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UNDAF



United Nations Development Assistance Framework in Sao Tome and Principe

(2007 - 2011)

UN Country Team in Sao Tome and Principe

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe assures the equality and dignity of all persons as a signatory to the UN Declaration of Human Rights. It recognizes the non-violation and the non-alienation of these rights without discrimination as to gender, social, economic, racial, religious, political or economic origin. All citizens are guaranteed these fundamental rights under the 1990 Constitution.

Sao Tome and Principe has included the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its Constitution, has ratified the majority of conventions and international instruments to protect the rights of its citizens, and has signed along with all UN country members, the Millennium Declaration.

The elaboration of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe have been framed within a new planning and cooperation phase of the United Nations (UN) System and its agencies, programmes and funds¹, thus responding to the demands of the UN Reform initiated by Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in 1997.

UNDAF Outcomes derived from the findings of six thematic groups established for the elaboration of the CCA. The areas prioritized were based on national priorities set forth by the government in relation to the mandates and missions of the agencies, programmes and funds of the UN System present in the country; the approved Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) (2002); and progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Other factors assessed include the potential for improving the living conditions of vulnerable populations; and the possibilities of partnership with bilateral and multilateral donors working in the country.

The two strategic UNDAF thematic areas chosen for the programme cycle 2007-2011 are:

- o To address access to quality basic social services including Health, Education, HIV/AIDS and Environment and the protection of the most vulnerable.
- To reinforce the capacity of public institutions in order to consolidate the rule of law and the protection of human rights, while ensuring the continuous involvement of civil society.

Given the need for gender mainstreaming in all areas of intervention of the UNDAF, the UNCT has agreed to include gender as a cross-cutting area, having as a result:

o Integration of gender issues at all levels of future cooperation and to ensure the equality of women and men in political, economic and social life.

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¹ The UN agencies, programmes and funds present in Sao Tome and Principe include, by alphabetical order: FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and WFP

ACRONYMS/ABREVIATIONS

ADB: African Development Bank

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

ARV: Antiretroviral

CCA: Common Country Assessment

EU: European Union

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

HIPIC: Highly Indebted Poor countries HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

NEPAD: New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development NEPSD: National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

NSP: National Strategy Paper

PLWHA: People living with HIV/AIDS PRSP: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

RC: Resident Coordinator UN: United Nations

UNAIDS: UN Joint Programme on AIDS UNCT: United Nations Country Team

UNDAF: United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme UNFPA: United Nations Fund for Population UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UNS: United Nations System

WB: World Bank

WFP: World Food Programme WHO: World Health Organization

UN RESIDENT AGENCIES SIGNATURE PAGE

We, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Sao Tome and Principe, while respecting each organization's mandate and competence, pledge our commitment to collaborative joint programmes and programming in order to foster cooperation and coordination among all our Agencies, Funds and Programmes. This is towards enhancing the performance and impact of the UN System by embracing new synergies for a common UN which is responsive to development challenges and priorities in the country.

Mr. Bacar Abdouraihamane UNDP Officer in Charge

Mr. André Mayouya
UNFPA Country Director

Mr. Batilloi Warritay

UNICEF Area Representative, Officer in Charge Resident Coordinator Officer in Charge

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Mr. Nicaise Kponou
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Signed on theday of January 2006 in Sao Tome, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

I. Introduction

The Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) have become the primary tools for the United Nations programmes, funds and agencies to articulate a coherent common programming framework at country level. The CCA/UNDAF, representing both a process and a product, are part of the Secretary General's Reform programme initiated in 1997 to make the UN a more effective and efficient institution.

The CCA is the common instrument of the UN system to analyze the national development situation and identify key development issues². The CCA in Sao Tome and Principe was a collective assessment conducted throughout a period of almost 9 months that identified the causes of key development challenges in the country. Six theme groups working in six different areas were established bringing together government experts, members of the civil society as well as representatives of the UN system. The CCA was finalized in November 2005 and was based on the findings of each thematic group.

