



UNITED NATIONS  
NORTH MACEDONIA



# 2022

## NORTH MACEDONIA *ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT*

APRIL 2023



United  
Nations





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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



UNOPS



World Health  
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UN  
VOLUNTEERS

## CREDITS

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The latest version of this document is available on UN North Macedonia website at [northmacedonia.un.org](https://northmacedonia.un.org).

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Cover photo: Winning drawing of the Children's Poster Contest organized ahead of UN Day 2022 as part of the environmental "I care" campaign. ©UN RCO

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*\* For detailed 2022 results per output, see the report Supplement (page 37)*



# Foreword



*We need unity, solidarity and multilateral solutions to address the food and energy crises, and to eliminate the trust deficit that is undermining global action across the board."*

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General



In 2022, the hopes and gains from COVID-19 recovery and global economic revival were overturned by the impact of energy, food security and finance crises – all significantly shaped by the war in Ukraine – that continued to strain economies globally and regionally, challenge people's livelihoods and cause setbacks for the achievement of 2030 Agenda.

In North Macedonia – as in many other countries – the challenging context put a significant strain on the Government to continue prioritizing reform processes and structural changes as the fiscal space has been shrinking and vulnerabilities increasing.

At the same time and despite challenges, the country made important progress in the European Union (EU) accession process, demonstrating its uncompromised commitment to implement and address priorities that go hand in hand with the sustainable development priorities and goals.

The challenges of today require vision and commitment, but also agility and flexibility from decision-makers, implementing partners and society. In that spirit, 2022 was another year of exemplary ongoing strategic engagement and close partnership between the Government of North Macedonia and the United Nations entities with operational activities for development in the country.

Implementation of 2021-2025 Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SDCF), the key strategic document guiding UN work in North Macedonia, has been closely tied to the UN development system reform process, based on key principles of jointness and enhanced efficiency of the UN system with supporting governments and societies towards accelerated sustainable development. In addition, we were also able to jointly respond to the emerging needs in the context of the current crisis, building on what we learned during COVID-19 pandemic.

Daily, we continued to demonstrate that working together



leads to better and more sustainable results, boosts efficiencies and eliminates overlaps.

North Macedonia has been a strong supporter of the UN reform process – globally, as a champion of multilateralism; and locally, in the country, where our joint work is marked by excellent collaboration and alignment towards our joint goals across SDCF priority areas.

The implementation of 2022 Joint Workplans contributed to addressing key development priorities. Employability of vulnerable groups increased, and jobs were created. At the same time, the regulatory environment and services for workers, farmers, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were enhanced. In the area of social services, the UN supported advanced education and social reforms through policy and service development for those in need. In the area of environment, UN supported the decrease in air pollution in Skopje, increase of protected areas and strengthening of biodiversity protection. Youth's awareness of climate change increased and risks from floods and from epidemics were reduced or mitigated. In the area of good governance, UN work contributed to decentralization, fiscal decentralization and local development, progress with the formulation of the two-decade National Development Strategy, an improved child-friendly justice system, and increase in national capacities to deliver on strategic priorities linked to the EU accession and Agenda 2030.

These are just some results towards which we worked jointly. They are a testament of opportunities and hope – despite challenges impacting peace, stability, and socio-economic development, which will be felt for years to come.

They need to continue guide our work as we ensure that no one is left behind.

Upholding UN values and principles enshrined in the Charter, which continue to be tested, remains key to overcoming current crises through our joint efforts.

**Rossana Dudziak**  
UN Resident Coordinator

**Bujar Osmani**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



# UN Country Team



**UNITED NATIONS  
NORTH MACEDONIA**



## 22

**UN entities engaged in operational activities for  
development in North Macedonia**

The United Nations in North Macedonia implements its activities in alignment with the country's development priorities, human rights and gender equality commitments, the EU accession agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030.

The UN has been working to achieve the priorities outlined in the Government of North Macedonia and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025, through provision of technical assistance, capacity development, knowledge exchange, and innovative pilot programs.

In 2022, 22 United Nations entities were engaged in operational activities for development in North Macedonia, working together through the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations in the country. 16 of these entities had a physical presence in North Macedonia, while 5 conducted their activities remotely. The UN team in North Macedonia in 2022 included more than 320 country-based personnel and support staff, as well as experts from around the world.

<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>ITU</b>	<i>International Telecommunications Union *</i>
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction *
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme *
<b>UNDSS</b>	<i>United Nations Department for Safety and Security</i>
<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe *
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNV</b>	<i>United Nations Volunteers *</i>
<b>UN RCO</b>	<i>Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator</i>
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
* no physical presence    not SDCF signatory	



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**International  
Labour  
Organization**



**IOM**  
UN MIGRATION



**UNITED NATIONS  
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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



**UNDRR**  
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



**UNECE**



**UN  
environment  
programme**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**UNFPA**



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



**unicef**



**UNIDO**



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**UNOPS**



**UN WOMEN**



**World Health  
Organization**



**UN  
VOLUNTEERS**

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### Partners that provided generous contributions to UN North Macedonia activities in 2022\*

*Based on effective expenditures in 2022, data as of 31 March 2023, for 1 January-31 December 2022, in million US\$*



\* Public contributors to pooled, vertical and thematic funds that supported UN activities in North Macedonia in 2022 indicated in alphabetical order.

# Key developments in the country and regional context

The impact of overlapping regional and global crises in 2022 overwhelmed institutional capacities in North Macedonia and globally, and seriously threatened the living standards of people, especially the most vulnerable groups.

Global energy crisis and rising food prices undermined the post-COVID-19 economic revival and the trends intensified due to war in Ukraine. The impact on North Macedonia was mostly indirect due to strong reliance on energy and food imports and strong trade exposure to the European Union (EU) markets. The people, but also businesses and especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have been strongly hit by inflation and energy crisis that undermined the already low competitiveness of the economy. Labour market continued picking up in 2022, but youth unemployment persisted. Financing of the budget deficit and the social spending became increasingly difficult as financial buffers continued depleting and capital markets worsened.

Human capital remained the key economic challenge, with steady population decline confirmed by 2021 Census due to continued trend of aging and outmigration. Despite education reforms, the learning outcomes remained low and insufficiently aligned with future markets' skills. While the impact of COVID-19 reduced, the health system continued to struggle due to the lack of resources and medical staff. Social reforms and the fight against informalities were yet to produce the intended results, while the children rights, especially of those with disabilities, have improved.

The focus on climate change, environment and natural resources reduced due to the energy crisis, which contributed to slight worsening of air pollution compared to previous COVID-19 period. But energy price increases also boosted incentives for green transition and made renewable energy investments more attractive. Challenges persisted in relation to the three major lakes, with the situation in Prespa and Dojran Lake especially concerning and deteriorating. Investments in wastewater and solid waste management, natural resources management, as well as greater focus on recycling remained short of what is needed.

Despite challenges, in 2022 EU commenced the screening of the level of transposition of EU acquis, but negotiations will only officially open once the Constitution is amended to include additional ethnic groups in the preamble. Meanwhile, the challenges and delays within the EU accession process have decreased the public support for EU integration and deepened political polarization of the society. Regional cooperation continued actively through the high-level Prespa Forum Dialogue and the "Open Balkan" initiative. The initiative, aimed at creating single market for Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia, proved useful in tackling the food and energy crisis in 2022.

Despite international rankings improvements, corruption and lack of accountability remained key societal problem. The inclusion and participation of stakeholders and the society at large in crafting policies improved, but implementation capacity, equity, and public trust in institutions continued to

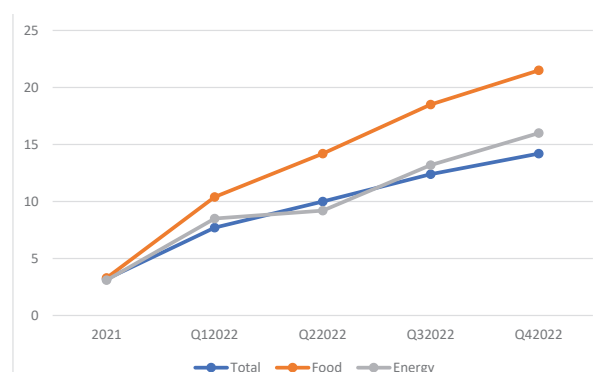
shrink. The Government continued to engage with UN and European human rights mechanisms, with the integration and follow up on their recommendations remaining challenging.

The challenging political context further stretched institutional capacities in North Macedonia and the multidimensional crisis worsened the already difficult operating environment for local governments. Digital development remained a pressing need, with the country scoring below the European average on a wider regulatory framework. The country remains along one of the main routes for mixed migration movements to Europe, which resulted in more than 27,391 detected irregular border crossings in 2022, mostly from Syria, Pakistan, Morocco and other countries. Some 22,000 refugees arrived from Ukraine, but only 5,900 remained in the country. Eradication of statelessness, although within reach, was not achieved in 2022.

Consultations to formulate a twenty-year National Development Strategy continued and some important reforms were launched such as the new budgetary reform, as well as policies that better target vulnerable groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities and Roma.

The 2022 review of the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) reiterated the need to strengthen data management and implementation capacities, step up effective fight against corruption and informalities and design anti-crisis measures that are strongly targeted at the needs of the most vulnerable in the context of scarce financing. Despite the current challenges, the country must also maintain commitment for strategic investments in human capital, food security, climate change, environment and disaster resilience.

## North Macedonia Consumer Price Index



## 2022 quarterly GDP growth rate



Source: SSO, 2023

# UN support to national development priorities through SDCF

This section highlights UN North Macedonia contribution and results from working with partners in four areas – inclusive prosperity, quality services for all, healthy environment and good governance – in 2022.

## SDCF overview

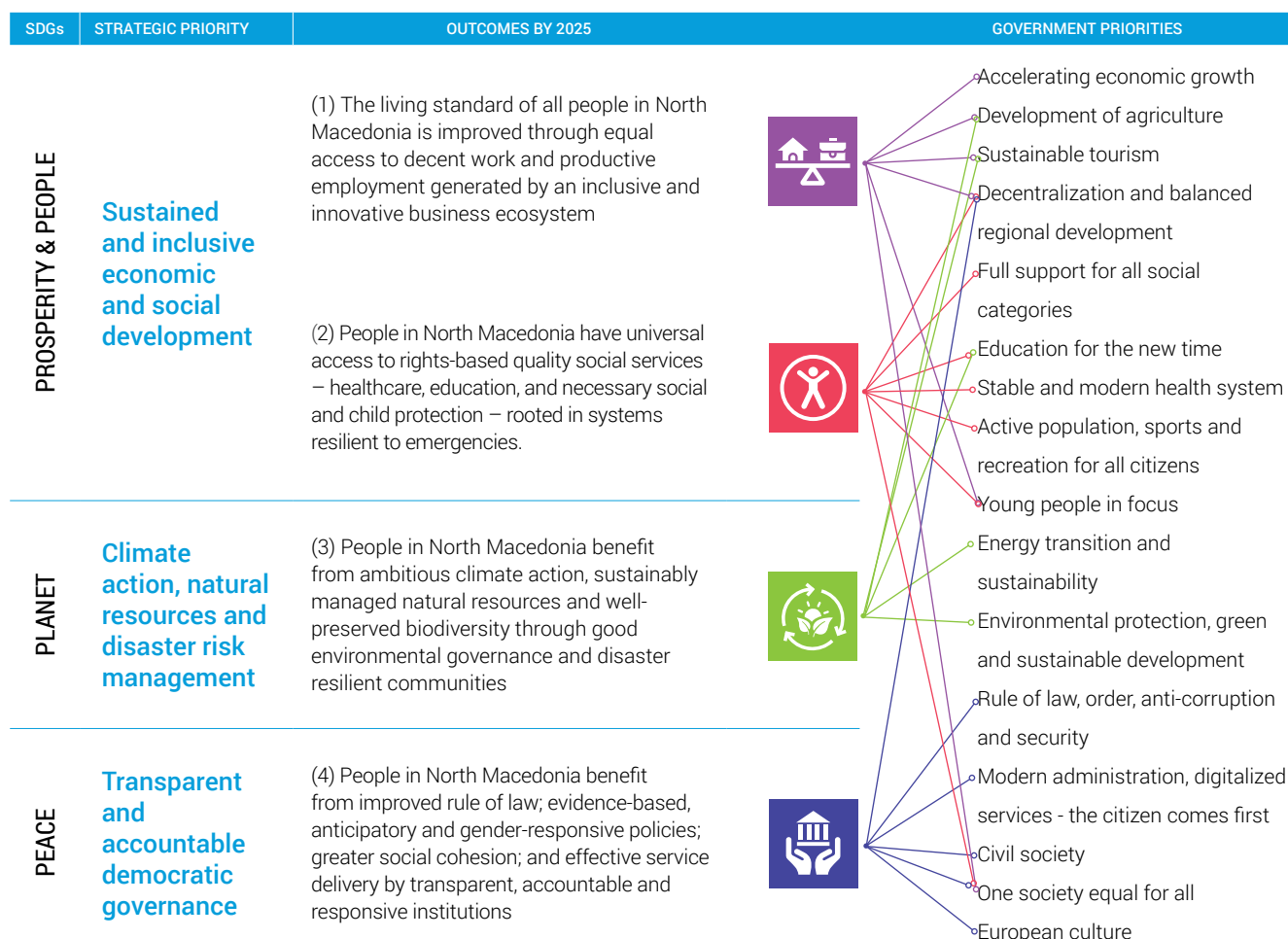
Within the 2021-2025 SDCF, UN and partners are addressing three national strategic priorities and seek to contribute to four intended outcomes.

