative coordination pathways between the UN agencies. The Joint Programme will leverage comparative advantages, expert capacities and various target groups networked by every UN agency engaged. The planned outcomes will be achieved through the actions and activities complementing and multiplying each other, thus creating synergies, and by developing partnerships with the national partners. Therefore, it seems appropriate to combine the efforts of the international community present in

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Belarus (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO) and of the national partners (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belstat, regional executive committees and the Minsk City Executive Committee, and other governmental bodies, and other organizations) within the Joint Programme aimed at promoting the SDGs. The effectiveness of the UN agencies’ interventions will be optimized by assigning roles and types of activities under the components as described in the relevant sections of this Joint Programme proposal. UNDP will integrate and coordinate implementation of the entire Joint Programme, cooperating with the other UN agencies under individual components to ensure coherence across various SDGs.

Outcomes’ sustainability:

The Joint Programme will ensure closer and more sustainable partnerships between government agencies, local authorities, academic institutions, social actors, civil society, and business community. The Joint Programme will expand opportunities for establishing interagency partnerships to promote the SDGs. Such a partnership will facilitate practical cooperation at the national and local levels. The Joint Programme will also focus on enhancing capacity of both government officials and public / business community representatives in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by implementing grassroots initiatives.

5. Results Matrix

The **general Joint Programme goal** is to integrate the SDGs into national and local policies and programmes, as well as bringing the SDGs to communities and daily lives.

Specific Joint Programme objectives (outcomes):

1. Strengthen the capacity of national partners in the SDG implementation.
2. Incorporate the SDGs into the forecasting and planning system;
3. Improve approaches to monitoring and assessing progress in achieving the SDGs in the Republic of Belarus.

The detailed Results Matrix, including indicators, will be developed during the inception phase of the Joint Programme and approved by the Steering Committee at its first meeting.

To achieve the Joint Programme goal and specific objectives, the following actions will be taken:

COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF NATIONAL PARTNERS IN THE SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Output 1. National Institutional Mechanism for achievement of the SDGs of the Republic of Belarus strengthened

Activity 1.1. Supporting the functioning of the National Institutional Mechanism for achievement of the SDGs of the Republic of Belarus

1.1.1. To support and expand the dialogue underway within the national architecture for managing the process of achieving the SDGs, and the state-public dialogue, UNDP will support events (roundtables and others) on sustainable development under this Joint Programme.

1.1.2. Based on the analysis of international (including Russian) practices, a methodology will be developed with the assistance of UNDP to assess draft regulations for their compliance with the SDGs, and this methodology will be applying to one regulation draft.

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1.1.3. Under the Joint Programme, UNFPA will assist designing a methodology for expert reviews of regulations through the prism of demographic resilience and piloting this methodology by applying the methodology to one regulation draft.

1.1.4. In addition, UNFPA will assess reproductive health regulations for men and women in the context of the SDGs and generate recommendations for improving legislation in this field; developing practical operating arrangements focused on the country’s regions; and discussing the recommendations with national partners.

Activity 1.2. Raising public awareness of the SDGs

1.2.1. Shortly before the end of the Joint Programme, UNDP will conduct a national sociological survey of various populations to find out their awareness of the SDGs.

1.2.2. The Common Communications Strategy for the SDG promotion in the Republic of Belarus will be developed and implemented jointly with national partners during the inception phase of the Joint Programme with the support of UNDP. Developments of the Communications Strategy will consider the practices of Russia and other Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member-states. Implementation of the Strategy will focus on promoting the SDGs, the tools for the SDG achievement in the society, and on raising awareness of different population groups.

1.2.3. UNDP will assist in preparing and holding the SDG Champions competition, where state bodies, public organizations, private companies, which have made a significant contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, will be selected and awarded.

1.2.4. Under the Joint Programme, UNFPA will conduct a campaign together with national partners to mainstream the contribution of older populations to the achievement of the SDGs.