The UNDAF is the common strategic framework for the operational activities of the UN system at country level. It provides a collective, coherent and integrated UN system response to national priorities and needs³. It derives from the analyses of the CCA and is the next step in the preparation of UN system country programmes of cooperation.

The UNDAF process in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe started with the strategic planning meeting in November 2005. Representatives from the government and civil society were invited – together with members of the UN Country Team – to actively participate in the formulation of the UNDAF matrix. On the basis of the short-listed areas of cooperation outlined in the CCA, the approved PRSP (2002), the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and government priorities, participants identified national development priority areas in which the UN system in Sao Tome and Principe, given its comparative advantage, should concentrate its efforts for the next 5-year cycle.

Two strategic UNDAF outcomes were jointly formulated, in addition to a cross-cutting area of cooperation:

- Outcome 1: will address access to quality basic social services including Health, Education, HIV/AIDS, Environment and protection of the most vulnerable.
- Outcome 2: will reinforce the capacity of public institutions in order to consolidate the rule of law and the protection of human rights, which ensure the continuous involvement of civil society.
- Cross-cutting area: a gender dimension will be integrated at all levels of future cooperation and to ensure visible equality of women and men in political, economic and social responsibilities in life.

The UNDAF matrix, including country programme outcomes and outputs, evolved through successive participatory process, regular meetings and revision sessions. The whole process was followed and coordinated by a Steering Committee composed of the heads of agencies of the UN system and regular UN Country Team meetings.

² CCA/UNDAF Guidelines for UN country teams, July 2004. Pg 11

³ CCA/UNDAF Guidelines for UN country teams, July 2004. Pg 16

The present document, a final product of this process and fruit of the UN country team's joint efforts with the government, aims to be an effective instrument to address the country's development challenges throughout the next UN cycle of assistance.

II. Results Section

Priority Area 1: Basic Social Services

Overview

The Millennium Declaration clearly states the commitment by heads of states and governments to help people reach their human potential by allowing them to lead the lives they value. This implies the ability to satisfy basic human needs like food and shelter, to enjoy a healthy life, as well as having the means for self-development and the opportunity to make choices, which come as a result of good education and participation in decision-making.

Through the lenses of the Millennium Declaration, and in line with the priorities and the objectives defined within the 2002 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper; the UN System in Sao Tome and Principe is working with the government to reinforce the capacities of its citizens to fulfill their potential in society. As widely recognized by all partners, unless food, nutrition, shelter, basic education and health care are ensured and sustained, the poverty trap in which the country is caught will prevail, due not only to lack of financial resources but also to the limited opportunities to make the right choices in life.

National Priority: human resource development and access to basic social services

The first UNDAF thematic area will address access to quality basic social services including Health, Education, HIV/AIDS, Environment and the protection of the most vulnerable.

« Outcome 1: By 2011, a larger number of vulnerable populations will have access to quality basic social services and a healthy environment»

Corresponding to these priorities and needs, the UN System in Sao Tome and Principe has aligned its collective response to achieve through its programmes **four targeted outcomes**:

1. Increased access to quality health services by vulnerable populations

Despite the advances achieved in the area of health, like a steady decrease of child and adolescent mortality and a longer life expectancy, several challenges remain. The country is facing an increasingly high rate of maternal mortality and the prevalence of infectious diseases including malaria, which despite being addressed, is still very prevalent. Malnutrition, lack of hygiene, and the difficulty to access health care service and medicines continue to be among the main morbidity factors.

In terms of the capacity of the health sector, poor infrastructure and shortage of medicines and medical material have led to an inadequate health care system unable to ensure basic prevention measures. It has also disallowed the appropriate follow up of individual patients, or the evolution of the health care system in general.