Building on the strong tradition of UN work in North Macedonia, SDCF supports the shift from direct implementation towards a more targeted UN support as an enabler and provider of anticipatory policy advice, innovation and expertise.

UN action is evidence-based, which requires strengthened statistical capacity, better collection of disaggregated data, and improved coordination and information sharing at all levels. All activities are done jointly with national and local authorities, civil society, private sector, international partners, and other stakeholders.

Programmes promote gender equality, civic engagement of youth, trust building, and equal opportunities for all, to realize their human rights and full potential. Recognizing that the people are not passive recipients of services but agents of change, the UN interventions support societal transformation for more active and responsible individual and community approach to sustainable and inclusive development.

For detailed values for all outcome indicators see Annex 3; for results by Outcome and UN entity, see the report's Supplement.





# 2022 results

## OUTCOME 1

# Inclusive prosperity



*By 2025, the living standard of all people in North Macedonia is improved through equal access to decent work and productive employment generated by inclusive and innovative business ecosystem*

### Contribution to



- Accelerated and sustainable economic growth with a better standard of living
- Development agriculture
- Sustainable tourism
- Decentralization and balanced regional development



Fundamentals first: Economic Development and Competitiveness  
11. Agriculture and rural development  
19. Social policy and employment;  
20. Enterprise and industrial policy;  
26. Education and culture

2022 UN expenditure

**\$5,311,561**

### Development partners:

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy; Ministry of Education and Science, Employment Services Agency; Regional Employment Offices; Trade Unions; Chambers of Commerce; Local Economic and Social Councils; Employers; Farmers Associations, Producer organizations



Starting in 2018, North Macedonia has been operating a youth guarantee in line with EU practices. Recent labour market data seem to indicate that the youth guarantee has helped to improve the situation of young people in the period 2018-19. In 2020, the situation suffered a set-back because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, recovering in 2021. In 2022, 7419 (3595 women), out of 20185 persons registered in the Youth Guarantee, got employed within 4 months. The percentage of participants who successfully completed the Youth Guarantee in 2022 is 43 %. Credit: ILO

Despite challenges posed by the consecutive crises, some of the key indicators for this outcome demonstrated solid improvement in 2022. The employment rate continued to increase, approaching the 2025 target and up for 2.5% since last year. Youth in NEET decreased significantly (22.8%) since last year (24.26%), almost reaching the target set for 2025. Growth per employed person has also picked, while the working poverty rate continues to increase.

Working with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Employment Service Agency and other relevant partners, UN has substantially contributed to these positive developments. In 2022, UN supported creation of **1,204 jobs** through different measures such as counselling and mentorship of **671 businesses** and other interventions such as green measures, internships and the Community Works Programme in 52, out of 81, municipalities. Of these jobs at least 359 were attained by Roma, 36 people with disabilities (23 persons self-employed) and 34 are created through green investments. In addition, supporting underdeveloped yet imperative care economy, UN enabled licensing of **117 providers of care services** for elderly and persons with disabilities (PwD) and **capacitated 28 NGOs** to assist these groups.

## 5,351

persons with increased employability

Responding to the critical need of market required skills, and focusing on vulnerable groups, UN supported enhancement of employability and activation of **5,351 people** of which 54% women and almost 70% young, 2,379 are Roma and 152 persons with disabilities. Moreover, **147 people were upskilled through Future Skills training** for digital transformation and green transition in: construction, renewable, energy and textile. Addressing the most serious challenge of eroding human capital in the country, UN assisted authorities to implement the **Youth Guarantee** plans which resulted in registering **20,185 young Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) people** through the network of service providers led by Employment Support Agency of which 7419 (3,595 women) were employed within 4 months of registering. Of that, 2,400 young NEET (1,553 women, 193 Roma and 6 PWD) were registered with assistance of NGOs, enhancing the social services within the community. This contributed to a significant decrease of the Youth in NEET rate in 2022 dropping for almost 2% since last year.

Throughout the year, UN worked with the authorities to enhance policy and regulatory environment and services in inclusive property embedding participatory and evidence-based approach.

In the area of labour relations, UN facilitated the tripartite social dialogue for drafting of the **new Labour Relations Law**

and supported development of the new “Law on Employment and Insurance in case of Unemployment” to enable the Employment Support Agency (ESA) to implement recent trends in labour activation of vulnerable, with instruments for implementation of **social contracting model**. UN led analysis of legal alignment with the **ILO Convention on ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work, No. 190** was validated by the Economic and Social Council and entered parliamentary process.

To boost rural economy UN supported the amendments of the **Law on Sale of State-owned Agricultural Land** making privatization of state-owned agricultural land fully operational. In response to the challenges in the global environment, preparatory actions for development of the **first National Food Security Strategy** were initiated through a consultative and participatory process, analytical evidence, and proposal for inter-institutional national coordination mechanism. Recognizing the challenge of migration, UN assisted the authorities to **engage the diaspora in the socio-economic development** of the country, capacitating more than 20 institutional stakeholders with competencies in diaspora-related issues including diaspora engagement projects.

Green economy was reinforced by introducing **green transition measures for companies in the Governmental Operational Plan 2022** worth \$333,000. Skills creation services were enhanced by **introducing a concept for completion of vocational skills for adults** in the Regional Inclusive Centres of Excellence. With UN support, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration conducted the **National Digital Skills Assessment** to understand the current supply and demand of digital skills of the employees in private sector, start-ups, and the education sector and co-developed a **Digital Innovation Profile**. The recommendations from both informed the design of the National ICT Strategy 2023-2027. In addition, digitalization was enhanced through few specific products such as **digital tool HANA** which provides access to written data in Albanian for visually-impaired persons, as well as a web-based **Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool**. Adapted and linked to national data collection systems, the FPMA was operationalized by MAFWE with UN support in 2022, to allow for easy monitoring and analysis of domestic and global food prices, essential in addressing food security in a crises context.

In parallel, UN also worked on specific measures to address

## 3,102 ha

under land consolidation

### Ljupco Nikolovski

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy

Facing the challenges exacerbated by the recent COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war to the domestic food security, the Ministry and the government have recognized the importance of having a National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy as a long-term roadmap of national priorities, actions, and resources needed to promote the country's agricultural production, enhance food availability, and improve the affordability of healthy diets for all people in North Macedonia, as well as making food systems sustainable and resilient to future crisis, which may affect the national food security. *Credit: Government MK*

informalities and quality of jobs. In that context, labour market regulation was improved by building capacity of labour inspectorate. This includes **training of 106 inspectors** on Labour Relations Law, developing **an e-learning platform and a new website** with digital applications for employers and workers, as well as providing a new **IT and measurement equipment**. To address informalities in the HORECA (Hotels, restaurants and café) sector, a pilot measure implemented with Association of Hotels, Restaurants, Cafeterias and Campsites – HOTAM with **simplified employment procedures and lowered social security contribution for seasonal workers in Ohrid and Struga**. To improve safety and health of jobs in construction, mines and agriculture, UN undertook a gap analysis of regulations' alignment with ILO conventions that was validated by authorities.

## Mirjana Kapkoska - Angeleska

women farmer from the village of Dabjani

'Mirjana inherited property from her grandfather, following the denationalisation of agricultural land. But she could hardly farm her land, as it consisted of 65 parcels scattered across the field. Thanks to the joint efforts of the EU, FAO and MAFWE all her parcels are now consolidated in one – eight hectares large and regularly shaped parcel. 'Now I have finally brought my land back to agricultural production', says Mirjana. *Credit: FAO*

UN also responded to the most critical challenges for sustainable and competitive rural economy, such as land fragmentation, insufficient rural infrastructure, and animal health management, as well as substantive gender gap in the agricultural sector. In 2022, UN with EU support, continued the assistance to the implementation of the National Land Consolidation Programme through simultaneous implementation of ten land consolidation projects on the ground. This process involved preparation and adoption of plans for re-allotment and improvement of the agricultural

infrastructure covering 3,102 hectares of agricultural land, owned by 2,954 agricultural landowners (633 women). As a result, the number of land parcels in these areas is now reduced by almost 2.5 times i.e. from 8,237 to 3,344 parcels, while the average size of the land parcels tripled (from 0.42 ha to 1.34 ha) in the areas where land consolidation was finalized, thus the structural problem of small farm sizes and fragmented land parcels was addressed, unlocking the potential of agricultural production and improving the competitiveness of farms. This year, in partnership with

## 70 women farmers

financially supported

the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, 70 women farmers benefitted from increased financial support (from € 3,000 to € 6,000) through the UN facilitated measure aimed to support women agricultural producers. To assist in aligning the animal health management with EU standards, UN undertook a preparatory assessment for the Food and Veterinary Agency to upgrade the National Animal Information System.



UN interventions enabled creation of 1,204 full-time and part-time jobs (622 full-time and 582 part-time jobs) through different measures, including newly introduced green measure during 2022. Out of them, 68.5% are women, 30.5% are young up to 29 years old, 34.7% Roma and 42 jobs (3.5%) for persons with disabilities. *Credit: UNDP*



## OUTCOME 2

## Quality services for all



*By 2025, people in North Macedonia have universal access to rights-based quality social services – healthcare, education, and necessary social and child protection - rooted in systems resilient to emergencies*

## Contribution to



- Social inclusion (care for all vulnerable categories) and development of human capital
- Modern education system
- Stable and modern healthcare system
- Youth in the focus
- One society for all



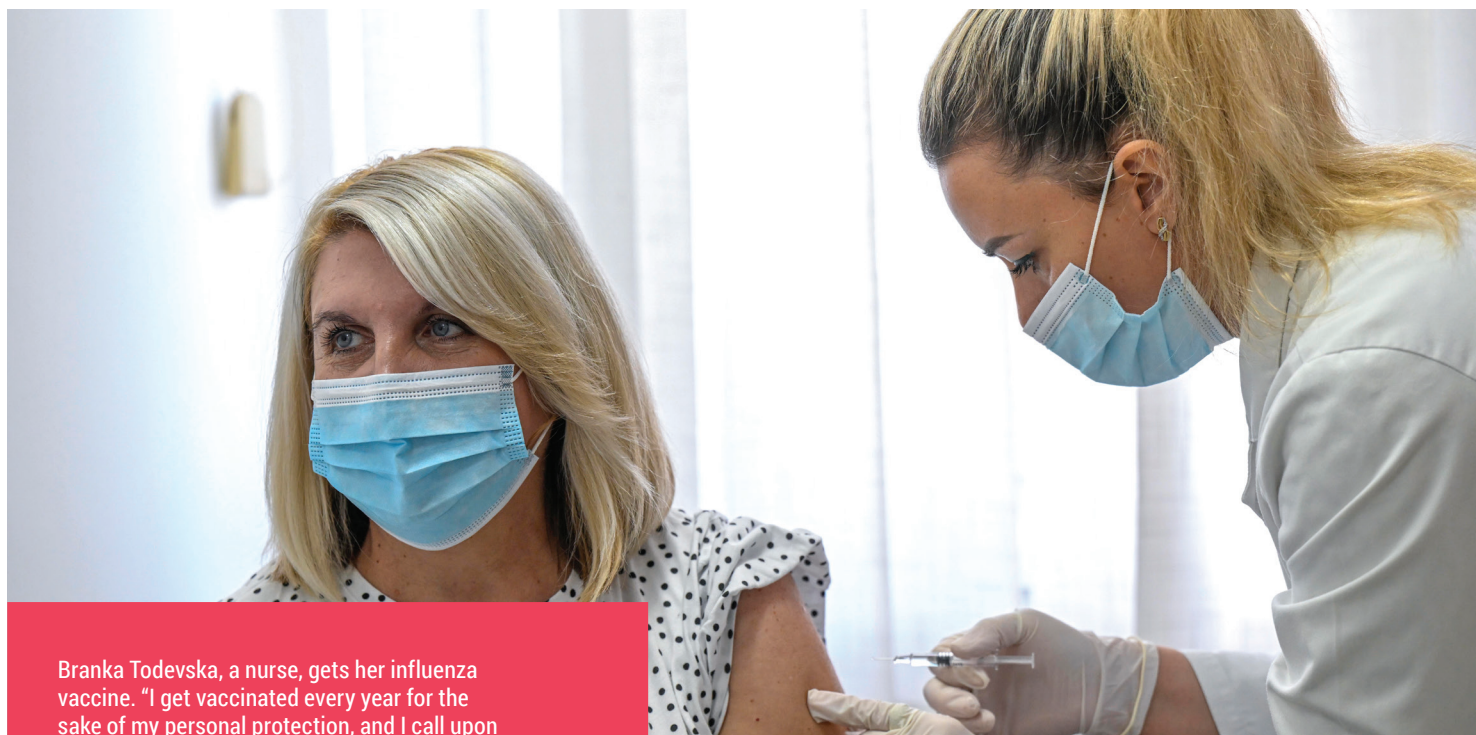
- 28: Consumer and health protection
- 19: Social Policy and Employment;
- 25: Science and Research,
- 26: Education and culture

2022 UN expenditure

**\$5,128,417**

## Development partners:

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Health Institutes, Associations or Directorates; Vocational Training Institutes; Trade Union of Health Workers; Civil Society; Academia, Private Sector



Branka Todevska, a nurse, gets her influenza vaccine. “I get vaccinated every year for the sake of my personal protection, and I call upon all other people to get vaccinated for their own health’s sake,” says Branka. *Credit: WHO*

The latest available data indicates slight increase of the population living below the poverty line (21.6% in 2019 to 21.8% in 2020), impacting the youngest most (from 27.8% in 2019 to 30.3% in 2020). This is further increasing with the latest crisis which impacted vulnerable categories disproportionately and put more people into poverty, or an additional 13,000 people, of which 5,000 children, according to the estimate in the UN supported analysis of the impact of the crisis to the Macedonian households. This also caused a slight decline of the human development index which decreased from 0.774 in 2021 to 0.770 in 2022. Yet, the country’s ranking improved from 82 to 78 place.