1.2.5. Under the Joint Programme, UNICEF will provide expert and technical assistance to the activities of the SDG Youth Ambassadors selected by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus on a competitive basis. Similar Russian practices will also be considered in developing interventions.

1.2.6. Under the Joint Programme, UNICEF, together with national partners, will campaign to promote the Future Generation Orientation — Adolescents and Youth: the SDG Acceleration Platform.

1.2.7. The communications component of the Joint Programme will be provided by the UNDP SDG Thematic Communications Coordinator.

1.2.8. Under the Joint Programme, the UNICEF Thematic Coordinator for Children and Youth will provide expert and technical assistance on children and youth issues.

Activity 1.3. Experience exchange and international cooperation in implementing the SDGs

1.3.1 Under the Joint Programme, UNDP with participation of the other participating UN agencies will assist in drafting, discussing with a wide range of stakeholders, and publishing the Voluntary National Report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the Republic of Belarus.

1.3.2 With the support of UNDP, a Regional Conference on practice exchange in achieving the SDGs will be held in the Republic of Belarus with the participation of the other UN agencies, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Union State, the international community, government agencies, as well as the representatives of CSOs and business community.

Activity 1.4. Capacity building in the SDG related issues

1.4.1 UNDP will assist drafting of the training materials on the SDGs for their subsequent use in executive and professional development and training courses curricula.

1.4.2 One of the country's higher education institutions assisted by UNDP will draft a voluntary university review on implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.4.3 With the support of UNDP, programmes will be developed and implemented to exchange and study the best practices in achieving the SDGs in the Russian Federation (*the Interdepartmental Working Group*

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under the President Administration of the Russian Federation on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (IWG), the Analytical Center under the Government of the Russian Federation, the Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), etc.) as well as in other top countries in the SDG Achievement Index. The target audience of these programmes will be representatives of the Sustainable Development Council, regional, parliamentary and partner groups on sustainable development.

1.4.4 The Joint Programme — supported by UNICEF — will also assist developing and piloting sustainable development training courses for schoolchildren.

1.4.5 In addition, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus in delivering the World's Largest Lesson on the SDGs in educational institutions.

1.4.6. A public health training module on prevention of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), promotion of healthy lifestyles and addressing prevalence of NCDs risk factors that are monitored with the SDGs will be designed with the support of WHO and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The target audience will be decision makers, members of the Council for Sustainable Development, members of the Interagency Council on Healthy Lifestyles, Noncommunicable Disease Control, Prevention and Control of Harmful use of alcohol and alcohol addition, Drug addiction and Tobacco Use that is established within the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, representatives of the Partnership Group for Sustainable Development, medical and educational institutions. The choice of strengthening public health training for high level decision makers as the vehicle to improve the SDG achievements is justified by interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of the impact of healthcare on other dimensions of the SDGs and also due to the high performance already achieved in this area. These efforts will allow using public health measures and approaches as a platform for scaling up successful practices and transferring them to other areas.

The actions will include:

1.4.6.1. review and enhancing the NCD public health training module for high level decision makers and health care managers with adjusting training materials using WHO “Best Buys” recommended public health measures to achieve the SDGs on health in Belarus. This work will include development of the plan for scaling up of the public health training for decision makers in the Republic of Belarus;

1.4.6.2. conducting 3 demo workshops on the public health training module for decision makers on prevention of non-communicable diseases and addressing prevalence of NCDs risk factors that are monitored with the SDGs;

1.4.6.3. capacity building and “training of trainers” format for Belarusian specialists on public health training module on prevention of non-communicable diseases and addressing prevalence of NCDs risk factors that are monitored with the SDGs;

1.4.6.4. designing handouts and other teaching aids, printing these materials, introducing the public health training module at the national and regional levels.

Applying the expertise of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation and WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Moscow, Russian Federation) will be used in consultations process of development a training module on public health and noncommunicable disease prevention in the context of the SDGs.