The elaboration of the PRSP in 2002 provided the government with a more focused approach to health, and put in place a Health Strategic Plan, thus updating what had been planned in 1996. Specific measures were introduced, for example the improvement of vaccine coverage, the

availability of antiretroviral (ARVs) drugs, and the adoption of a 5-year Strategic Plan against Malaria with the personal involvement by the President of the Republic. Within the ministerial strategic plan the authorities also validated a National Strategic Plan (NSP) to respond to HIV/AIDS, defined an information strategy to put in place a unique operational health system, and substantially increased the health allocation within the national budget from 8% in 2002 to 19% in 2004.

Substantial efforts will need to be made to cover basic health needs, and to achieve the MDGs. Within the framework of the present UNDAF, while addressing the right to life and the right to health, the UNCT will work together to provide better access to reproductive health services to the general population, especially to youth and adolescents; will continue working in the implementation of the national plan to roll back malaria, and to keep vaccines for all antigens at least at a 95% coverage rate to targeted populations. Given current constraints to access essential medicines and health reproductive products, the UNCT will increase access to them while improving the technical capacity of health personnel. Moreover, prevention and advocacy programmes on malnutrition will be put in place to improve general awareness about health and nutrition (particularly for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under 5 years old).

2. Reinforcement of the HIV/AIDS multisectorial response within national institutions and civil society

Even though the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is still low (1% in 2001) the potential danger to become a major epidemic exists. A study conducted in 2000 showed that 47% of the population was infected by sexually transmitted diseases while condom use was estimated to be very low. Moreover the increasing prevalence among pregnant woman, which grew from 0.1% in 2001 to 1.5% in 2005, illustrates the potential danger that the country might face in a few years.

Condom distribution especially as a preventive measure against HIV infection and as a family planning intervention is carried out simultaneously and without coordination by public family planning health centers and NGOs; in addition information, education and communication campaigns are still weak and insufficient to sensitize the general population and promote behavioral change. Besides data collection, statistics and substantive studies exist in this area are limited.

Although the capacity to plan and monitor integrated health policies for epidemics like malaria, HIV/AIDS or tuberculosis is still weak in the country, the Government of Sao Tome and Principe has been addressing the issues of HIV/AIDS prevention and control for the last 10 years and has validated the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan (NSP) in 2003.

The UN system has been supporting the country in its efforts to strengthen and expand its response to the HIV/AIDS through individual agencies' programmes. In the present UNDAF, the UNCT will emphasize joint initiatives and focus on three priority areas, namely (1) multisectorial response at national level, which includes reinforcing the technical capacity of national institutions, providing better access to quality voluntary counseling and testing centers, and ensuring quality blood screening and safe blood banks; (2) an advocacy and communication strategy for awareness and behavioral change, which will concentrate on providing better access to information and advocacy campaigns on healthy sexual behavior, and addressing stigma and discrimination; and (3) care and support to those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, thus looking into protection of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), assistance and care to AIDS orphans as well as food security to the families affected by the virus.

3. Access to quality basic education by the population at large is improved

The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe assures the right to education, reflecting the responsibility of the government to respect international human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in 1991.

Even though the education system at large faces serious problems, the literacy rate is 83.1% for adults and youth above 15 years. The law provides the right to primary education and divides the education system in three parts: primary education, secondary education and tertiary education.

Primary education is universal, obligatory and free by law. It comprises two cycles, of four and two years respectively. So far, only the first cycle is ensured whereas access to the second cycle of 5th and 6th grades is limited and offered by very few schools. Furthermore the distance that students have to commute, especially to attend 4th grade and beyond, aggravates the situation. In this context, primary school completion has witnessed a decline throughout the last 15 years, from a 97% rate in 1990 to a 69.3% rate in 2002, leaving one third of the children out of school, and with girls being the greatest victims of faster drop-out rates.

Secondary education is also geographically limited to large urban centers and goes from 7th to 11th grades. For higher education there is only one public polytechnic institution and a private institute that offers accounting and administrative studies. While waiting for a more sustainable national solution to this problem, the government has agreed to give 300 scholarships for education abroad, and a project to create a private university has been submitted for consideration in 2006.

