

Appraisal Tool on the Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Frameworks for the Achievement of the SDGs

Country examples of application from the piloting phase in 2021

#1 Case study

Country: Colombia
Timeframe: June 2021 – December 2021
Responsible entity: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
Resources: None (cost sharing with the Human Security Business Partnerships project).
Targeted populations: IDPs, victims of armed conflict, returnees, ex-combatants, and the Venezuelan populations in the municipality of Bello.
List of consulted stakeholders: Staff from the municipality of Bello, traditional/village leaders, Secretary of Coexistence – Directorate of Human Rights, Secretary of Health, Secretary of Environmental, Secretary of Housing, Public Enterprises of Medellín, House of Rights of the Ombudsman, Pro-immigrants Corporation, Secretary for the Elderly, Confenalco, project experts from UNHCR and UNDP, community-based organizations and representatives from the University of Antioquia.
Methodological approach, process and activities: The testing exercise of the SDG appraisal tool in Colombia consisted of three main phases: I. Conceptual overview of the Human Security project objectives and outcomes and review of the results obtained in the framework of the human security survey to increase synergies and understand the identified gaps and needs in terms of access to economic opportunities, education and health services and satisfaction in local decision-making processes. II. Two rounds of focused consultations with authorities and relevant stakeholders in Bello municipality were organized to gather inputs and contributions from key actors, in addition to the perceptions and views of the project beneficiaries, which were not captured through the human security tool/survey, and which helped identify programmes and actions to advance solutions for the targeted persons of concern. III. Development of joint individual theme-based “solution cards” capturing both the perceptions of the populations of concern and local decision makers and partners.

IV. Development of a human security agenda including clear advocacy pathways with key public and private sector actors, with the objective to engage in transitional solutions towards sustainable solutions that advances local integration in the second biggest urban settlement in Colombia.

Scope and objectives: Building on the work undertaken within the objectives of the human security project, and in particular, supplementing the results of the human security survey with consultative contributions to: i) engage with local authorities and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector in Bello municipality to increase the direct communication and dialogue on the identified community needs and priorities, and verify the project survey results targeting the populations of concern; and ii) support and facilitate the operationalization of a multi-stakeholder approach towards sustainable solutions in Bello municipality in line with priority SDGs specific to the local context that can be subsequently replicated in other project areas.

Specific outputs: Adapted questionnaires; individual theme-based “solution cards” summarizing and interpreting the survey results and conclusions reached during the two rounds of consultations.

Results and impact: Integrating the SDG appraisal tool in the outcomes of the joint UNDP-UNHCR Human Security project helped to bring together different stakeholders towards joint sustainable solutions linked to the achievement of particular SDG targets in Bello municipality. In practice, this fostered a shared understanding and leveraging activities in response to the feedback received from the targeted populations, thereby increasing community participation in SDG planning and decision-making mechanisms.

#2 Case Study

Country: North Macedonia
Timeframe: October 2021 – January 2022
Responsible entity: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
Resources: US\$4,500 (including human and material costs, such as translations and graphic design of the summary and final reports), co-shared between UNDP and UNHCR country offices.
Targeted populations: Asylum seekers, persons granted international protection, returnees and stateless persons.
List of consulted stakeholders: Experts from the Ministry of Interior (Moi), Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Prime Minister's Office, staff members and project consultants from UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives from relevant civil society organizations.
<p>Methodological approach, process and activities: The assessment exercise was undertaken by an external researcher and consisted of three main phases, covering 63 questions across 8 pillars. The questions were chosen by UNHCR and UNDP working teams as being the most appropriate for the national context in North Macedonia.</p> <p>I. Desk review and in-depth legal analysis of existing information pertaining to the status of the targeted populations was undertaken, including the law on citizenship and its successive amendments, the law on foreigners, the law on civil registries and its amendments, the law on unregistered persons, the law on free legal aid, the law on census and the law on asylum and temporary protection as well as the national transpositions of international treaties and European law relating to asylum. The review also included the relevant national policy framework, including sectoral plans and development strategies, the related outputs and outcomes of the UNSDCF, and the institutional structures for the SDG coordination to measure representation and accountability.</p> <p>II. Expert interviews. Additional information was generated through structured interviews with key experts from the government, UN agencies and civil society organizations to complement (and verify) the critical conclusions reached at the desk research phase. Furthermore, the expert interviews helped to discuss the implementation deficits of specific laws and policies, the efficacy of administrative municipal procedures and the capacity limitations from a practical (multisectoral) perspective.</p> <p>III. Results analysis, validation workshop and reporting. A multi-stakeholder workshop was organized to validate and share information and tentative results, and steer discussion around the most critical challenges, outline possible solutions and support the preparation of the final report.</p>

Scope and objectives: The overall objective of the pilot was to conduct a comprehensive assessment covering multiple aspects of the policy, legal and institutional environment and understand how the SDG priorities identified by the National Council for Sustainable Development and reported on in the first VNR report of North Macedonia can be used to advance the inclusion of the targeted populations in national systems and development processes.

Specific outputs: Preliminary report with key findings from the desk research; populated questionnaires and interview protocols; executive summary with key findings and recommendations; and a final report.