Using COVID-19 as a momentum, UN support and technical

assistance to the Ministry of Health not only facilitated the response to the emergency health system needs but also enabled the **strengthening of the national healthcare system**. This was achieved, among other, through **generation of critical evidence for improved policy making and improved patient-centred service design**.

The assessment of the national legal context identified the **required changes in the national legislative and regulatory framework to enable the implementation of the primary health care (PHC) reform**. Situation analysis of Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) not only provided the most up to date data about the system but allowed to detect **new equity gap in access to early intervention services**, proving



a clear-cut income inequality in access to ECI services. The clinical protocols and pathways for the priority non-communicable diseases, will contribute to introducing **minimum quality standard for care delivery in daily practice**. The systematic analysis of the administrative processes for primary care doctors identified the specific **redundancies and opportunities to increase the efficiency** of PHC administration. Planning and design of an e-appointment system for Primary Health Care will allow **patients to avoid long waits at their health centre**, without imposing any added administrative burden on PHC. Digital software developed and piloting ongoing, will facilitate **easier consultation among the health professionals** at primary, secondary and tertiary level, thus saving patients from financial hardship of unnecessary travel and avoiding crowds in waiting rooms in hospitals. The above-mentioned results contribute to achieving the SDG targets 3.8 (universal health coverage) and 3.4 (reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases), as well as to the SDCF outcome indicator on Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care, in 2020 at 1.7%, and expected to improve back in 2022 after COVID-19.

The first comprehensive assessment of the **health workforce** planning structure and processes laid out the foundation towards **the development of a new (first) Health Workforce Strategy (HWS)**. With UN support, the Ministry of Health, School of Medicine and the Specialized Hospital for Geriatric and Palliative Care designed an action plan for transforming the specialized geriatric and palliative care hospital into a teaching centre for the **newly designed geriatric sub-specialization** and have developed a roadmap for workforce development. This will help prepare the health workforce to respond to the needs of the growing elderly population, in line with the SDG target 3.c (increased health financing retention of workforce in developing countries). **Over 1,800 health professionals** (6.5% of the total healthcare workforce) **went through series of trainings** (each in their field of expertise) in vaccine administration, vaccination planning and conversation for easier acceptance of required vaccination, safety at work, working on mental health, laboratories work, field epidemiology, telemedicine, effective perinatal care and other areas.

## Svetlana Milić

housewife

a 65-year-old housewife from a municipality in North Macedonia, had a routine check-up at a mobile gynaecological clinic that changed her life. She was diagnosed with early-stage cervical cancer and underwent surgery to prevent the cancer from spreading. Despite North Macedonia having more gynaecologists per 100,000 people than the European average, many smaller towns and villages lack easily accessible sexual and reproductive health services, which is a significant barrier for vulnerable people and people in rural areas. *Credit: UNFPA*

Svetlana together with 2000 women and girls from rural and underserved areas of the country had the possibility to undertake a regular gynecological check in her place of living, through the services of the mobile gynecological clinics,

established with UN support back in 2021 and later integrated in the national health system. In cooperation with the local civil society organization HOPS, these services have been extended also to women and girls in prisons, sex workers and drug users.

With the UN support and in collaboration with the Safe Motherhood Committee, the Ministry of Health established six operative executive boards for the **implementation of the perinatal care model**, in the six regions of Skopje, Bitola, Tetovo, Shtip, Strumica and Kumanovo. The boards will contribute to better coordination of the implementation of the Master Plan for Perinatal Care 2020–2030 at regional level. Building on the activities from previous years, additional 175 healthcare professionals were trained in 10 facilities/hospitals in effective perinatal care (EPC), contributing to the improved quality of health services and **improved maternal and newborn health**. While the neonatal mortality rate increased during the pandemic (from 4.2 to 4.5%), these continued investments, including with UN support are expected to reverse the trend to the lower rates from the pre-pandemic period.

## 340 children

**benefited from skills development programmes**

In 2022, the UN worked with the Ministry of Education and Science and associated institutions on continued implementation of the **education reform** to address the learning crisis caused by the systemic gaps, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although schools remained mostly open throughout 2022, recovering from the pandemic-related learning losses was slow and contributed to lower education outcomes, with the most vulnerable children being disproportionately affected.

In the lead-up to the **Transforming Education Summit** organized by the UN Secretary General, a series of 10 national consultations on the future of education were organized with UN support, with over 600 youth, students, teachers, municipal officials, parliamentarians and CSOs. Based on the input from the consultations, a **national statement of commitment** for further improvement of the education system and advancing the achievement of the SDG 5 **was delivered at the Summit in September in New York by the Prime Minister**.

Although schools remained mostly open throughout 2022, recovering from the pandemic-related learning losses was slow and contributed to lower education outcomes, with the most vulnerable children being disproportionately affected. Preschool attendance is still low, with most (60%) of 3–5-year-old children missing out on quality and inclusive preschool education (SDCF indicator 2\_10) albeit increasing after COVID. In response to this, UN invested in advocating for expanded access to preschool education alongside a wider process to optimize the entire school network and make better use of the resources available. UN has also engaged with the first 10 municipalities directly to plan resource optimization and utilize unused spaces in schools toward an increase in pre-primary education coverage, expecting first results in 2023.

UN continued to support curricular reform by providing teachers with effective pedagogical strategies, educational resources, and tools (including digital) for **quality inclusive teaching**. Special attention in this year's support was given to student wellbeing as a significant factor in



improving outcomes for learners, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. New **educational content** was continuously designed and made freely available on Eduino, including learning resources, games, activities and a virtual laboratory with self-paced science experiments, further strengthening [Eduino](#) as the go-to online platform with verified, good-quality teaching and learning materials for teachers, parents, and students.

## 10,970 teachers

participated in UN-supported development programmes

To support **inclusion of all children in mainstream education** and creating a nurturing and stimulating environment for children with disabilities to learn and develop the skills they need to thrive, UN supported the expansion of early inclusion in education programmes, the transformation of the special schools into resource centers, capacity-building of staff at the Resource Centres, the 1,364 members of the **school inclusion teams of all primary schools** in the country, as well as 400 professionals across the country in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. As result, in the school year 2021/2022 1,232 students with disabilities were enrolled in regular primary (911) and secondary (312) schools. The rollout of the national program on Social and Emotional Learning was completed through a network of 192 peer support teachers and complemented by a two-month training program for sustainable Professional Learning

Teachers and educators joined UN supported capacity building workshops on teaching about climate change through new cost-effective experiments in their classes. The approach helps children to learn the basics of science and the effects of environmental and climate change phenomena, such as degradation on water, soil, air, heat and warming cycles. These experiential school activities also help children develop skills such as problem-solving, perseverance and collaboration. *Credit: UNICEF*

Communities to promote a culture of continuous learning for all staff and improve outcomes for all children.

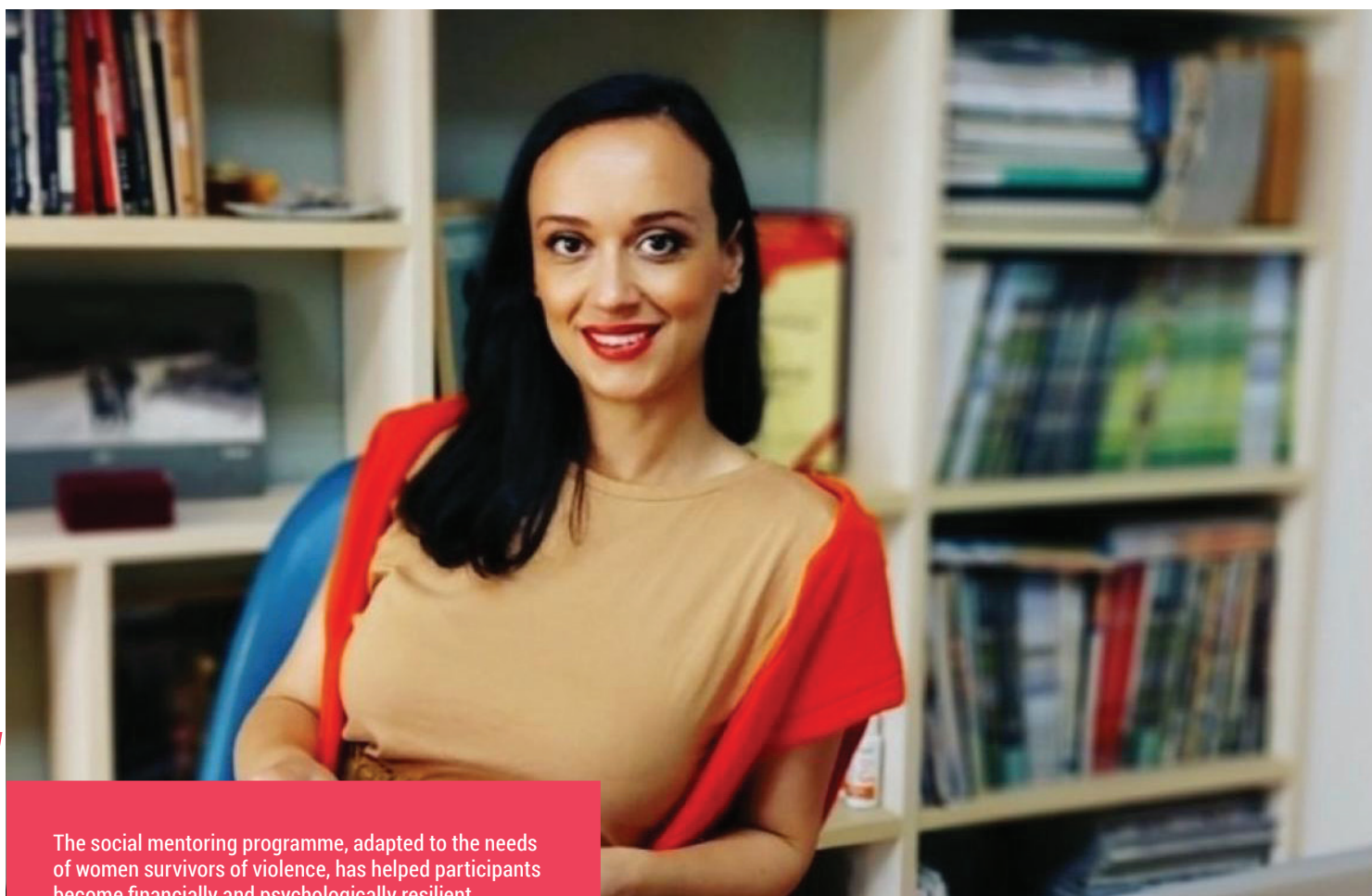
UN continued supporting **comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)** and youth-related initiatives by working with the Bureau for Development of Education in planning and rolling out the strategic positioning process, and development of the National Strategy on CSE. The strategy aims to improve knowledge, skills, and attitudes of students in CSE, and increase awareness of the need for CSE in primary education.

All these activities aim to improve the quality of education and the students' learning outcomes, the progress of which will be measured through the SDCF indicator 2.20 on PISA testing scores from the 2022 round of testing, expected soon.

UN partnered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and other relevant institutions to support **social protection policy and service design and piloting** to improve the protection of persons in need.

In 2022, UN support was focused on developing the capacity of the social service workforce. The new Digital Learning





The social mentoring programme, adapted to the needs of women survivors of violence, has helped participants become financially and psychologically resilient. Magdalena Chadinowska Kuzmanoski, a social mentor who worked with five women, explains how social mentoring leads to employment, financial security, and improved quality of life for survivors and their dependents. Soft skills development and professional training help women become more competitive in the labour market, while social mentors suggest potential employment opportunities only when they are sure that the woman can cope with the demands of the job. *Credit: UN Women*

Platform for social service workforce offers delivery of specialized online trainings required for the licensing processes, as well as training for addressing the potential burnout, which was utilized by more than 100 social sector frontline workers so far. In parallel, UN built capacities, tools and methods for delivery of intergraded case management to vulnerable population as singly entry point for support services and benefits which is expected to serve over 50,000 households starting from 2023.

## 50,000 households

to benefit from improved social services  
via integrated case management

The first ever cross-sectoral Parenting Strategy was developed aiming to ensure caring family environment for the children at home. As part of parenting interventions, hundreds of children benefited from improved parenting skills through Mellow Parenting programme (100 families), the Parenting Help Line (100 parents), and the Bebbo (over 7,000 users)

parenting application - all enabling easy to access and low-cost approach to early intervention and parent support.