COMPONENT 2: ASSISTANCE IN DRAFTING AND INTRODUCING FORECASTING AND PLANNING POLICY PAPERS ALIGNED WITH the SDGs

Output 2. Forecasting and planning policy documents aligned with the SDGs

Activity 2.1. Incorporating the SDGs into forecasting and planning policy papers

In 2020 the following key strategic and programme documents aligned with the SDG indicators adopted:

1) NSDS-2035, 2) the Programme of Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025, 3) state programmes for the next programming cycle (2021-2025).

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2.1.1. With the expert support provided under the Joint Programme, 7 regional sustainable development strategies will be designed / updated (for each of the regions and the city of Minsk) with the assistance of UNDP and participation of the other UN agencies. The sustainable development strategies will be designed considering the need to cover the SDG Acceleration Platforms and to use the selected the SDG indicators as targets. Drafted policy documents will be discussed at workshops and roundtables. Regional Executive Committees and the Minsk City Executive Committee are expected to endorse the policies that will be pitched.

2.1.2. UNDP will facilitate the design of the Best SDG Practices Online Platform.

2.1.3. Under the Joint Programme, UNFPA will assist in developing a budgeting methodology adjusted for the demographic factors affecting the SDGs and in piloting this methodology in two regions of the country at least.

2.1.4. In addition, UNFPA will conduct awareness-raising events on the effectiveness of budgeting with regard to demographic factors and its positive impact on the demographic resilience of the regions.

2.1.5 The UNFPA Demographic Resilience Thematic Coordinator will coordinate the Joint Programme's efforts on demographic resilience.

2.1.6. UNICEF will support the development of a methodology and an assessment of the needed financial resources for budgeting the achievements of the SDGs related to children.

2.1.7. A Forum on the SDG financing will be organized and held with the assistance of UNDP and other UN agencies.

Activity 2.2. Supporting the SDG acceleration at the local level

2.2.1. The Joint Programme funds will be reserved for implementation — with UNDP support and collaboration of the other UN agencies — of pilot (demo) SDG initiatives capable to showcase practical outcomes of the SDG acceleration at the local level focusing on the SDG Acceleration Platforms recommended by the MAPS mission for the Republic of Belarus.

Funding for the pilot initiatives will be provided to CSOs to build their capacity and to ensure their full participation in the SDG implementation process as well as to support the specific SDG acceleration activities. Legal entities — local government and self-government bodies, commercial and non-commercial organizations — may become partners and beneficiaries of the initiatives. The initiatives can develop both individual and cross-cutting themes to promote the SDGs (e.g., shaping digital ecosystems, including those under the umbrella of smart sustainable cities ensuring interaction between the state, society and business community with equal participation of women and men, adolescents, youth and representatives of the most vulnerable groups, preventing violence against women, etc.). The winners will be selected through transparent procedures on a competitive basis. A regulation on the procedure and conditions for holding the competition of pilot (demo) initiatives will be drafted under implementation of the Joint Programme and approved by the Steering Committee (SC). Pilot initiatives will be selected for each SDG Accelerator Platform based on the regionality principle. The total amount of funding for the competition and implementation of the initiatives will be 500,000 USD. Requirements for the number and the maximum budget of the initiatives will be defined in the Regulation on the procedure and conditions for holding the competition of the pilot (demo) initiatives. When holding the competition and supporting the implementation of the pilot initiatives on the SDGs, visualization of the Joint Programme donor (the Government of the Russian Federation) will be ensured in all winning initiatives. The key criteria for shortlisting the initiatives will be as follows: consistency with the Joint Programme goal and objectives, innovativeness, compliance with the activities envisaged in NSDS-2035, state and regional programmes, and the SDG Acceleration Platforms.

2.2.2. Training workshops will be organized with the support of UNDP in the country's regions under the competition of the pilot (demo) initiatives.