Looking at basic and fundamental rights, and in line with International Conventions and the MDGs, perhaps the largest challenge in the immediate future for the Government will be to guarantee universal primary education to all the children of Sao Tome and Principe. Failing to guarantee such right will seriously jeopardize achieving universal primary education by 2015.

The situation described above shows a contradiction between the principles of the Right to education largely endorsed by the government, and the economic and social reality. The resources allocated to the education system do not allow to respond to the increasing demand for education, or to improve the quality of teachers and supervisory staff in the school system, or to offer technical and vocational training relevant to local market needs.

In order to address these obstacles, several steps have been taken in recent years by different actors:

Primarily, the PRSP framework provided a general orientation to develop the schooling system, to address illiteracy and to enhance vocational training. It was based on a series of principles: (1) decentralization and commitment by all actors involved in the education process, (2) prioritization of primary education, (3) improvement of efficiency and quality of education, (4) adoption of positive discriminatory measures towards children from poor households, and (5) coordination between education, training and employment programmes to better prepare young people and adults in their professional lives.

Secondly, in close collaboration with the donors, the National Education and Training Strategic Plan was introduced along with a 10-year plan for the development of the Education sector. At the same time, the government engaged in the 20/20 initiative and additional financial resources

were allocated by bilateral and multilateral donors African Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB) and Portugal.

Lastly, the Government has committed itself to distribute 14% of the resources of the Programme of Priority Actions 2006-2008 to the education sector, and will give particular consideration to open a technical and professional department in the sector.

Considering people's education as the engine to activate economic efficiency, and allowing for individual development to enable active participation of citizens in public life, the UN System fully endorses such commitment and will support education system' reform, improved universal primary education that ensures girls education and advancement within the spirit of the MDGs and the 'education for all' initiative.

In the present UNDAF, basic education will continue to be reinforced by relevant UN agencies and bilateral donors. The UNCT will focus its intervention on improving the quality of education, reducing gender disparities, as well as making education accessible to the most vulnerable. Quality education will be improved by reinforcing teacher's skills, reviewing the school curriculum, and providing books and educational material. The UNCT will work to increase access to basic education for women and girls thus reducing gender disparities; and access to knowledge and learning facilities to illiterate populations or those in most need, through alternative learning methods, and distance learning education using new technologies. Finally basic nutritional needs will also be ensured in primary schools, through school feeding programmes.

4. Access by the population at large to safe water and sanitation and a protected environment ensured

The population in Sao Tome and Principe is disproportionately distributed between two islands. Large urbanization has taken place especially after independence, resulting in the population being mainly concentrated in the capital, where the demographic growth rate is as high as 5%.

Most of the population lives without access to basic services particularly electricity, safe water, and appropriate sanitation. Electricity cuts are frequent in rural areas, villages and the capital. Water remains a major problem, as access to a clean source is difficult. Water is supplied through rainforest collection system, which is outdated and insufficient to respond to the growing demand. In terms of sanitation, there has been latrine construction in semi-urban zones and rural plantation areas however they are not generally used. According to the MDG report, the country does not have a suitable mechanism to collect and treat solid waste. Hospitals waste is an additional problem unsolved.

Environmental degradation is basically due to the use of wood as fuel by poor rural families, wood exploitation for commercial gain, and deforestation of large areas to produce banana and corn. At the same time, the shoreline is also facing degradation due to indiscriminate extraction of sand and the release of polluted water into the ocean. On the positive side, the indicators of atmospheric pollution are not alarming, as there are no major industries.

Given current conditions, attention will be given to improve the habitat and its basic services. Currently, the population's human, financial and infrastructural conditions do not satisfy basic fundamental rights to enjoy a healthy life, hence ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015, particularly within the MDG's framework, may not be achieved.