Based on the new **foster and kinship care** standards, newly established regional Foster Care Support Centres acquired knowledge and developed skill to promote the family foster care service, evaluate and educate potential and future foster families, and to observe and support the existing 261 foster and kinship families. The process of identification and requirement of new foster families, and access to information for the general population, professionals, and existing foster care families has been facilitated through the foster care web page <https://zgrizuvanje.gov.mk/>.

National capacities for expansion of the human-rights based model of disability and needs assessment of children and youth in the North-East, East, Vardar and South-West planning regions were developed. Following the adoption of the amendment to the Healthcare Law by Parliament, prepared with UN support, the initiated establishment of the national and ten regional functional assessment bodies will complete the introduction of the new model, that, as of 2023, will provide easy and single-entry point for support services and benefits of all persons with disabilities and their families throughout the country.

In support to the Government to ensure that no one is left behind, UN ensured and facilitated provision of health, education, social and child **protection services to the migrants and forcibly displaced persons**, including of Afghan families that were temporarily in the country. About 26,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers accommodated in the Temporary Transit Centres in Vinojug and Vizbegovo, received medical and psychosocial support, cultural mediation, recreational activities, language assistance and

other reception and protection needs. 40 Asylum seekers with specific needs, accommodated in the Reception Center Vizbegovo and private accommodation were assisted with education and employment services as well as medical interventions and psychosocial support. Lastly, regarding the Global Compact on Refugees Fund pledge for the remaining Kosovo refugees, 5 persons gained citizenship and 6 have voluntarily returned to Kosovo. 244 persons of the initial caseload of Kosovo refugees are still in the country, and their situation is expected to be resolved by 2024.

Last year marks good progress in the implementation of the **Law on Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence**. With UN technical support, key documents, such as the Multisector Protocol (MSR Protocol), six bylaws, the Program for the Reintegration of Victims were prepared. These legal documents define new provisions, facilitate the multi-stakeholder response and the key standards and procedures in data collection and analysis and provide improved quality services to victims of violence. Data collection and analysis is fundamental for evidence-based policy making. Targeting the chronic lack of quality and reliable data on Violence Against Women (VAW) and domestic violence, UN also supported the mapping of the

current situation and the challenges related to the collection and reporting of GBV data, after which, development of an information management system was initiated.

The UN supported the review and update of existing training material on **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and GBV for SRH professionals**, GBV service providers, and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) aiming to improved quality of SRH and GBV services for persons with disabilities. A nationwide campaign targeting all women and girls living in urban and rural areas with a focus on Roma populations raised awareness regarding available services for victims and survivors of gender-based and domestic violence in the country. In addition, community events were held in three communities to raise awareness about online violence.

With UN support, over 15.000 women victims of violence benefited from **counselling services** of the Counselling centre for victims of gender-based violence capacitated with UN support as well as the first inclusive playground that will reduce the burden of care givers (prevalently women) to more than 20 children with cerebral palsy. Additionally, 249 women and girls survivors of violence in the South-East region of the country received services from the two newly



Anastasia, a 19-year-old philosophy student was forced to flee from her home in Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict and found refuge in North Macedonia along with her sister, where they were welcomed by a family of Ukrainians who work in the Embassy in Skopje. Thanks to her open-mindedness and curiosity, Anastasia was invited to continue her studies at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, where she was given a laptop and all the necessary resources to advance in her studies. Anastasia is grateful for the opportunity to continue her studies and is eager to use her skills and intellect to help rebuild her homeland. The Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje believes that universities have a unique opportunity to support young refugees whose education has been interrupted due to war or persecution. UN supports the Government and all stakeholders in their effort to offer international protection to refugees, and they work to increase the acceptance of the people they serve, and their potential to be utilized in the host countries, as well as in their homelands once they feel safe to go back. *Credit: UNHCR*





opened psycho-social counselling centres led by partner CSOs Skaj Plus Strumica and EHO Stip, supported by UN. The sustainability of the psychosocial counselling centre in Strumica was ensured through the drafting and adoption of a municipal Local Action Plan for Gender Based Violence. 13 women survivors of violence, who are also long-term unemployed and single mothers, gained and kept their employment through participation in a 12-month **social mentoring program for economic empowerment**. These women have reported enhanced self-confidence in seeking employment and an improved financial situation resulting in a better quality of life and wellbeing.

Meeting in the local community in Shuto Orizari Municipality, North Macedonia, promoting help-seeking GBV services supported by UN and British Embassy in Skopje. Through this nationwide campaign consisting of statement cards with the agents of change and statement videos gained 1,67 million reach, and an estimated 455,000 unique individuals (around 25% of the overall population) have been communicated multiple times with and content of the campaign. *Credit: UNFPA*

## OUTCOME 3

# Healthy environment



*By 2025, people in North Macedonia benefit from ambitious climate action, sustainably managed natural resources and well-preserved biodiversity through good environmental governance and disaster resilient communities.*

## Contribution to



Sustainable Development Investment (1. Agriculture Development; Infrastructure, 3. Energy);  
Healthy Environment;  
Protection of Natural Disasters



11: Agriculture and Rural Development;  
12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy;  
15: Energy;  
27: Environment and Climate Change;  
26: Education and Culture;  
28: Consumer and Health Protection

2022 UN expenditure  
**\$10,291,711**

## Development partners:

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Ministry of Economy; Cabinet of Deputy President of the Government in charge of Economic Affairs; Crisis Management Centre; Directorate for Protection and Rescue; Local self-governments; Farmers' associations; Chambers of Commerce; NGOs, private sector



UN's support to reducing risk of floods continued, with various activities in Polog region and along the Drini River currently underway. As a result, more than 100,000 citizens in these regions have reduced flood risks. In the Drini River Basin, appropriate flood risk mitigation measures and activities were identified based on the UN supported hydrological and hydraulic models and flood hazard maps and comprehensive socio-economic and vulnerability assessment of communities within the basin. In Polog, investments were made both in flood risk prevention infrastructure and in capacitating relevant emergency agencies. For example, 40 ha of erosive land in the National Park Shar Mountain was afforested/reforested, the riverbed of Bogovinjska Reka was reconstructed, and the storm water network in Gostivar was cleaned. Further, relevant emergency agencies and other local institutions in the Polog region were capacitated through provision of equipment, organization of drills, and exchange of experience with colleagues from the region. *Credit: UNDP*

UN supported the establishment of a **comprehensive national policy on climate change**. After the adoption of the ambitious enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (e-NDC), in 2022 the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning was supported to compile the **4th National Communication to UNFCCC (4th NC)**, which includes information on the National GHG Inventory, sectoral GHG emission projections and respective mitigation measures, as well as the country's vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and proposed adaptation measures. Draft proposal for the development of a National Adaptation Plan was prepared and will be submitted to the GCF in the first quarter of 2023. UN also supported the enhancement of **climate change data** through the newly developed **Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Platform**. The Platform enables the



country to report to the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement and the EU /Energy Community.

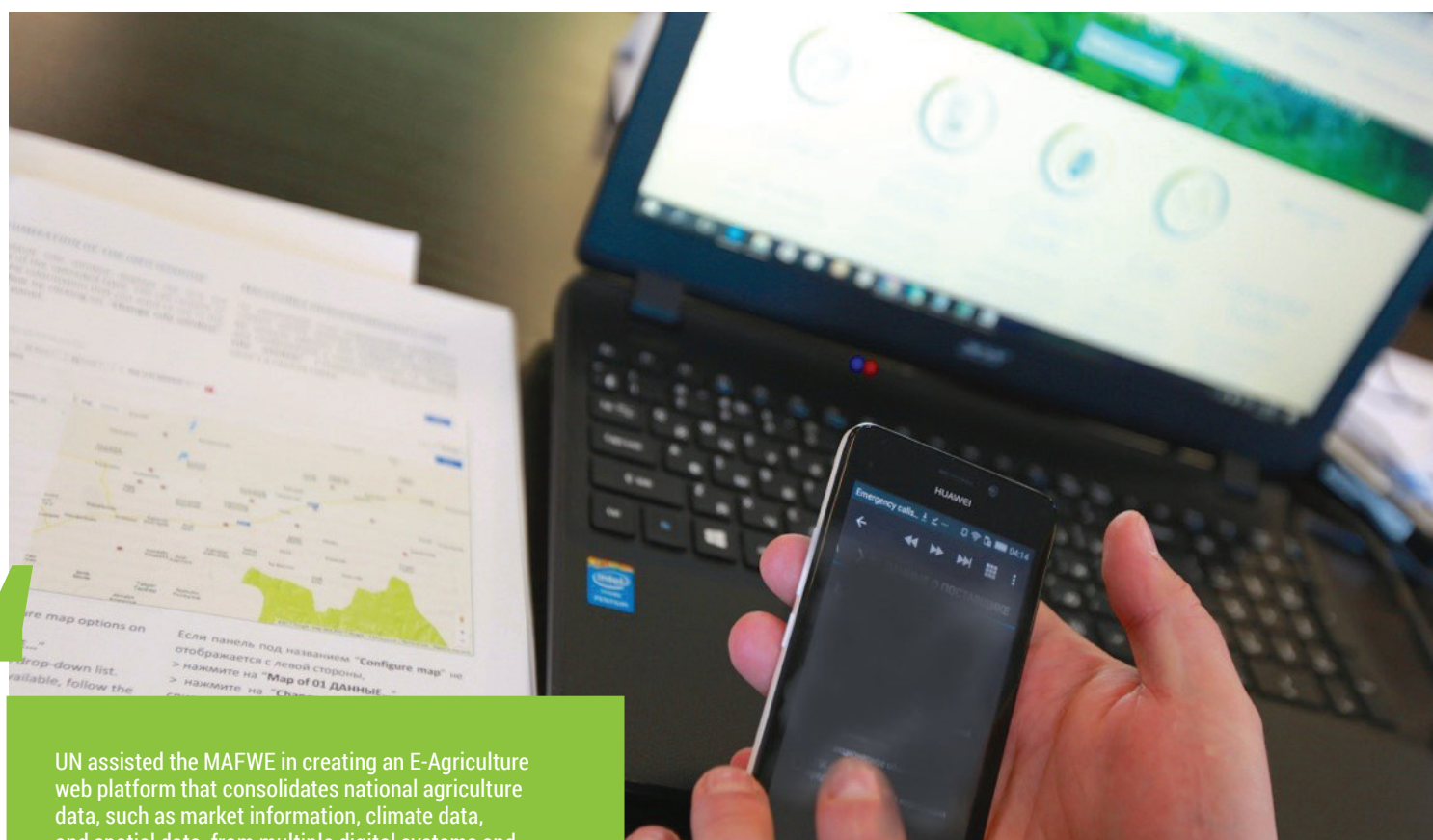
The **awareness of children and adolescents on climate change and environment was strengthened** through wide-reaching systemic approach. In 2022, the Bureau for Development of Education with UN support **embedded climate change and environment topics within the regular primary school natural science curricula** (2nd and 5th grade), adding to previously revised curricula for 1st and 4th grade in 2021, and, developed teaching materials for kindergartens. Over 120 pre-primary and primary school teachers were trained on integrating environmental concepts in teaching and they further disseminated the programme to 800 colleagues through professional learning communities, school visits and co-delivery. Further, a **network of science centres for experiential learning was formed**, to enable hands-on experience of youth and includes the Hydrobiological Institute - Ohrid, Natural History Museum - Skopje, National Park Galichica, Education Centre "Negrevo in Pehcevo, National Technics - Skopje, and Botanical Garden Natural Sciences Faculty - Skopje. Finally, 140,929 young people were reached and 5,113 engaged on social media through UN supported communication for development initiatives on youth led climate action.

To increase **access to finance for climate change** in the country, UN supported the country with preparatory and implementation activities to gain or increase access to four key global funds – **the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Fund and Joint SDG Fund**. Further, UN also supported the Deputy Prime Minister's Cabinet for

Economic Affairs, as National Designated Authority (NDA) for the GCF, and the Ministry of Finance to develop a **procedure for monitoring, tracking and streamlining of climate finance and a new web system** for climate finance data collection and reporting on the NDA webpage [www.greendevopment.mk](http://www.greendevopment.mk). To enable private sector transformation and engagement towards green and carbon-neutral economy, UN conducted a climate technology assessment for the industrial sector and continued to provide technical assistance and performance-based financial rewards to companies. Further, UN supported the Ministry of Economy and the Energy Agency to develop secondary legislation on Energy Audits of large enterprises; and the development of the first online toolkit for private sector engagement in climate action.

To **fight the depletion of the ozone layer**, UN supported the **review of national legislation and data collection** on ozone depleting substances, a Rulebook on licenses for management of refrigerants and/or products containing refrigerants, and a Study on refrigerant waste quantities. Moreover, the UN supported the monitoring and permanent control of consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) and other substances that deplete the ozone layer (evaluation of 50 import licenses) as well as monitoring of the recovery and recycling scheme with 25,009 kg of controlled substances and their blends. **Service shops** were assessed to prepare granting of recovery and recycling equipment.