Results and impact: The assessment enabled UNHCR and UNDP to identify specific areas to improve, where state institutions and stakeholders can do better, such as at the local level, and how municipalities can facilitate more comprehensive policymaking towards the inclusion of vulnerable communities, building on the results obtained from the application of the SDG tool. The assessment further helped UNHCR and UNDP country offices as well as the participating institutions to formulate a number of concrete and evidence-based recommendations to improve the representation and extending the agenda coverage of the National Council for Sustainable Development, promote systematic monitoring and reporting (e.g. through new methodologies, digital tools and/or partnerships) of national human rights institutions and accountability mechanisms on the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons towards the achievement of relevant SDG targets, build on the GRF pledges to identify sustainable solutions for all persons without legal status, improve communication and systematize the responsibilities of key institutions to enable non-state actors and stakeholders to better understand which institution is responsible for “what” and “how”, and accelerate the adoption of the Strategy for the Integration of Refugees and Foreigners, reflecting on key findings and new challenges identified through the assessment. Indeed, it was reaffirmed during the stakeholder consultations that the implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Refugees and Foreigners can be achieved with a stronger political will, and joint commitments by all institutions. This will require the closer alignment of the Strategy with the national development priorities in North Macedonia and the EU *acquis*, alongside more joint initiatives between different actors that could bring about the desired impact. The results and findings of the SDG Tool will also inform the Common Country Analysis and other key documents, contributing to strategies and strategic directions.

#3 Case study

Country: Turkey
Timeframe: May-October 2021
Responsible entity: The UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Turkey (RCO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
Resources: None.
Targeted populations: Approximately 4 million persons under international or temporary protection in Turkey.
List of consulted stakeholders: Syria Task Force (STF; inter-sector technical coordination body of the 3RP); relevant pillars of the UNSDCF: RG3 on Migration and International Protection; selected members of RG5 on Governance; UNSDCF Monitoring for Strategic Results Working Group; Hacettepe University; United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT); Resilience in Local Governance Project (SKL-RESLOG).
<p>Methodological approach, process and activities: The application of the tool focused on two thematic pillars - Data and Monitoring (Pillar 3) and SDG Localization (Pillar 6) – and used a mixed-methods assessment approach consisting of three different phases:</p> <p>I. Desk review of relevant documents and data sources (instruments). For the pillar on Data and Monitoring, the desk phase activities included review of the main data sources, such as statistics produced by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), including thematic administrative data collection instruments (e.g. the Ministry of National Education, MoNE; the Ministry of Health, MoH); large-scale (e.g. Turkey Demographic and Health Survey, TDHS) and specialized surveys (e.g. the Syrian Barometer); and data collected across relevant frameworks (e.g. UNSDCF, 3RP). For the SDG Localization pillar, the review included mapping refugee inclusion in municipal strategic plans; subnational/local participatory and engagement mechanisms; institutional municipal structures to improve access to services and rights; municipal involvement in global processes; and whether goals and targets that best respond to the specific local circumstances and refugee/migrant needs have been prioritized.</p> <p>II. Consultative workshop to discuss and verify preliminary findings, and gather feedback from relevant stakeholders and partners on the identified gaps. Workshop participants included the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), civil society representatives, academia, development partners, etc., and captured multiple stakeholder perspectives on the identified issues and priority areas. The workshop also generated complementary inputs, filled information gaps and enhanced the credibility and usability of the assessment results and the proposed follow-up actions.</p>

III. Synthesis of findings: final summary report preparation. To guarantee the continuity and sustainability of the assessment results, a final summary report, alongside the validated SDG appraisal tool outputs (see outputs section), was first presented at the STF meeting, and then disseminated to relevant government counterparts and other interested stakeholders.

Scope and objectives: i) Substantiate a more integrated SDG monitoring approach between different data sources, instruments and frameworks relevant for persons under international and temporary protection; ii) outline the potential 3RP Turkey Country Chapter's contributions to the sustainable development agenda and the LNOB commitments in Turkey at national and subnational levels; and iii) assess the level of inclusion of refugees in municipal development processes, initiatives and institutional mechanisms to address specific needs *vis-à-vis* the municipal efforts for context-oriented SDG prioritization and alignment.

Specific outputs: Summary report on the Pillar on Data and Monitoring; indicator matrix of relevant data instruments and frameworks; populated questionnaire for the Pillar on Data and Monitoring, including provisional scoring to facilitate subsequent exercises, means of verification for the generated information, additional information for specific questions and the agreed follow-up actions for the identified issues; result matrix of the SDG Localization mapping and municipal (district) questionnaire-based profiling; populated questionnaire for the Pillar on SDG Localization, including provisional scoring to facilitate subsequent exercises, means of verification for the generated information, additional information for specific questions and the agreed follow-up actions for the identified issues; action plan for improving local capacities, planning processes, including opportunities, when relevant, to support localized sets of data disaggregated by migratory status, and ultimately ensure refugee inclusion in subnational development processes; action plan to improve inclusion of refugees and migrants in the national statistics system, through appropriate disaggregation by migration status and/or institutionalization of specific surveys focused on the needs of refugees and migrants.

Results and impact: Key findings of the assessment were translated into actionable short-term recommendations with shared follow-up responsibilities among the 3RP Inter-Agency team. The proposed conclusions and recommendations linked a number of systemic issues with integrated efforts to address them, including through a continued engagement with TURKSTAT and relevant custodian agencies to increase the availability of refugee statistics to measure progress towards the SDGs, further explore the opportunities to influence the development of the Official Statistics Program (2022-2025) and improve the generation of disaggregated SDG indicators for refugees and migrants, and foster a multi-stakeholder cooperation to align municipal strategic plans with the relevant SDG targets, and facilitate refugee inclusion through the implementation of the action plan responding to the assessment results.