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2.2.3. Efforts coordination in this dimension will be provided by the UNDP Regional Development Thematic Coordinator.

COMPONENT 3: SUPPORTING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SDG MONITORING SYSTEM AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS (UNDP as a coordinating agency, with the engagement of UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA)

This component will be implemented considering the SDG Acceleration Platforms recommended by the MAPS mission for the Republic of Belarus, including as follows:

- Green Transition for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth (UNDP);
- Digital Transformation and Social Innovations (UNDP);
- Future Generations Orientation (UNICEF);
- Gender Equitable Society (UNFPA).

Output 3. The SDG monitoring system at the national and local levels improved

Activity 3.1. Improving the system for collecting and monitoring national and regional data on the SDGs

3.1.1. The Joint Programme — with the support of UNDP — will improve the National SDG Indicator Reporting Platform (NRP) [<http://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by>]. The upgraded NRP should enable visualization of geospatial information on selected SDG indicators as well as automatic data sharing with international organizations.

3.1.2. The component — with the assistance of UNICEF — will also support improvement of the Universal Web Portal for Child Statistics, including data visualization and introduction of the SDMX format for efficient data sharing.

3.1.3. UNICEF will provide assistance in administrative data quality assessment and quality assurance and in mobilizing for the MICS survey to monitor national and regional SDG indicators on children and youth.

3.1.4. UNICEF will provide technical assistance in designing the microdata dissemination process and in piloting the process using the MICS and CDS (Comprehensive Disability Survey) data as far as the SDG indicators on children and youth are concerned.

Activity 3.2. Supporting the development of the SDG indicators by data producers from government agencies and other organizations

As of August 1, 2021, the National Indicator System for monitoring the SDG progress included 264 indicators, of which 162 indicators were aligned with the global indicators list, and 102 proxy indicators had data that met the requirements indirectly, while 77 indicators had national targets. A number of indicators require: the national definitions to be aligned with the international definitions, quality validation of the existing administrative data; other indicators require: designing national metadata, conducting specialized surveys, developing additional indicators for certain SDGs in the view of the local context, etc.

3.2.1. Under the Joint Programme, UNDP will prepare a survey (mapping) of data providers from government bodies and other institutions that primarily require assistance in improving the SDG indicators. Based on the mapping, recommendations will be drafted for improving the SDG Indicators Reporting System in the Republic of Belarus.

UNDP will also assist in administrative data quality assessment of the selected SDGs under two SDG Acceleration Platforms: Green Transition to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, and Digital Transformation and Social Innovation.

3.2.2. UNDP will support the development of the SDG indicators by data providers from among government agencies and other institutions, as well as the methodologies for data collection and calculation

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(at least 2 methodologies) in the context of two SDG Acceleration Platforms: Green Transition to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, and Digital Transformation and Social Innovation. In addition, UNDP will provide assistance in designing expenditure accounts for environmental protection.

3.2.3. UNICEF will support development (refinement) of the SDG indicators related to children and youth in the context of the Focus on Future Generations SDG Acceleration Platform.

3.2.4. UNFPA together with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health will conduct a meta-analysis of a set of the SDG reporting indicators related to the demographic resilience of the country in relation to NSDS-2035 and the Gender Equality in Society SDG Acceleration Platform, and will ensure drafting of recommendations on improvement of the SDG indicators and consultations on the SDG indicators with a wide range of stakeholders.

3.2.5. Under the Joint Programme, the UNDP’s SDG Statistics Thematic Coordinator will provide expert assistance and coordinate efforts on the SDG statistics.

The Joint Programme will facilitate cooperation between the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (Belstat) and the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat). Rosstat's expertise and best practices will be leveraged in the implementation of this Joint Programme component.

Component 4. Programme management, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA)

Outcome 4. Providing effective programme management and monitoring

Output 4. Effective programme management and monitoring ensured

Activity 4.1. In line with the UN practices, the Joint Programme will include a knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation component. After the Joint Programme is registered, programme staff will be hired and office equipment will be procured and put in place to support the Joint Programme activities as per the allocations specified in the Joint Programme budget. Premises for accommodation of the Joint Programme staff will be agreed with the MFA.