In terms of climate change adaptation, most UN support was focused on **greater resilience of the agriculture sector and of urban areas**. In 2022 a national e-Agri platform was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy



UN assisted the MAFWE in creating an E-Agriculture web platform that consolidates national agriculture data, such as market information, climate data, and spatial data, from multiple digital systems and databases. The platform will provide policy-makers with insights to develop policies and measures for a sustainable agriculture transition. *Credit: FAO*

with UN support. The platform informs policymakers in creating sustainable agriculture policies and enables farmers to improve their farms' environmental sustainability, productivity and income. The [E-agri platform](#) integrates global and national agriculture, meteorological, climate and spatial data including the global [Earth Map platform](#). Further, UN supported the government in promoting climate-tolerant seed systems through completion of **legal analysis of the national seed legislation**, and on-farm demonstrations and training of farmers, agricultural producers, seed farm representatives, agricultural cooperatives, and National Extension Agency representatives in partnership with the UKIM Institute of Agriculture. Further, proposal for improvement of the irrigation, land and water management in Radovich was prepared.

In terms of **urban resilience**, the City of Skopje was supported to expand the base of **environmental data, information and studies needed for informed decision making**, such as a Biotope Map, Inventory of Riparian Habitats, Groundwater Study, Water Management Strategy, Study of possible transmission paths of six-valent chrome in Zeden Mountain underground waters and their impact on Rasche spring, Strategic planning document for redesign of public spaces, as well as the technical documentation for a green corridor along the Serava and Lepenec Rivers. Pilot urban resilience measures to reduce the effects of **urban heat islands** were also supported i.e. **two green roofs on Gradski Trgovski Centar and on Dom na Kultura "Koco Racin"** and **greening of slopes of Kale Skopje Fortress**. Further, **energy efficiency of the building complex of the Government and Presidency** was enhanced through implementation of energy management system and ISO 50001 certification.

With UN support, capacity of national institutions to strengthen **resilience of biosphere reserves and world heritage sites** vis-a-vis climate change and disaster risk was strengthened and a South-East Europe network of practitioners was formed.

In terms of **integrated, sustainable and inclusive management of natural resources**, **significant increase of the area under protection to 13.9%** of the country's territory, from baseline of 10.34% in 2019 is already achieved (**76% achievement of the SDCF Outcome Indicator**: Proportion of country area this is designated as protected), mainly thanks to the proclamation of the new National Park Shar Mountains in 2021, supported by the UN through preparation of the Valorisation Study. The UN support to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning continued in 2022 focusing on establishment of relevant institutions and implementation capacity of the Shar Mountains National Park, through development of a draft Management Plan for the Park, to enable the effective protection of this biosphere. Further, UN supported the preparation of a **re-valorisation study for Ohrid Lake**, the main technical document for the re-proclamation of Ohrid Lake as Monument of Nature, the drafting of a Management Plan and facilitated the commitment of mayors of municipalities around the lake to jointly protect and restore the lake (Ohrid, Struga and Debrca). Rangers, protected area representatives, members of mountaineering associations and local women have been capacitated on effective management of protected areas.

With UN support, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning strengthened the national policy and management of **forest ecosystems** towards greater forest conservation and plant, bird and animal habitats protection. **Sustainable Forest Management Guidelines** for two pilot sites (Bukovikj and Belasica) were drafted. Further, **188 high nature value forests** of almost 56 000 ha and **old individual trees with exceptional natural characteristics** and localities with important plant communities were valorised. To ensure uninterrupted food

access, breeding and reduction of traffic accidents mortality of large carnivores (specifically for Balkan lynx and brown bear), UN identified and recommended protection measures for two pilot corridors and developed a manual for design of green crossings for wildlife / bio corridors over main road and railway infrastructure. The recommendations were taken forward by the relevant institutions - PE State Roads, PE National Forests and several hunting associations for implementation. Further, specific actions for biodiversity protection of reptiles and amphibians were catalysed through the development of the **first ever National Red Books of Reptiles and Amphibians**, which analyse status, trends and threats to these species and contribute to their protection.

## 56,000 ha

forests and individual trees were valorised

Due to the importance of land protection as a key medium for ensuring biodiversity, UN supported the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and select municipalities in pioneering work on establishing the policy framework for strengthening **soil protection and land degradation neutrality**. In 2022, UN supported the **draft Law on Soil Protection** and the update of **Local Environmental Action Plans** for Arachinovo, Saraj, Zhelino, Jegunovce and Lipkovo to include approaches for erosion control and torrent water. With UN support, North Macedonia has produced the **first National Report to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**.

## 40%

reduction in air pollution in terms of PM10 in a Skopje suburb through UN support

Significant progress was also achieved in terms of **reduction of air pollution, with annual fine particulate matter PM10 reduced from 51.32 µg/m3 in 2019 to 35.91 µg/m3 (SDCF Outcome Indicator: Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter PM 10 fully achieved and SDG Target 11.2)**. The UN contributed to this positive development, through improvements in the overall policy framework and piloting work on household heating in the most polluted suburb Lisiche of the capital city Skopje. Thanks to UN support, **market operators have changed practices and included new efficient heating and cooking appliances** on the market, after being trained on these technologies and their comparative selling points and incentivised through new legislative framework that requires sales channels to promote energy effacement appliances. The subsidy schemes for **energy-efficient improvements in residential buildings** for low- income and better-off families was successfully piloted in Lisiche, resulting in **40% reduction** in air pollution in terms of PM10 (60.359 µg/m3 in 2020 vs. 35.5 µg/m3 in 2021) in this area and **60% decrease** in polluting emissions (5.56 t in 2021 vs. 2.23 t in 2021). As part of this pilot activity, 399 households, including economically vulnerable households were supported to replace inefficient heating and to implement energy efficiency. Finally, a **Source Apportionment Study** was developed, analysing the sources of the air pollution and informing the Plan of Action for the City of Skopje. A **national online platform on air pollution** was developed to facilitate dialogue between the Government, civil society, private sector and academia.

Partial progress is noted in the decrease of the generalized **disaster risk** with the INFORM Risk Index value for the country slightly improved at 2.4 points in 2022, but still away from



the 2.0 target (SDCF Outcome Indicator: INFORM Risk Index, 33% achievement level). The reforms of the overall crisis management system are still on hold and such a situation is hampering the achievement of the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In this context, the UN is one of the few organisations, which have supported the country in building resilience, with focus on **reducing risk of epidemics and of major floods**, through establishment of comprehensive system and set of measures to respond to these types of disaster risk. Several important policy documents and guidelines for prevention of flood risk were developed with UN support. These include the outline of a **National Flood Risk Mitigation Strategy**, **draft Regulation for Preparation of Municipal Flood Defence Plans**, and **draft Guidance for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Urban Planning**.

In 2022, UN continued to support the building of an effective and efficient system for **detection and response to epidemics**, as one of the sources of disaster risks. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Institute for Public Health, the UN established and capacitated the **Public Health Emergency Operation Centre** and enabled **real-time data exchange on diseases** within the public health laboratory network, through their digitalization. This significantly increases the country's preparedness and response capacity for epidemics.

UN's support to **reducing risk of floods** and resilience building continued, with various activities in Polog region and in the Drini River Basin currently underway. As a result, **more than 100,000 citizens in these regions have benefited from reduced flood risks**. In Polog, investments were made both in

flood risk prevention infrastructure and in capacitating relevant emergency agencies. For example, **40 ha of erosive land in the National Park Shar Mountain was afforested/reforested**, **the riverbed of Bogovinjska Reka was reconstructed**, and **the storm water network in Gostivar was cleaned**. Further, **relevant emergency agencies and other local institutions in the Polog region were capacitated** through provision of equipment, organization of drills, and exchange of experience with colleagues from the region. In the Drini River Basin, appropriate flood risk mitigation measures and activities were identified based on the UN supported hydrological and hydraulic models and flood hazard maps and comprehensive socio-economic and vulnerability assessment of communities within the basin. The works for restoration of the River Sateska and its diversion in the old riverbed were completed.

In terms of **hazardous waste**, the cleaning up of the environmental hot spot OHIS (old chemical factory complex), polluted with cancerous lindane (HCH), has started. The clean-up will contribute to solving the long-standing problem of exposure to this toxic substance for the densely populated urban areas in the capital of the country. After previous preparatory infrastructure activities, UN organised **effective removal of 1,083 tons of HCH waste and HCH contaminated soil in 2022**. This activity will continue in 2023. Capacity building of government officials and statisticians on e-waste statistics was also supported by the UN at the regional level, to ensure improved overview of national **e-waste dynamics** and management to feed policy decisions at the national level. E-waste country profiles as well as a Western Balkans Regional E-Waste Monitor Report are planned to be produced in 2023.



The cleaning up of the OHIS environmental hot spot, polluted with cancerous lindane (HCH), has started. The clean-up will contribute to solving the long-standing problem of exposure to this toxic substance for the densely populated urban areas in the capital of the country. After previous preparatory infrastructure activities, UN organised effective removal of 1,083 tons of HCH waste and HCH contaminated soil in 2022. This activity will continue in 2023. *Credit: UNOPS*

## OUTCOME 4

## Good governance



*By 2025, people in Whole country benefit from improved rule of law; evidence-based, anticipatory and gender-responsive policies; greater social cohesion; and effective service delivery by transparent, accountable and responsive institutions.*

## Contribution to



- Rule of law, good governance, and anticorruption
- Promoting democracy and freedom
- EU integration



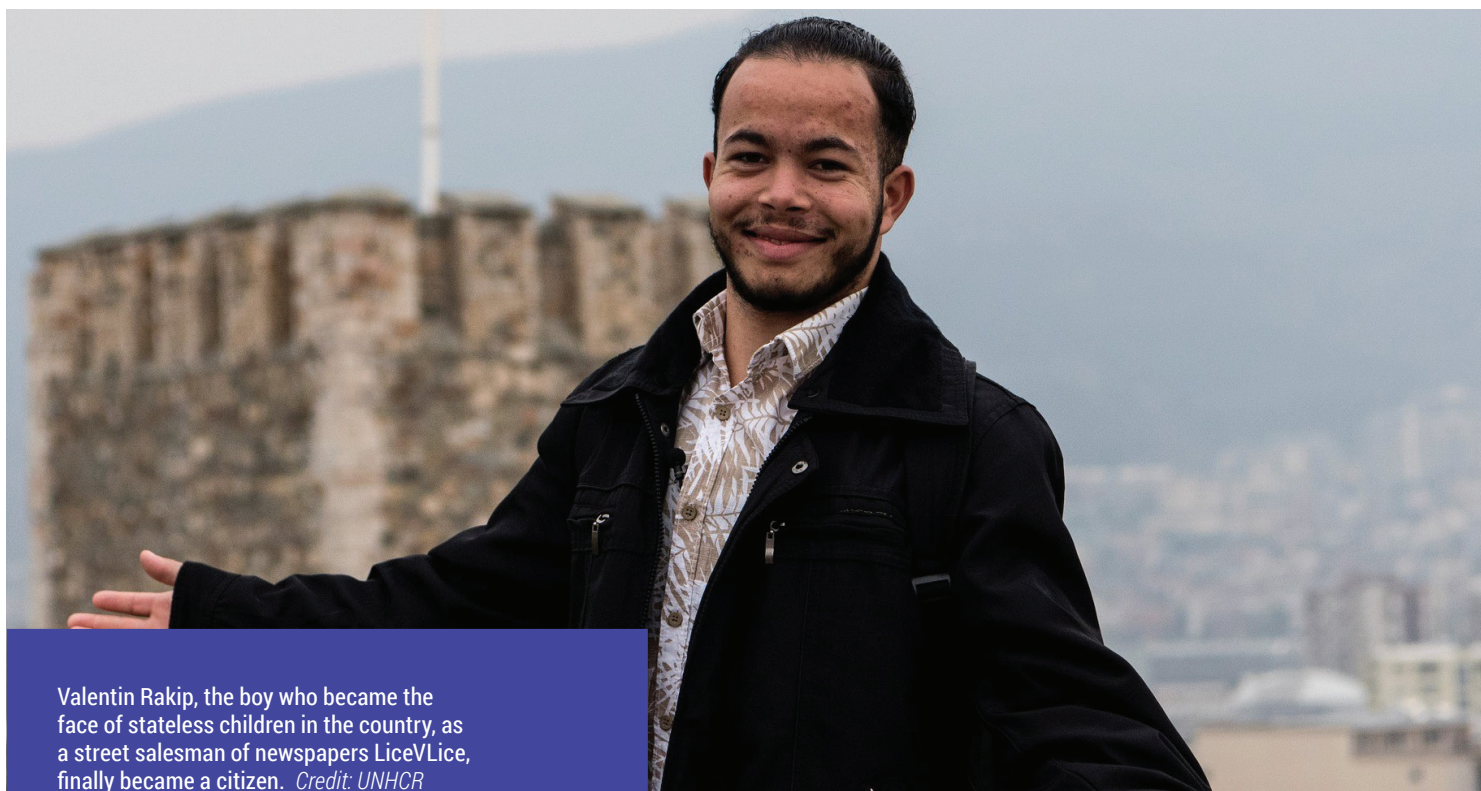
Fundamentals first: Cluster 1  
23: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights  
24: Justice, Freedom and Security

2022 UN expenditure

**\$10,589,510**

## Development partners:

Prime Minister's Cabinet, VPMs in charge of good governance and economic affairs, Secretariat for European Affairs, Ministries of Interior, Local Self-Government, Finance, Labor and Social Policy, Foreign Affairs, Information Society and Administration, Justice, Culture, Education and Science, Parliament, National Bank, SSQ, Bureau for Regional Development, Public Revenue Office, State Audit Office, local government units, Academy of Judges and Prosecutors, Ombudsman, National Non-Discrimination Coordination Body, NHRIs, Inter-ministerial WG for adoption of Migration Policy, Judiciary, Public Prosecutors Office, Prosecution on Organized Crime and Corruption, Customs Agency, WCO, INTERPOL, National Commission for UNESCO, BAR association, MYLA, OPDs, Association of Finance Officers (AFO), Association of Units of Local Self Government, civil society and academia



Valentin Rakip, the boy who became the face of stateless children in the country, as a street salesman of newspapers LiceVLice, finally became a citizen. *Credit: UNHCR*

North Macedonia gained the reform momentum with the start of EU accession screening and negotiation processes. UN activities contributed further to aligning legal, policy and institutional frameworks with the EU acquis and international standards that advanced **fundamental rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, access to justice**, which are central for EU accession and the achievement of SDGs. Inclusive and transparent governance boosted the enjoyment of rights and meaningful participation of people, enabling women, youth,

persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups to have a say in policy and decision making at central and local level. **More than 100 people facing discrimination and exclusion** - women and girls, persons with disabilities, victims of gender-based violence and human trafficking, persons belonging to certain ethnic minorities, like Roma - were empowered to avail protection from unequal treatment in the realization of their rights. **190 persons were granted citizenship** because of legislative interventions. UN, jointly with national and



international partners, contributed to the development of a new strategy for disability rights and inclusion, and supported the national framework for monitoring the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) increasing opportunities for meaningful participation in policy making and decisions that affect their lives.

