



UNITED NATIONS

202-204, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

May 2016

Development Context

The context in which the UN agencies operate and implement programmes in Sri Lanka has significantly changed since the formulation of the current UNDAF in 2013. The UNDAF (2013-2017) was developed in line with the national priorities outlined in the Mahinda Chintana, the Millennium Declaration and the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

The changes in the political context due to the election of a new President and a Parliament in 2015, have resulted in major shifts in the Government's development priorities. Both the President and the Prime Minister expressed political commitment to securing long term peace and reconciliation and strengthening democratic governance by introducing broad ranging constitutional, political and institutional reforms while also addressing economic and other social disparities and marginalization.

At the global level, the world leaders adopted the post-2015 development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. The SDGs will inform the development path of the Global Community until 2030. The SDGs are wide-ranging incorporating MDG-like targets into a broader agenda of equality, rights-based approaches and safeguards for both people and the planet. They place a greater focus on environmental issues together with specific goals on inclusivity, women's empowerment, peace and democratic governance.

UNDAF Mid-Term Review

In light of these recent shifts in the national and global development contexts, the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the current UNDAF has proposed revisions to the design and coordination architecture of the UNDAF. The revisions will enhance the UN's ability to deliver on national priorities, as well as the new global sustainable development agenda, and make the UN's work in Sri Lanka more relevant and effective. The recommendations of the MTR will guide the work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) until the end of the current UNDAF cycle in 2017, and the development of the new UNDAF (2018-2022).



United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF



2013 - 2017

UNDAF Outcomes and Areas of Focus

UNDAF 2013 to 2017 was conceptualized around the broad Goal of “**sustainable and inclusive economic growth with equitable access to quality social services, strengthened human capabilities and reconciliation for lasting peace**”. Four Outcome areas were identified as contributing to this overarching Goal.

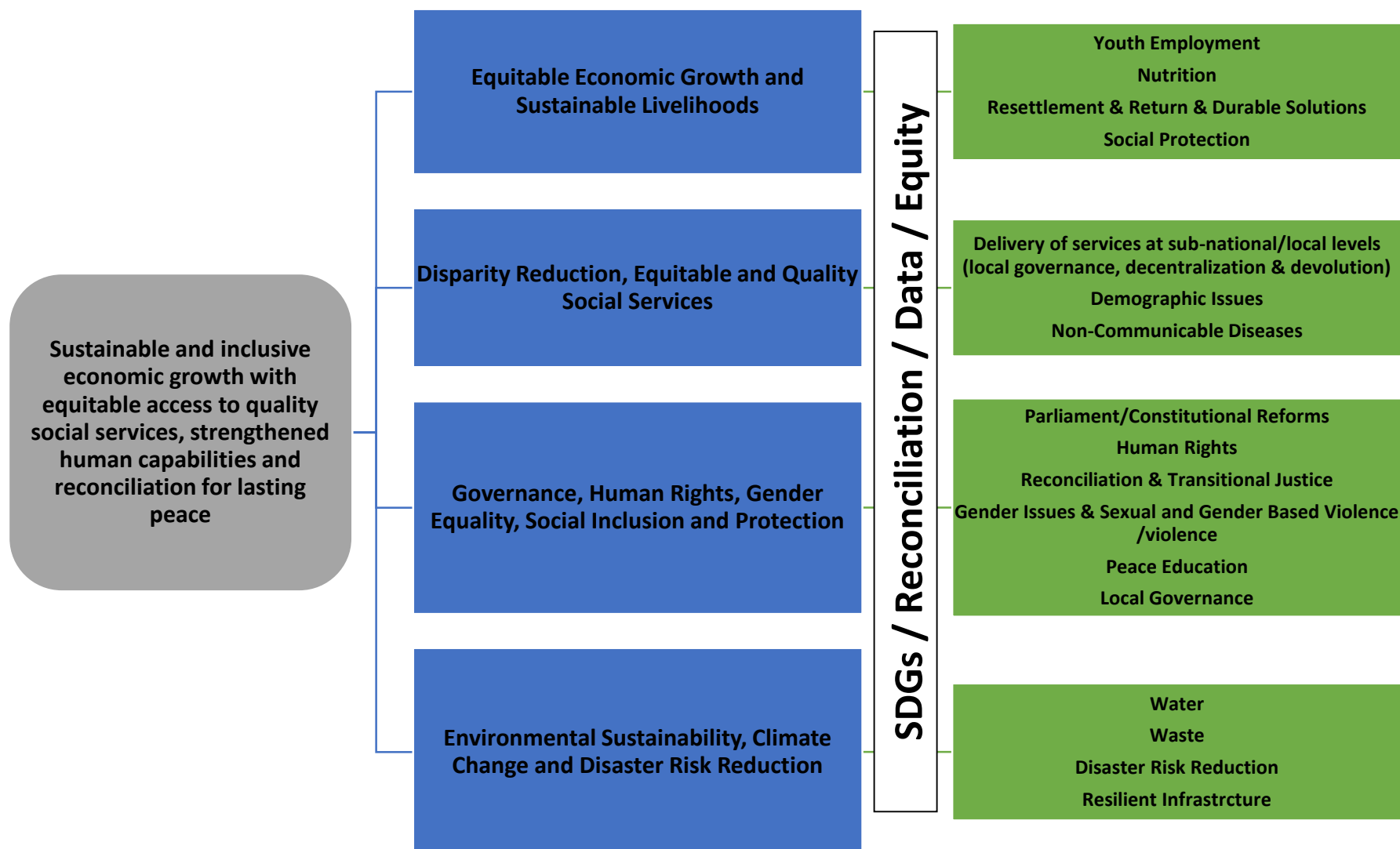
The UN Country Team in Sri Lanka will continue to work with the existing UNDAF until end of 2017 while making modest adjustments to make it more relevant to the evolving political and development context.

Pillar coordination structures within the UN Team in Sri Lanka were not effective monitoring tools for the UN’s contribution to national development. Instead, important thematic groups emerged around cross-cutting issues of Gender and Youth, and specific programmatic groups began to work around areas of common interest to several agencies. These programmatic groups included inter alia, access to justice, nutrition, education, social protection, non-communicable diseases and return/ resettlement. The ad-hoc nature of these groups meant that they can be flexible and responsive.

In 2016-2017, the UN Team in Sri Lanka will work more closely with the Government of Sri Lanka towards the “**UN Delivering as One Approach**’ and deliver interagency programmes and strategies. The UN has identified several thematic areas that are strategic and relevant for the UN, that will bring agencies together for joint programmes, technical assistance and policy advocacy under the existing Outcome areas until the end of 2017.

These include working on the SDGs and within the broader reconciliation framework. The UN Country Team will also contribute to the ‘**Big Data**’ revolution in Sri Lanka.

UNDAF Outcomes and Areas of Focus



Coordination Architecture

The UN Country Team will move towards a more explicit 'One UN' (delivering as one) approach with an emphasis on:

- I. joint operations
- II. joint planning and design
- III. common frameworks
- IV. joint resource mobilization, and
- V. joint advocacy

The UNDAF will be implemented through Country Programme Documents of individual UN agencies. The Country Team will move away from the earlier Pillar Group structure set up for harmonization of programmes and strategies and instead maintain a light coordination structure based on the identified thematic areas around which number of agencies can work together on joint programmes, technical assistance and policy advocacy.

The UNDAF Results Framework (and M&E framework) will be revised for realistic and measurable results based on process indicators for effective results monitoring.

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