6. Risk Management Matrix

Risk Description/ Analysis	Category	(I) Impact Seve- rity 1-5	(L) Likeli- hood 1-5	I x L Overall Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions	By When/ Whom
Delay in the Joint Programme’s national approval and registration procedure (by the Council of Ministers and Ministry of Economy respectively)	Operational	4	3	12	Intensive consultations with the line ministries, Ministry of Economy and concerned Joint Programme partners on improving and finalizing the Joint Programme Documents	All partners, Ministry of Economy Timeline: First quarter of 2022
COVID-19 situation prevents partners from being able to conduct work or interactions are limited	Environment al / Health and safety	3	3	9	UN agencies & partners have learned how to transfer actions online in a productive way and to develop blended actions using protective and infection control practices	All partners Timeline: throughout Joint Programme’s implementation period

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SDGs become less of a political priority for Government leading to reduced opportunities for scaling up the Joint Programme	Operational / Engagement of national partners in decision-making	4	1	4	Government agencies are key partners within the Joint Programme activities, giving them more ownership in the success of the Joint Programme	All partners Timeline: throughout Joint Programme's implementation period
SDG issues become less of an important/critical issue for the public/community	Operational / Engagement of national partners in decision-making	2	2	4	Throughout the Joint Programme, UN agencies will establish a communication component in communities to promote an on-going dialogue that underscores how SDGs affect daily lives and provide meaning	All partners Timeline: throughout Joint Programme's implementation period
Difficulties with hiring appropriate contractors for the effective implementation of the programme	Operational	4	4	16	UN agencies work with a broad group of partners both locally and internationally. UN agencies capacities to pool international expertise can also supplement potential reduced capacity in the country	All partners Timeline: throughout Joint Programme's implementation period

7. Management Arrangements and Coordination Mechanisms

National partners

The Joint Programme will be implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with support of the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) according to UN rules and procedures. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be the National Implementing Partner. The National Joint Programme Coordinator (who will be the National SDG Coordinator) will coordinate the Joint Programme activities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus is a central government body; it reports to the Council of Ministers (Government) of the Republic of Belarus. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducts the state foreign relations policy, coordinates foreign policy and foreign economic activities of the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs performs the function of the Secretariat of the National SDG Coordinator. Acting as the National Implementing Partner, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be responsible for the successful implementation of the Joint Programme, sustainability of the results achieved and reporting to the state authorities of the Republic of Belarus on the results of the Joint Programme.

UN Agencies

This Joint Programme will be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations agencies' funds and programmes in accordance with the “Memorandum of Understanding between Participating UN Organizations, and the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office” (hereinafter MoU) and current Joint Programme document, including WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA; supported by the UNSDCF Pillar Groups.

UNDP in Belarus will play the role of a Convening Agent, being accountable for coordination of programmatic activities and submitting the consolidated narrative report based on submissions from each

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participating UN agency. The Joint Coordination Unit comprising the participating UN agencies and chaired by the Convening Agent will be established to strengthen synergies across the agencies’ Joint Programme activities. The Administrative Agent, UNDP’s Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), will be responsible for financial management, with each participating UN organization having programmatic and financial responsibility for the funds entrusted to it. Section 8 of the Joint Programme will provide more financial management details.