Government within the PRSP aims to substantially increase access to collective water systems and improve the quality of water supply, in rural as well as in urban areas. In terms of sanitation, it proposes to increase solid waste collection in urban and semi-urban areas by 100%, and provide all households with sanitary facilities. It also plans to rehabilitate the old sewage systems in the capital and to carry out a large campaign to promote healthy practices and life styles. In addition, among recent actions by the public sector to address environmental constraints in line with the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002, the government has established the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (NEPSD). The NEPSD provides a strategic vision on how to ration and use national water and other resources and protect the environment, it also includes a multisectoral approach to add environmental issues within sectoral development plans, and a national coordination body to address environment and sustainable development.

In the following programme cycle 2007-2011 and under the UNDAF, combined agency efforts will help local communities and NGOs in the sustainable management of water, and to improve hygiene infrastructures and measures for targeted populations. The UN system will also work closely with national authorities to help them comply and enforce international environmental conventions; especially the commitments made in the Rio Convention, and it will also reinforce the management capacity of national environmental institutions in charge of implementing the NEPSD.

Priority Area 2: Good Governance and Human Rights

Overview

In order to enhance people's human potential, the state and its organs have to create the right environment for human development. Under the new social contract that the government is engaging into with the UN System, donors, civil society and other partners, a balance must be established between the demands of a market economy and the social well-being of its citizens. At the heart of this new social contract is a human-rights based approach that includes women as key players in the growth and development processes of the nation.

The Republic of Sao Tome and Principe gained independence in 1975 and only engaged in a democratic processes in 1990, the year in which the new Constitution was adopted by a referendum. The country's constitution encourages a multi-party system and free choice as sociopolitical options for the state. Freedom of religion, freedom of expression, the right to association and other collective and individual rights, including equal rights of all citizens without distinction, are guaranteed. Women are recognized with equal rights in the family, and as citizens with elective power, although in reality their equality is not always evident.

The country will soon become a producer of oil. Revenues so generated may be of such a magnitude that the current forms of socio-economic organization will become obsolete, pushing the country to undertake major restructuring. If the country is to succeed in its socio-economic development plans, the essential links between state and human capabilities — democratic participation, a social contract and the rule of law — must be established now.

A central part of State reform will be to reinforce public institutions' capacity to plan, implement and follow up procedures at central and local level, so as to improve service delivery and ensure a more transparent and efficient use of national resources. The challenge is to build an environment that will allow the most vulnerable to benefit from economic growth opportunities and ensure efficiently utilized, targeted spending on social development sectors like health and education.

To reinforce state capabilities, the UN System will help the government prioritize public institutional reform and establish the rule of law, optimize external assistance, promote a form of participative democracy, protect the rights of the most vulnerable (especially women and children) against abuse and all forms of discrimination, transfer power and authority to the local levels to prompt greater citizen participation, and reduce regional disparities by providing a safety net for the most vulnerable social groups.

National Priority: public institutional reform, reinforcement of national capacity and promotion of a policy of good governance

The second UNDAF thematic area will reinforce the capacity of public institutions in order to consolidate the rule of law and to protect human rights, ensuring the continuous involvement of civil society.

« Outcome 2: By 2011, public institutions ensure the protection of human rights, equity within natural resource distribution and sustained dialogue with civil society »

Corresponding to these priorities and needs, the UN System in Sao Tome and Principe has aligned its collective response to achieve through its programmes **three targeted outcomes**:

1. Public institutions are reinforced to ensure their own reform and the transparent application of the law

It is important to note that the history of the Sao Tome and Principe - with its Portuguese colonial legacy, the late attainment of independence and the slow democratic process- did not provide a solid ground for sustained democracy, political stability and a strong public administration system. The country faces major administration inefficiency, due to the poor preparation and training of its staff, low salaries, limited incentives in the public administration system, and the absence of clear administrative procedures and systematic implementation of rules and regulations.

Within the framework of the PRSP, several measures were put in place to consolidate democracy and the rule of law. Some of the measures included reinforcing civil servants' capacities and legal structures; promoting an effective and transparent management, and reorganizing and modernizing the public administration and promoting a process of decentralization.