In the **judicial sector**, UN support resulted in a stronger criminal justice protection through new incriminations for online and offline violence against women and children. The **justice for children** was transformed into a non-punitive and restorative system, where the interests of children in conflict with the law are a primary consideration. To sustain such systemic change, new National Strategy for Prevention and Justice for Children development was supported and 350 justice and social welfare professionals were trained, who have increasingly applied a multisectoral and trauma-informed approach in dealing with children at risk, and those in conflict or in contact with the law. This led to 25% increase of alternative measures over custodial sentence. The multimedia campaign **“Just a child”** raised awareness of the life-time consequences of punitive measures and adverse childhood experiences. The justice professionals’ skills were scaled up in **countering serious and transnational crimes**, including illicit drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and illicit financing of terrorisms. The access to and safeguards for victim’s rights have been strengthened with the new law on state-funded compensation of victims of violent crimes, developed with UN support.

## Fatmir Bytyqi

Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Economic Affairs

I participated in the workshops (visioning workshops for the National Development Strategy) in Skopje, and I am especially proud to see many young people, people from different ethnic groups, representatives of the vulnerable groups of citizens who discussed together and shared their ideas. Every suggestion, every vision about the future development of the country is a treasure indeed, since it will help us for the first time to draft a document which will present a long-term and comprehensive roadmap about the policies we have to make in the next 20 years. *Credit: UNDP*

The increased capacities and knowledge of the government, judiciary, national human rights and other independent institutions, and civil society leveraged a positive climate for change, innovation and progress on strategic national priorities. UN supports the development of the first **National Development Strategy** setting the country’s development footprint for the next two decades. More than 3,000 citizens and multisector development actors were engaged in the NDS dream labs and consultations creating the future, in parallel with the baseline analysis. The new Strategy for Digital Transformation (ICT) 2023-2027 was drafted with UN support. In support of the EU accession process, UN continued bolstering the approximation of legislation and **EU negotiation skills** of the Parliament and SEI in prioritizing technical assistance and streamlining expertise and resources in critical reform areas. The capacities of SEI, Sector Working

Groups, and other government institutions for **integration of the EU Gender Equality Acquis** in national laws and policies were strengthened. Active engagement of civil society and media in the EU accession process was promoted, through a grant scheme that supported lobbying, advocacy, oversight activities and capacity building at the national and local level. Under SEI lead, a cooperation network of national institutions participating in the EU integration process was established.

The **public finance management reform** notes improvement in the transparency in public spending, auditing, transfer pricing, indicators for measuring informal economy, and continued into a new reform cycle in 2022-2025. The system was further strengthened with the new Organic Budget Law which includes gender equality as of the key budgetary principles, and a requirement for consideration of gender equality priorities in budget planning and execution. The first Gender Performance Audit was conducted by the State Audit Office providing recommendations for more effective Government measures for advancing gender equality. The integrated governance approach impacted the **local governance system** and decentralization. With UN support, dashboard for municipalities is developed, that is now used by 50 municipalities, to share information on budget expenditures; enabling citizens to monitor public expenditures on quarterly level. Additional finances for the municipalities were secured by introducing two new funding mechanisms. A methodology for comprehensive assessment of the local government system and regulatory impact assessment was designed to generate evidence and data for reorganization of local competencies. The model of e-municipality was expanded with new digitalized public services for more than 300,000 people. The number of municipalities, which use E-dashboard for municipal budget execution, has reached at total of 46 municipalities. In the primary education, a new formula for allocating funding of municipalities was developed for all primary schools to deliver good quality education in line with international standards that will be implemented as of next year.

The **new Gender Equality Strategy (2022-2027)** was adopted emphasising the importance of adequate financing for gender equality across the 17 thematic priority areas. Gender equality was integrated throughout all areas of the National Development Strategy, at its initial stage of development. Representatives of 16 public institutions and other stakeholders gained knowledge on gender statistics and gender analysis. The capacities of 169 representatives of state institutions on GRB in the sectoral planning and budgeting processes were strengthened. Sustainability of results and a stronger local ownership of gender mainstreaming was achieved with the creation of gender champions in 7 institutions, who completed the first Training of Trainers on gender mainstreaming in IPA processes. At local level, 307 representatives, 212 public officials and 95 municipal councillors were trained on gender-responsive budgeting and gender equality. **All of these results together with the work of the other partners and national institutions have contributed to improved Gender Equality Index (2022)** measured for a second round, showing 2.5 points increase from 2019 index, reaching out 64.5, approaching the national target of 65 points.

The UN’s forward looking, transparent and participatory approach in policy making driven by data, made the national policies more effective and relevant for the emerging challenges. Significant efforts were vested in increasing institutional data-related capacities and the use of census

data and digitalization of statistical processes. The **first official publication of the results of 2021 Census of the Population, Households and Dwellings**, issued with UN support contributed to a better understanding of key demographic tendencies in the country and their impact on policy and decision making. A **National Roadmap on Migration Statistics** and Programme for Statistical Surveys 2023-2027 were produced in line with national and international standards. The potential use of alternative and innovative sources of data, like remittances, big data was explored. Justice institutions were capacitated to collect, integrate and generate child protection data related to children in contact with the law and child victims. At local level, the Municipal Development Index (MDI) was updated to reflect the 2021 Census data, and the use of gender statistics and analysis was promoted. Access to support services for women and children, victims of gender-based and domestic violence improved.

## 56,000 ha

forests and individual trees were valorised

Jointly with civil society and grassroots movements, UN advocated for marginalized communities, positive narratives and a greater **social cohesion**. 74 policy recommendations across 16 municipalities were a result of nearly 4,000 women voicing their needs to local decision-makers for more gender-sensitive public infrastructure, transportation, and services.

The UN promoted **youth empowerment and participation** in shaping the new National Youth Strategy and in other policy decisions, along with establishing of local youth councils in five municipalities. 87 public events and campaigns generated positive narratives and perceptions of vulnerable groups and persons left behind, including the milestone #IBelong campaign to end statelessness in the country by 2024. On the Human Rights Day, 300 young people were standing up for their and the rights of peers under the slogan "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All."

The UN facilitated the country to endorse the **Western Balkans Anti-Corruption and Illicit Financial Flow Roadmap**, and to benefit from the regional exchange. The corruption risks assessments were undertaken in public enterprises, and more than 200 civil servants, mayors and municipal councillors increased their knowledge on local governance, oversight, anticorruption, and public finance management. Under the cross-border cooperation framework with Kosovo, 415 police officers from North Macedonia exchanged experiences with their peers in combatting illicit arms trafficking and joined forces in raising awareness on misuse of small arms and light weapons. Through joint UN efforts, national institutions were supported to follow-up on the recommendations for North Macedonia pertaining to the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (Articles 7, 8 and 10; as well as articles 53 to 59). Capacity building activities were conducted with the Ministry of Justice in asset recovery and integrity in the public sector targeting CSOs, public administration and representatives from the justice and prosecution institutions.



Training of trainers for gender-responsive budgeting with participants from the Western Balkans and Turkey, April 2022. Credit: UN Women

# Financing & partnerships

Throughout 2022, UN initiated and implemented several interventions aimed to channel more efficient financing for sustainable development from public and private sources.

The new Organic Budget Law (OBL) adopted by the Parliament in September 2022, associated with new Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), provides an opportunity to enhance information about SDG financing. The new PFM reform includes gender equality among the key budgetary principles and foresees gender tagging of budget programmes within the IFMIS. In this context, UN continued to build capacity for gender-based budgeting with central and local institutions, including by supporting the establishment of the Resource Center on Gender Responsive Policymaking and Budgeting.

For the first time in the country and with UN support, an expenditure analysis to assess the adequacy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of government budget in justice for children was developed and used to inform the next stages of the justice for children reform. This strategic document assists national and municipal institutions with better tracking, planning, and executing expenditures related to justice for children, and will, in the long term, improve the scope and scale of preventative programs, as well as the delivery of adequate services and support to children in conflict and in contact with the law.

To improve funding for critical services at local level, the developed software for valuation and administration of property tax in the municipality of Sveti Nikole was expanded with administrative tax modules that allows to further increase the tax basis and local tax collection for more than 200%.

The new formula for allocating primary education funding to municipalities, based on the extensive analyses of the public spending challenges, was endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Science. Amending the current salary-heavy budget (89%), the revised formula will increase funding for professional and career development of teacher workforce, enable schools to provide more hours of teaching and ensure efficient resource allocation to provide good quality education. It will also ensure fairness and equity by providing more adequate allocation for schools with more languages of instruction, for children with disabilities, for students who need to travel to school and for children from poor households.

While continuing the preparatory work to establish the innovative Green Financing Facility, UN also commissioned a Study for innovative ways of financing strategic documents that was consulted with large number of stakeholders from the institutions and the private sector. The study will serve as basis for developing financial plans to support implementation of the forthcoming National Development Strategy.

To enhance the contribution of the private sector with the country's sustainable development, UN initiated a survey to

explore if and/or how businesses in North Macedonia are currently working to align activities with SDGs. One of the findings indicate that 51% of the respondents are not familiar with SDGs and what they represent, suggesting a space for substantial engagement with the private sector, starting by raising awareness about Agenda 2030 and showcasing examples of private sector contributions.

With support of the Joint SDG Fund, UN commissioned a comprehensive analysis to assess the effects of the food, energy and finance crisis in a targeted, sustainable and evidence-based manner. Having in mind increasingly scarce budget resources, the project "Identifying Systemic Pathways for Responding to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy and Finance in North Macedonia" produced an analysis of the anti-crisis measures and recommended ways and modalities to make these measures and wider policies more effective and efficient, including by improving the targeting to the needs of the most vulnerable.

In terms of partnership, beyond the regular engagement of UN entities with partners, mid-year review of the Joint workplan implementation and Annual Planning Stakeholder Workshops were organised, bringing together relevant UN entities, government, CSO and international partners to jointly reflect and plan UN SDCF implementation. Further, the UN team discussed current approaches and gaps within each Outcome Group as part of the regular monitoring of the UN SDCF Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Strategy and prioritised engagement with private sector as an area in which more focused approach of the UN would be explored in 2023.



2022 UN Annual Conference dedicated on "Identifying systematic pathways for responding to the Global crisis on Food, Energy and finance in North Macedonia". Credit: UN RCO



# UN coherence, effectiveness & efficiency

In 2022, UN North Macedonia – in strong partnership with the Government – furthered implementing the UN development system reform to achieve greater coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of its in-country work. Year two of SDCF implementation was characterized by consolidating collective and individual entities' efforts to translate the reform principles into practice – through coordinated joint planning, further roll-out of tools and guidance and tools, with continuous focus on results and efficient delivery.

## Programmatic alignment and coherence

A joint workplan (JWP), which compiles all UN development activities within a given year, following the collective discussion and alignment through a consultative process within the UN and with national partners, annually operationalizes SDCF.

2022 JWP was the second North Macedonia annual plan, endorsed by the SDCF JSC in March 2022, after being consulted with more than 90 UN and Government partners and reviewed during mid-year consultations in June and July. The priority activities, benchmarks and targets were compiled in one place and served as a tool for enhancing UN accountability towards all partners, which was emphasized as a welcome development by some donors locally. The 2022 JWP continued to promote collective UN action towards shared inter-agency results and goals, with UN as an enabler and provider of policy advice and expertise.

The UN continued with dedicated efforts to develop joint programmes of multiple UN agencies, to enable the provision of a comprehensive set of UN knowledge and expertise to the country on complex, multi-faceted challenges. In 2022, the UN had seven joint programmes in implementation.