Steering Committee (SC):

A Steering Committee (SC) will be established and will act as the Joint Programme Advisory Body for strategic guidance and management/coordination. The SC will facilitate collaboration between participating UN organizations, donor community and government and non-government key stakeholders. Advisory in nature, the SC reviews and endorses the Joint Programme Document revisions and annual work plans, ensuring that the action maintains coherence with national development priorities of Belarus. The SC will meet at least twice a year (face-to-face and/or by video conference) or based on need in which a committee member has made a call for meeting. The SC will be co-chaired by the National Joint Programme Coordinator and by the UN Resident Coordinator to the Republic of Belarus. The SC will include the representatives of the key stakeholders: Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Belarus, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Belstat, a representative of the Partnership Group for Sustainable Development. The SC may decide, if necessary, to invite other participants to the SC meetings, while the number of the meeting participants shall remain within the limits ensuring the SC’s performance. The Project Manager will participate in the SC meetings without a voting right and will be responsible for putting down the minutes of the discussions and decisions upon each meeting. A final list of the SC members will be approved by the National Joint Programme Coordinator and by the UN Resident Coordinator to the Republic of Belarus. The SC decisions shall be made by consensus in accordance with the standards ensuring management of the development outcomes, the best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

The SC will ensure continual stakeholder engagement and effectiveness from the very start of the Joint Programme implementation by organizing regular meetings with the representatives of the stakeholders and by applying sustainable Joint Programme management practices.

Convening Agent and Joint Coordination Unit (JCU):

The Joint Coordination Unit, chaired by the Convening Agent, will be established with the membership of designated technical officers of all PUNOs. The JCU shall convene at least every three months and shall be entrusted with the following tasks:

- Coordinate day-to-day operations of the PUNOs’ Joint Programme activities.
- Review progress and ensure proper coordinated implementation of the Joint Programme.
- Serve jointly for quality assurance of annual progress reports to the Steering Committee.
- Develop the workplans including a provisional budget to implement the Joint Programme in close coordination with the Steering Committee.
- Ensure development of individual narrative reports of PUNOs for submission to the Administrative Agent.
- Support the Chairs of SC to develop the agenda and manage all Steering Committee meetings.
- Undertake other tasks as directed by the Convening Agent and/or the Steering Committee.

The Joint Programme staff will be hired and led by the Project Manager for efficient and timely implementation of the Joint Programme in accordance with the UNDP rules. The Joint Programme will be managed at the working level by the Joint Programme staff advised by SC, and Joint Programme staff will report to UNDP directly. The Joint Programme staff will be based in Minsk and will be selected on a

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competitive basis following consultations with the stakeholders. International and local experts will support implementation of the Joint Programme.

The Project Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Joint Programme and the Joint Programme staff in line with the UNDP rules and procedures, the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus, and his/her job functions.

Governance:

Technical and management oversight is provided from within the country offices as well as from regional and HQ levels of the proposing UN agencies. All the UN agencies have fully developed administration and financial management monitoring mechanisms in place for production of financial and implementation progress reports in-line with UN rules and regulations. The UN Agencies will produce annual donor progress reports for each funding year and a final report through coordination with the Convening Agent and the MPTFO. Official financial statements shall be produced by authorized administrative entities of the PUNOs separately and consolidated by MPTFO.

Indicative implementation period:

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described above will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 36 months.

Workplan of the Joint Programme

The work plan and annual workplans of the Joint Programme implementation will be drafted by the Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs), reviewed and approved by the SC of the Joint Programme. Work plans for the second and subsequent years of the Joint Programme implementation will be developed during the last month of the working year.

To successfully achieve the Joint Programme's objective and outcomes, it is critical to ensure that the key local and international stakeholders fully monitor the implementation progress of the Joint Programme components, starting with the final approval of detailed work plans for the components and implementation arrangements throughout the Joint Programme's implementation period. These efforts will facilitate timely identification of the possible risks to the successful implementation of the Joint Programme, and the efforts will allow for adaptive risk management measures and the necessary adjustments to be made at an early stage.

8. Fund Management Arrangements

This UN Joint Programme will follow the pass-through fund management modality according to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNDG) Guidelines on UN Joint Programming. The UNDP MPTFO, serving as the Administrative Agent (AA) for the Joint Programme, and Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) will perform their functions as set out in the Standard Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Joint Programme using pass-through fund management. Each Participating UN Organization applies its own procedures, provided it meets minimum requirements outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Joint Programme document in terms of safeguards and fiduciary principles. The Administrative Agent will sign the MOU with all Participating UN Organizations.