In economic terms and national resource management, the country will soon become a producer of oil, and this will generate a major resource influx. However, oil exploitation is expected to be limited in time, thus making the oil revenues only transitory. Therefore the good management of oil resources will be essential to make this large endowment, a catalyst for sustained development and of real benefit to all societies members of the country. To this end, the President of the Republic promulgated a law in December 2004 to establish a legal framework along with specific mechanisms so that oil revenues are used in a transparent and effective way.

In the next country programme cycle and within the UNDAF framework, the UN system through its programmes, agencies and funds will be working in several areas:

In the area of human rights protection, and ensuring equality without discrimination, the UN system will continue to join forces to enhance the legal and institutional framework to protect the rights of the children, youth and the most vulnerable, including people living with HIV/AIDS; and will reinforce the capacity of institutions in charge of implementing the national strategy for gender equity and equality.

In terms of institutional capacity and enhancing administration's efficiency, the UN system will focus on the one hand on accelerating the state reform process in the areas of health and education, and on the other, on reinforcing the capacity of judiciary institutions to guarantee the rule of law.

In order to increase citizen's capabilities of greater participation and choice, it will be important to reinforce their awareness of national priorities, and improve society's knowledge of their civil, political and economic rights. To this end, efforts will be made to strengthen the capacity of the media to inform freely and objectively, and to improve socio-economic information management systems making them more transparent and available to the population at large.

The international community, including the UN system, will also work to ensure transparency of resource utilization, especially those coming from the oil, and will help structure the institutional development and management capacity of the public machinery, thus ensuring that the country benefits from this golden opportunity.

2. Aid harmonization and coordination system is in place

After many years of macroeconomic instability, with a chronic deficit in the balance of payments, depreciation of the local currency, and repeated inflation, the country is facing large debts. The country joined the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPIC) group in 2000 and has since been eligible for its benefits. According to World Bank estimates the debt of the country reached USD 361 million in 2005, one of the highest world figures if considered relatively to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The reestablishment of dialogue with international financial institutions to address the macro-economic issues resulted in an agreement in August 2005. A triennial Programme of Priority Actions 2006-2008 was funded by a public investment Plan of USD 168,7 million, 35% of which will be allocated to economic growth, and 26% to improve income diversification of the poor.

The balance of payments has been regularly underwritten by international Aid assistance that reached the level of USD 25 millions in 2004..

Two High-Level Forums on Aid Harmonization and Alignment, attended by leaders of the major multilateral development banks, international and bilateral organizations, and donor and recipient country representatives took in place in Rome in 2003 and in Paris in 2005. The results of such forums have been a large commitment by the international community to improve the management and effectiveness of aid. In the last forum in Paris, institutions and countries reinforced their willingness to continue increasing efforts in harmonization, alignment, and managing for results, paying special attention to monitoring actions and indicators to accelerate progress at country level.

Along these lines, and in order to help make better use of external assistance and to better address increasing donor harmonization constraints, specialized UN agencies will help the government establish an Aid Coordination Unit.

3. Effective decentralization to redistribute the national income

Within the context of poverty reduction, developing and implementing pro-poor decentralized policies and ensuring they are reinforced by appropriate mechanisms and resources will be central for effective decentralization and redistribution of national income. Moreover, strategic urban and rural planning will facilitate the decentralization process, while improving the quality of government services, making them more demand-driven, equitable and accessible.

It is worth highlighting that due to continued political instability in Sao Tome and Principe, until the establishment of the PRSP, the main actions envisaged within the government reform remained stagnant, especially in the area of decentralization where the last regional and municipal elections took place in 1994.

Under the current UNDAF, and in order to improve decision-making processes aimed at impacting people's lives at the local level, the UNCT will build capacity among community actors to enhance participation and local development; and at the same time, will continue working on reinforcing city council capacities, to enhance their ability to manage local resources and adapt them to local needs.