## Transparency and accountability

The JWP 2022 process and its outputs continued to promote the transparency of UN work, which is key to the UN development system reform. Detailed information – including financials – continued to be available to all partners during the

planning and implementation phase, including through public channels. This cemented accountability as the key driver for delivering results and continued to promote collaboration, partnerships, information exchange and avoiding overlaps in programming.

In October, for example, the UN Resident Coordinator hosted a briefing for UN member states and international partners on UN development system progress in North Macedonia, which included the overview of the various knowledge and information products developed by the UN, and the ongoing programming and advocacy activities. Furthermore, key contextual changes and developments that serve as guidance for UN joint work-plans and as resource for national policy making were presented ([2022 Common Country Analysis update](#)).

The funding framework information – key for UN accountability and transparency through providing a single reference and overview of the SDCF funding situation and required, available and projected financial resources, including the amount, source, duration, and sequence – continued to be regularly collected and embedded in the Joint Workplans in 2022. Significant efforts were invested to ensure quality of financial data, cross-checking, and validation within UN and with all donors.

UN North Macedonia also continued to roll out [UN-INFO](#) – UNCT's central online planning, monitoring, and reporting platform that digitizes the joint results frameworks, strategies and other operational coordination tools – in 2022 and promoting it as a key tool to track, support and provide a one-stop-shop for all information on UN's work in the country, together with the in-country tri-lingual corporate website (<https://northmacedonia.un.org>).

## Joint governance and coordination

The SDCF governance structure ensures strategic and day-to-day alignment between UN entities and with all other stakeholders. The March UN-Government high-level Joint Steering Committee (JSC) provided strategic guidance and 2022 JWP endorsement, which was operationalized through regular bilateral and multilateral interaction and coordination between UN entities and partner ministries and other institutions.



Four SDCF Outcome Results Groups (OGs), the main coordination mechanism to ensure coherent UN system-wide approach of analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring at an outcome level, continued their work and met regularly – for internal UN engagement and for joint planning that engages relevant Government counterparts at the outcome level.

UNCT remained the backbone for UN in-country alignment, supported by the Programme Management Team (PMT) and OGs on programmatic opportunities and challenges; Communications Group and Management, Evaluation and Learning Group on advocacy and data; and multiple internal thematic groups. The streamlined and regularized internal structure continued to enhance coherence and alignment of UN work across outcomes and mandates and the country-level implementation of the UN Development System reform, and supported processes such as the National Development Strategy, Transforming Education Summit consultations and others.

The strengthened role of the UN RC remained key for enhanced leadership and improved positioning of the overall work and impact of the UN work in the country 2022. This has only been possible due to the active support for the UN development system reform by the Government, and political support and resources invested globally by donors since 2019, including through the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund that provides funding for the strengthened RC System.

## Joint advocacy

Joint advocacy and public outreach activities to enhance UN visibility and bring its work closer to people continued to rely on storytelling on the in-country corporate [website](#) (social media the web-based Sustainable Development Bulletin, dispatched regularly to more than 2,500 subscribers. UN communications teams continued to invest in collective tools to support data driven communications and advocacy (enhanced press clipping, social media listening services).

In addition to regular campaigns – 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and campaigns around various international days such as the Human Rights Day and the World Environment Day – communications were significantly strengthened during the UN week with one major event in Skopje and for the first time with two events outside of Skopje, one in Kavadarci and one in Struga. New long-term initiative and campaign on environment and climate change was also launched, as a joint advocacy with the EU Delegation. Environment and climate change was also the theme of the UN week activities and included an extremely attractive drawing contest intended to stimulate young children and adolescents to learn more about the SDGs and the challenges we are facing in ensuring protection of the environment and in minimising the effects of climate change. Over 200 children from all corners of the country submitted drawings and the most successful were also invited to the main celebration of the UN Day in 2022, held in Skopje.

The United Nations North Macedonia has made significant strides in strengthening its social media presence and outreach in 2022, growing the fanbase on Facebook and Twitter by more than 10% on a year-to-year basis. The organization has recognized the power of social media in reaching a wide



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. Credit: UN-RCO

er audience and engaging with the public on a more personal level.

One of the key benefits of the UN North Macedonia's social media presence is its ability to connect with young people, who are often the most active users of social media. By engaging with younger audiences, the organization can raise awareness about important issues and inspire a new generation of advocates for sustainable development, climate changes and human rights. Furthermore, the UN North Macedonia has been using social media to collaborate with other organizations, institutions, and stakeholders in promoting their goals and objectives. This has allowed UN North Macedonia to expand the outreach and establish new partnerships that can contribute to achieving UN's goals.

## Efficiencies

UN North Macedonia's delivery of the UN's global Efficiency Agenda is centred around the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0, which is estimated to save \$1.3 million through eliminating transaction costs, saving staff time, and benefiting from economies of scale over the five-year period.

In 2022, the work was centred around the strengthened Operations Management Team (OMT), fully represented of all UN entities with operational presence in the country, Work progressed on the disability accessibility assessment of more than 30 event premises and hotels used by UN across North Macedonia, which add to the collective UN contribution to forwarding the rights of persons with disabilities. Contribution was also made to the healthier and greener environment through identifying collective ways for safe IT disposal used by several UN entities.

While impact of COVID-19 on working modalities decreased in 2022, ensuring business and operations continuity without interruption and at the same time safety and health of its staff remained a top priority. Flexible and remote working arrangements remained in place in select instances, paired with gradual transition back-to-office. At the end of 2022, UN resident workforce in North Macedonia consisted of more than 320 national and international personnel – 56% female and 44% male.



# Evaluation and lessons learned

## PSD evaluation

The final independent evaluation of the strategy preceding SDCF, the 2016-2020 Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD), was conducted at the end of 2019, with results informing SDCF development of the 2021- 2025 SDCF.

The PSD evaluation report listed five recommendation areas for UN to improve its results or coordination.

1. Strengthening of the inter-agency cooperation
2. Data management and programme design and monitoring
3. Sustainability of the undertaken interventions
4. Sustainability of financing; and
5. Strengthening UNCT role in coordination with development partners

UNCT has fully consider the five sets of evaluation recommendations. As in previous years, its observations gave the UN RC and UNCT North Macedonia a baseline overview and had further guided operations during 2022. By the end of 2022, UNCT fully achieved over 70% of the actions while the rest remain applicable and continue throughout the whole SDCF cycle.

An externally conducted evaluation of UNICEF supported interventions aiming to improve the inclusion of children

with disabilities concluded that the interventions contributed greatly to increasing the availability and supply of services as well as qualified human resources and significantly helped to positively shift the paradigm and improve public understanding on disability.

## Lessons learned

Close cooperation between UN entities usually emerges in those areas where there is a clear reform agenda, underpinned by a clearly identified problem and a strong commitment to change by the Government. National ownership is thus an important factor that shapes the interaction of UN entities at the country level.

Another vehicle for close, efficient, and joint UN work is the support received through joint funding sources. Pooled funds and other funding opportunities that support multi-entity proposals can serve as a convening tool that enables best use of cross-thematic UN expertise for addressing complex cross-cutting challenges.

UN can also become rapidly relevant and provide a major contribution in areas where it has had minimal engagement earlier. If there is a clear need in an area of UN expertise, capacity and experience, it is possible for UN entities to come together, coordinate effectively and efficiently deliver in close collaboration with each other.



One of the winning drawings provided by children on the UN environmental children's drawing contest ahead of the UN Day



# Finance & resource mobilization

## Financial overview

In 2022, \$37.4 million was made available to the UN North Macedonia, of which \$31.3 million was expended, resulting in 84% delivery rate. Looking at SDCF outcomes, good governance (\$10.6 million expended) and healthy environment (\$10.3 million) were the most resource-intensive, followed by inclusive prosperity (\$5.3 million) and quality services for all (\$5.1 million).

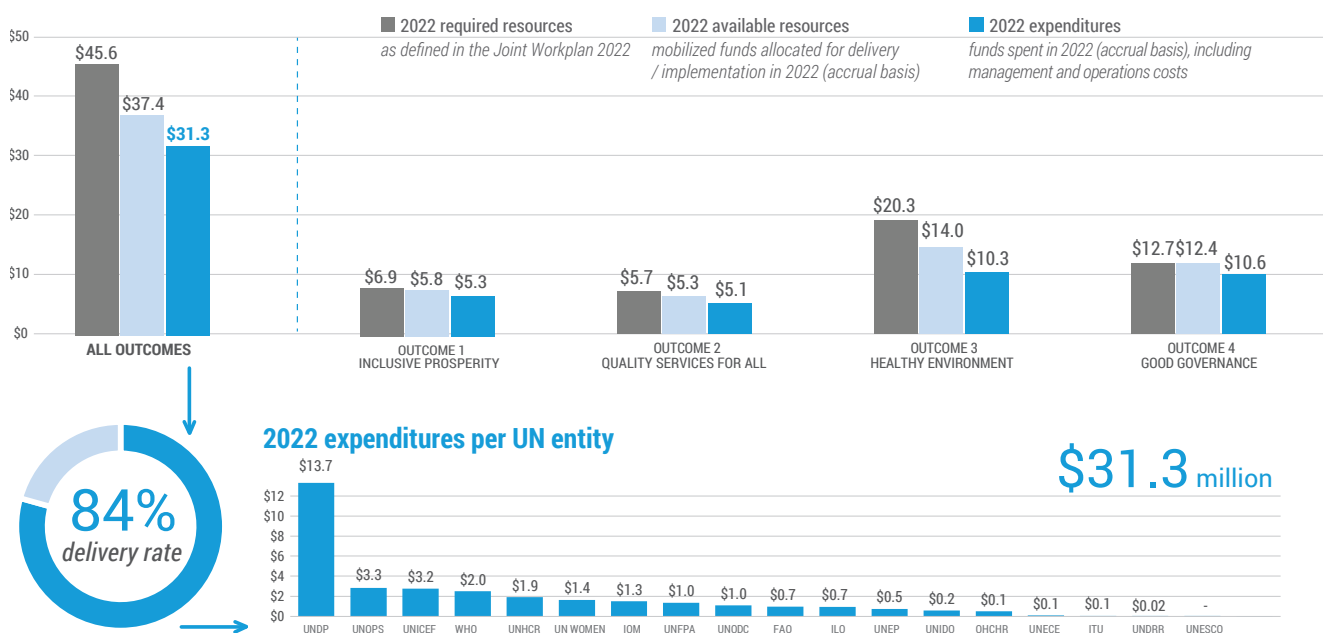
UN successfully mobilised 82% of the required (budgeted) resources for the year two of SDCF, enabling smooth implementation. 2022 UN North Macedonia activities were

received from 29 sources of financing. Most of the available funding was received in the form of project- and programme-specific funding (61%), followed by core funding (14%), government funding (11%), global vertical funds (7%), pooled funds (4%), and thematic funds (3%).

The top ten non-core/non-thematic funding sources based on expenditures in 2022 for UN work in North Macedonia were Switzerland, Sweden, North Macedonia, United States, European Union, Norway, United Kingdom, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund and Slovakia.

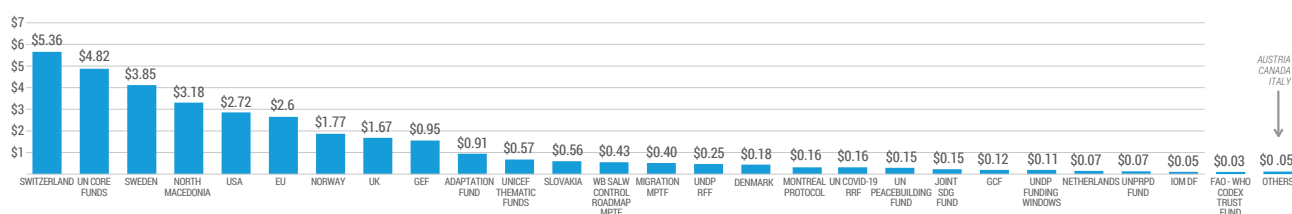
### 2022 required and available resources and expenditures

Data as of 31 March 2023, for 1 January – 31 December 2022, in million US\$



### 2022 expenditures per funding source

Data as of 31 March 2023, for 1 January – 31 December 2022, in million US\$



Source: UN North Macedonia, 2023 available funding and expenditures are based on UN entities' financial systems or financial statements information as of 31 March 2022. UNHCR expenditures are estimates based on historic delivery rate as their expenditure reporting is consolidated only in April.

# Resource mobilization

In late 2021, the UN North Macedonia developed a **UNSDCF Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Strategy (RMPS)**, outlines the objectives of the UN team in joint resource mobilization and partnership and defines focus activities and approaches to ensure a more coherent, streamlined and transparent approach. On resource mobilisation, four quantitative targets and two approaches have been defined. Reporting on progress in achieving these targets for the UNSDCF 2021 – 2025, as at end of year 2 of implementation is provided below.