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Administrative Agent:

The Administrative Agent (AA) will be accountable for effective and impartial fiduciary management and financial reporting, and on behalf of all PUNOs. The Administrative Agent will:

1. Sign Standard Administrative Arrangements (SAAs) with donors and receive contributions from donors that wish to provide financial support to the Fund/Joint Programme through the AA.
2. Administer such funds received in accordance with its regulations, policies and procedures, as well as the relevant MOU and Joint Programme Project document (‘ProDoc’) and SAA, including the provisions relating to winding up the Fund account and related matters.
3. Subject to availability of funds, disburse such funds to each of the PUNOs in accordance with decisions from the Steering Committee (SC), taking into account the budget set out in the approved TOR/Joint Programme documents.
4. Ensure consolidation of statements and reports, based on submissions provided by each PUNO, as set forth in the TOR/Joint Programme document and provide these to each donor that has contributed to the Fund/Joint Programme account and to the SC.
5. Provide final reporting, including notification that the Fund/Joint Programme has been operationally completed.
6. Disburse funds to any participating UN Organization for any additional costs of the task that the SC may decide in accordance with the Joint Programme document.

Participating UN Organizations:

Participating UN organizations (PUNOs) operate in accordance with their own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. They assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed by the Administrative Agent and are responsible for the implementation and delivery of activities and corresponding results as per the roles and responsibilities described in this Joint Programme document. PUNOs will have dedicated resources to achieve results, including personnel and consultants (technical assistance) that are directly contributing to the Joint Programme activities, and allocated budgets for associated costs, such as office structure, and operability of field visits for quality assurance. Each UN organization is entitled to deduct their indirect costs on contributions received seven percent as overhead costs of the total allocation received for the agency.

Currency of Funding:

The funding currency shall be in US Dollars. All the UN agencies financing accounting systems are in US Dollars (USD).

9. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Monitoring and evaluation is an integral element of the Joint Programme. Progress as well as bottlenecks will be monitored individually among the participating UN agencies well as jointly through the JCU on a regular basis using standard mechanisms and tools that include field monitoring. While monitoring is an on-going activity, a joint progress review shall take place annually through the Steering Committee. The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partners' responsibilities. To this aim, the Partners shall apply their internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and regular progress reports. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the Joint Programme implementation. The UN agencies will conduct joint field monitoring visits and meetings with Joint Programme beneficiaries, local service providers and authorities, and national stakeholders to assess progress towards the achievement of planned results, learn from implementation and take timely corrective action.

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Expected outcomes	Indicators	Baseline indicators	Target indicators	Means and sources of verification	Assumptions
The efforts of the Republic of Belarus in the nationalization and localization of the SDGs supported.	Belarus has improved its capacity in planning, monitoring and evaluation of achieving the SDGs and implementing the 2030 Agenda.	Assessment of the SDGs’ achievement progress identified gaps in achieving SDGs.	Incorporation of SDGs into regional policy papers	Regional policy papers. Official statistics (Belstat), official country reports to custodian agencies on the SDG indicators	Regional policy papers integrate SDGs into a set of regional goals

The Joint Programme shall be evaluated in line with the UN Evaluation Group guidelines focusing on the process and outcomes. Joint evaluation, when the evaluation teams of all stakeholder organizations are members of the Evaluation Management Team, is the preferred option. Participating UN agencies shall share information and updates and conduct joint monitoring and evaluation where necessary. Periodic evaluation reports (interim and final) will be prepared independently in line with the established rules and procedures.

Reporting:

The Joint Programme will have one consolidated annual report (including programmatic and financial reports). The reporting deadlines specified in legal documents (e.g. Memorandums of Understanding) shall be respected. All reports shall be approved by the SC and made available to all stakeholders through the SC.