Cross-cutting area of cooperation: Gender

The UNCT proposes to keep gender issues as a cross-cutting area having as a result:

« By 2011, a gender dimension will be integrated at all levels of future cooperation to ensure visible equality of women and men in political, economic and social life»

Women represent at least half of the society of Sao Tome and Principe, therefore unless gender inequalities are addressed, and women are guaranteed equal access to social services including equal participation in decision-making, the success of the UNDAF will be jeopardized, as it will exclude 50% of the country's population without their needs being addressed. This will not only have a major negative impact in the country's development, but it will violate one of the first principles in the Declaration of Human Rights and the country's Constitution.

In this context, and to ensure a gender sensitive process that will lead towards a more equal and participatory society, gender issues will be mainstreamed throughout the UNDAF programme cycle.

III. Estimated Resource Requirements

The estimated resource allocation by the UN agencies, programmes and funds present in the country is approximately USD 11,5 million, in addition to at least USD 10 million that is likely to be mobilized. In line with MDG objective 8, such resource mobilization will require forging strong development partnerships.

The main actors for resource mobilization will be the agencies of the UN system present in Sao Tome and Principe, namely UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO and other non resident agencies such as FAO, UNAIDS, UN Habitat; national authorities, as well as members of the civil society at national and local level. Efforts will also focus on expanding the traditional partnerships to include the private sector and other development professional groups.

At international level, efforts will be made to continue involving the traditional bilateral donors to the country, and to enlarge partnerships to multilateral donors like the WB, the EU, the ADB, International financial institutions and international NGOs. Throughout the present UNDAF programme cycle, particular attention will also be given to south-south cooperation.

During the whole process, round tables and theme group meetings will be organized to reinforce partnerships for resource mobilization.

IV. Implementation

The two selected areas of cooperation (1) basic social services, and (2) governance and human rights and the cross-cutting thematic area of gender, provide a multisectorial approach for the implementation of the programme as well as systematic joint work/programming between agencies to achieve the planned UNDAF results.

The multisectorial approach will be one of the challenges of implementation, as it will require the identification of strategic partners, in accordance with relevant sectors and activities. At the same time, joint programme initiatives will be developed to ensure the right implementation of certain aspects of the UNDAF and to ensure impact and follow up.

In order to guarantee that programme activities are implemented effectively and efficiently, so that the UN optimally contributes towards the achievement of the MDGs, the UNDAF programme will be implemented through national execution (NEX) and to the maximum extent possible the new modality of transfer will be applied.

The Resident Coordinator (RC), in agreement with the government and respective UN agencies, programmes and funds will be the responsible to put in place the appropriate mechanisms for an efficient implementation of the programme.

V. Monitoring and Evaluation

The country team with its national partners has established a Steering Committee and Thematic Groups to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the UNDAF, ensuring transparency of the UN System in its execution.

Theme groups will be established around different areas, they will meet on a regular basis (at least quarterly) and will convey their conclusions and recommendations to the UNDAF Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be the body in charge of analyzing the conclusions and recommendations of thematic groups, and will provide input and guidance to achieve the outcomes expected by the UN System within the joint programme cycle.

Theme Group and Steering Committee members will be members of the board that will examine and approve the programmes and projects of each agency, and will participate in field visits and evaluation studies for the attainment of UNDAF outcomes.

UNDAF outcomes will be monitored according to the requirements set out in the UNDAF guidelines. Data available through PRSP revisions, information gathered for the MDG and RC progress reports, as well as data from other relevant sources, international conferences and

conventions will be used to monitor the progress of the outcome indicators against their specific baselines.

In addition to the mid-term and final UNDAF evaluations, the steering committee will also organize two thematic and impact evaluations, the first and third year of implementation. These will be used to examine the results obtained and to provide recommendations thus reinforcing the overall results and ensuring the achievement of the outcomes by the end of the cycle. At the end of the programme cycle, the steering committee will provide guidance and the operational framework for the final evaluation and will define the new axis of cooperation for the future.

ANNEXES