The Administrative Agent (UNDP MPTF Office): shall prepare annual and final financial statements consisting of the reports submitted by each participating UN agency and the Sources and Uses of Funds Statement. The UNDP MPTF Office shall provide these consolidated reports to the Government of the Russian Federation in accordance with the established schedule. The reports shall apply the UN agreed and approved budget categories: 1. Staff & Personnel Cost, 2. Supplies and Commodities, 3. Equipment, vehicle and furniture, 4. Contractual Services, 5. Travel, 6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts, 7. General operating and Other direct costs, 8. Indirect costs.

10. Visibility and communications

In line with the PUNOs, Russian Federation and national partners’ communication and visibility provisions, communication actions will be designed to reach different groups of recipients and promote main achievements and positive impact of results accomplished. The SDG Thematic Communication’s Coordinator will coordinate the Project’s communication activities with Communication’s focal points in the participating UN agencies and will act as a focal point for the communications with the Russian Federation and other stakeholders involved into the Joint Programme’s implementation.

The placement and use of the logo and/or recognizable signs of the Russian Federation in the implementation of all Joint Programme activities (discussions, meetings, round tables, interviews, press releases, etc.) will be ensured. Press releases will be prepared for each event and distributed to the media and other stakeholders. The media will also be invited to attend the Joint Programme events to cover its implementation milestones. Actual examples of the successful Joint Programme implementation will be documented and presented to the donor along with the Joint Programme progress and outcome reports

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(interim reports, final narrative reports, and financial statements). Meeting minutes and training session reports will be supported by photographs reflecting the positive Joint Programme outcomes.

11. Legal context

UNDP	<p>This Joint Programme document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and UNDP, signed on 24 September 1992.</p> <p>Specific Joint Programme objectives will be implemented by UNDP Belarus in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.</p>
UNICEF	<p>This Joint Programme will be guided under the Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government of Belarus and UNICEF on 14 December 2007 and entered into force on 31 March 2009. The Joint Programme activities are defined by the directions described in the Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2021-2025 which was approved by the UNICEF Executive Committee in September 2020.</p> <p>Activities under Specific Joint Programme objectives will be implemented by UNICEF Belarus in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures.</p>
UNFPA	<p>This Joint Programme will be guided by the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement concluded between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the United Nations Development Programme on 24 September 1992, applied mutatis mutandis to the activities and personnel of UNFPA</p> <p>All activities under Specific Joint Programme objectives will be implemented by UNFPA in accordance with its financial regulations, rules and procedures.</p>
WHO	<p>This Joint Programme will be guided under the Basic Agreement between WHO and the Government of Belarus signed on 20 May 2000 and ratified on 19 July 2000.</p> <p>Activities under Specific Joint Programme objectives will be implemented by WHO Country Office in Belarus in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures.</p>
MoU	<p>With this document, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO appoint the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and the United Nations Development Programme to serve as their Administrative and Convening Agent respectively in connection with the Programme, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.</p>

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Budget for the Action

Budget categories	ALL YEARS	UNDP	UNICEF	UNFPA	WHO
	Costs (in USD)				
1. Staff & Personnel Cost	701 200	470 200	118 800	112 200	0
2. Supplies and Commodities	32 679	32 679	0	0	0
3. Equipment, vehicle and furniture	70 000	62 000	0	8 000	0
4. Contractual Services	1 631 200	831 000	459 200	267 000	74 000
5. Travel	84 904	49 000	0	15 000	20 904
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	500 000	500 000	0	0	0
7. General operating and Other direct costs	184 000	65 000	54 000	38 000	27 000
Total direct costs (1-7)	3 203 983	2 009 879	632 000	440 200	121 904
8. Indirect costs (7%)	224 279	140 692	44 240	30 814	8 533
AA fee	34 629				
Total	3 462 891	2 150 571	676 240	471 014	130 437