The UN North Macedonia is largely on track in **mobilising the needed finance for the planned results under the UNSDCF 2021-2025 (RMPS Objective 1)**. At end 2022, USD 124.6 million were available for activities in the five-year period, or 70% of the USD 178 million required funding. At annual level, 82% of the required resources for 2022 were mobilised and made available, and 63% of the required resources for 2023 have been mobilised before the year begin (calculated based on the updated annual required resource target in JWPs 2022 and 2023). For the five-year duration of the SDCF, an overall funding gap of 53.6 million or 30% of the overall required funding remains to be mobilised. In terms of **quality of funding/funding mix**, most of the funding that has been received so far is in the form of non-core resources (\$108.4 million, 87%). Among non-core funding sources, most contributions come from project and

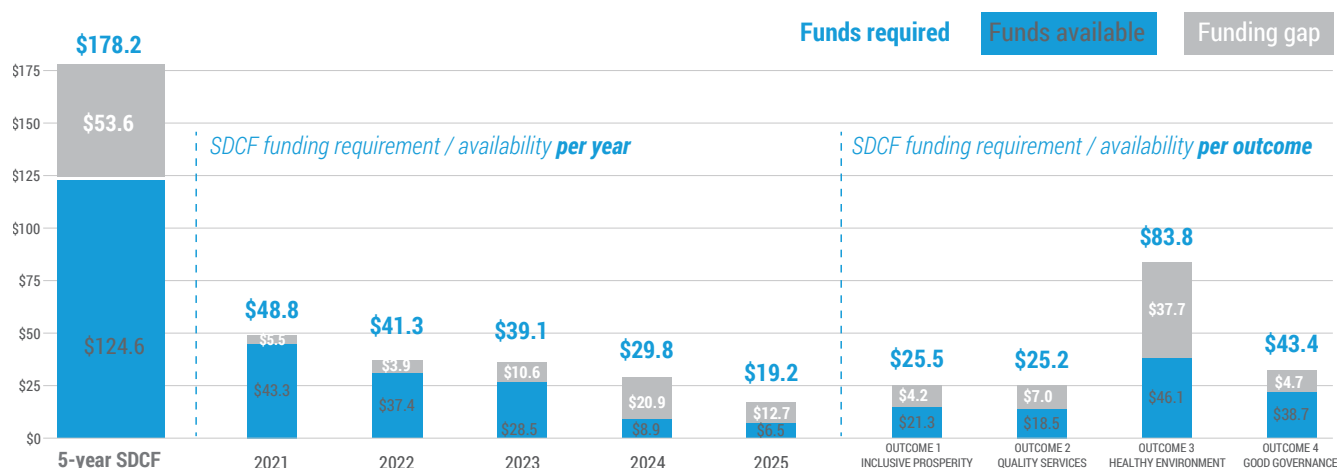
programme specific funding (54%), followed by government funding (14%), pooled funds (10%), global vertical funds (6%), thematic funds (3%), and symbolic private sector funds (less than 1%). The UN has already **succeeded in increasing government co-funding and pooled and vertical funds funding** and reduced reliance on earmarked project and programme funding, resulting in an **improved funding mix**.

The top 10 non-core funding sources for the period 2021-2025 as at end 2022 are Switzerland, North Macedonia, Sweden, European Union, Joint SDG Fund, United Kingdom, Global Environment Facility, United States, Norway, and Adaptation Fund.

UN North Macedonia continued its dedicated work on **increasing joint (multi-agency) programming**, and is in line with the **annual target defined under RMPS Objective 3**. Five new joint programme ideas/joint initiatives were developed in 2022 (two concepts related to human security, a concept on road safety, food-social-energy crisis and a joint initiative on Ohrid Feasibility Study) and four successfully were newly funded/resourced (green finance, main phase, regional youth programme, systemic pathways for the food-social-energy crisis, Ohrid Feasibility Study, innovations for reuse of waste). Significant new funding was mobilised in 2022 for joint programmes/initiatives in the value of **\$9.35 million**.

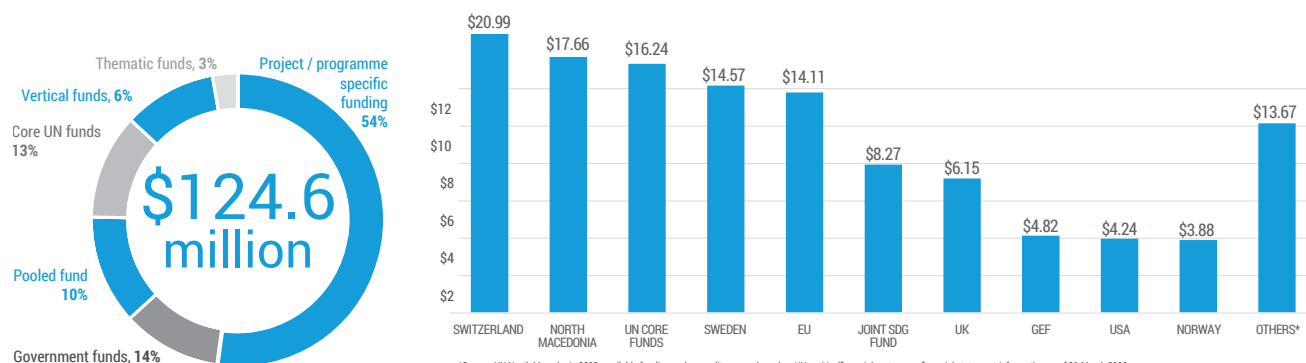
## 2021-2025 SDCF required and available resources

Data as of 31 March 2023 for 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2025, in million US\$



## 2021-2025 mobilized funds per funding modality and funding source

Data as of 31 March 2023, for 1 January – 31 December 2022, in million US\$



\*Source: UN North Macedonia 2023; available funding and expenditures are based on UN entities financial systems or financial statement information as of 31 March 2023

# UN in North Macedonia in 2023

In 2023, UN North Macedonia will continue to work closely with the Government and Macedonian society towards accelerated sustainable development. Targeted and focused expert advice and support, underpinned by the focus on leaving no one behind will remain the key pinnacle for engagement.

In that context, UN will work with partners to create internationally competitive and resilient SMEs, including in the creative and culture sectors. UN will continue engaging with the partners to enhance employability of vulnerable groups, such as youth, hard to employ people and people with disabilities with right set of skills, support services and lifelong learning; and assist the authorities to improve the quality of jobs, emphasising health and safety aspects. Gender-responsive business environment and agri/rural development policies, as well as supporting modern, standards-aligned regulatory framework and social services will remain in the core of UN policy work, while setting the base for digital development. To support a competitive rural economy activity, UN will continue to work on critical aspects of agricultural land consolidation and strengthened animal health management, also tackling food security in the context of the ongoing multidimensional crisis. Addressing adverse demographic aspects, UN will also support the authorities to facilitate productive engagement of the diaspora in the country development.

UN will continue to support the ongoing healthcare, education and social protection reforms that address systemic challenges. The new policy development and analytical unit that will be established in the Ministry of Health with UN technical and advisory support will aim to enhance the capacities in addressing the key health system challenges. Education reform support to primary school optimization and improving the budgetary allocations system in primary and secondary education will be enhanced. Support for policies and service development to improve the protection of most vulnerable categories will continue with focus on prevention from all forms of violence as well as persons with disabilities, migrants and asylum seekers.

A number of new flagship activities are planned to start in the area of environment and climate change, in addition to continuing programmes: two programmes for addressing air pollution throughout the country, with significant investments in green heating, green transport, and public building energy efficiency; extension of green loans for SMEs and households through the Green Financing Facility; significant investment in improved irrigation infrastructure in Radovish for more climate resilient agriculture; new programme for implementation of the enhanced NDC as well as the preparatory activities for the National Adaptation Plan; comprehensive support to Prespa Lake region, Feasibility Study for the Ohrid Coastal Urban Plan; and the drafting of a National Strategy on Soil Protection. Work will continue on environmental education, preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and hazardous and e-waste management.

UN remains committed to support the finalization of the National Development Strategy (NDS) through open and inclusive debates, both with experts and citizens; and assist with building strong, resilient, and transparent institutions with

a clear vision and able to bring a transformative change on a long run, but also in the lives of people, especially stateless people. Months leading towards the fourth Universal Periodic Review of the country will be used as an opportunity for enhanced engagement and support to the country in meeting its human rights commitments. In particular, UN is committed to support the Government to end statelessness by 2024 and will continue to work closely with national authorities in finding systemic solutions for undocumented and stateless people to have legal identity and enjoy full range of rights.



One of the winning drawings provided by children on the UN environmental children's drawing contest ahead of the UN Day



# Annexes

## [1] UN North Macedonia partners

### Government and state agencies

Academy of Judges and Prosecutors  
Administrative Court  
Agency for Real State Cadastre  
Agency for Youth and Sports  
Anti-Discrimination Commission  
Bureau for Regional Development  
Bureau of Education  
Centre for Social Work  
Centres for Development of the planning regions  
City of Skopje  
Crisis Management Centre  
Customs Agency  
Directorate for Protection and Rescue  
Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs  
Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration  
Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Political System and Good Governance  
E-health Directorate  
Employment Services Agency  
Food and Veterinary Agency  
Fund for Innovation and Technological Development  
Health Insurance Fund  
High Administrative Court  
Institute of Social Activities  
Inter-ministerial Working Group for the Adoption of Migration Policy  
Judiciary  
Local Self-government Units  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy  
Ministry of Culture  
Ministry of Defence  
Ministry of Economy  
Ministry of Education and Science  
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Information Society and Administration  
Ministry of Interior  
Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy  
Ministry of Local Self-Government  
Minister without Portfolio Responsible for Diaspora  
Municipal Centres for Social Welfare (MCSW)  
Municipalities  
National Bank  
National Committee for Countering Violent Extremism and Counterterrorism and Inter-Agency Working Group on Reintegration  
National Committee for CVE and CT  
National Coordination Body on Implementation of the CRPD  
National Extension Agency  
National Public Health Institute  
Parliament  
President's Cabinet  
Prime Minister's Cabinet  
Public Prosecutors Office for Prosecution of Organized Crime and Corruption  
Public Revenue Office  
Regional Employment Offices  
Secretariat for European Affairs  
State Audit Office

State Labour Inspectorate  
State Statistical Office  
Supreme Court  
Office of the National Coordinator for CVE and CT  
Vocational Training Institutes

### Civil society organizations

National Youth Delegate to the UN General Assembly  
Akcija Zdruzenska  
Association of Finance Officers (AFO)  
Association of Social Workers  
Association of Special Educators  
Association of Units of Local Self Government  
Association ZMAI  
Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development  
Centre for Research and Policy Making  
Chambers of Commerce  
Connecting Natural Values and People - Office  
Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency - SPPMD  
Employers' organizations  
Farmers' associations  
Healthy Options Project Skopje  
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights  
International Union for Conservation of Nature - Eastern Europe and Central Asia  
IZBOR STRUMICA  
Macedonian Ecological Society  
ESSA Synergy Skopje  
Macedonian Medical Association  
Macedonian Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians  
Macedonian Red Cross  
Macedonian Young Lawyers Association  
National Federation of Farmers  
National Roma Centrum  
NGO SEGA PRILEP  
Ombudsman  
Open the Windows  
Organizations of persons with disabilities  
Producer organizations  
Professional Associations  
Trade Union of Health Workers  
Trade Unions  
Youth Educational Forum

### Academia

Association for Research, Communications and Development  
Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science  
Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering  
Faculty of Law Justinianus Primus  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - Skopje  
Health Education and Research Association  
Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts  
Medical Faculty Skopje  
South-East European University  
State Institute of Agriculture  
University Clinic of Psychiatry  
University Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics  
University Goce Delcev, Shtip  
University of Southampton

### Multipartner councils

Economic and Social Council of North Macedonia

Local Economic and Social Councils of North Macedonia  
National Commission for UNESCO  
National Coordination Body for Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect  
National Council for Gender Equality  
National Tripartite Social and Economic Council  
State Council for Prevention of Child Delinquency  
UNESCO National Commission

### International partners

Austrian Embassy (ADA)  
British Embassy  
Central European Bank (CEB)  
Consular Office of the Slovak Republic  
Delegation of the European Union in North Macedonia (EUD)  
Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-eastern Europe (DPPI SEE)  
Embassy of France  
Embassy of Sweden (SIDA)  
Embassy of Switzerland (SDC, SECO)  
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)  
European Investment Bank  
European Training Foundation (ETF)  
General Consulate of Belgium  
Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)  
German Embassy  
German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs  
German Federal Ministry of Health  
Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)  
International Centre for Migration  
INTERPOL  
Policy Development (ICMPD)  
International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (IUCN – ECARO)  
Lions Club International Foundation  
Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)  
Netherlands Embassy  
Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)  
OSCE Mission to Skopje  
Royal Norwegian Embassy  
Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)  
Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)  
United States Embassy (USAID)  
UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

### Private sector and others

Bar association  
Business Confederation of Macedonia  
Chamber of Mediators  
Diaspora  
Doctor's Chamber  
Media  
Primary care facilities  
Safe Motherhood Committee  
National Commission on Cervical Cancer  
Prevention and Early Detection  
Various companies

## [2] UN joint programmes implemented in 2022

### Evidence-based migration policy planning and discourse in North Macedonia

Funded by the [Migration MPTE](#), implemented by IOM, UNHCR and UNFPA; \$1.5 million, 30 months duration (1 October 2020 – 30 April 2023)

### Safe and Innovative Health Services in times of Covid 19

Funded by the [Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund](#), implemented by UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF; \$850,000, 14.5 months duration (1 January 2021 – 31 March 2022)

### From Knowledge and Engagement – to Empowerment and Participation (KEEP)

Funded by [UN PRPD](#) and implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA, \$400,000, 36 months duration (February 2021 – February 2024)

### Green Financing Facility to Combat Climate Change and Air Pollution,

Funded by Joint SDG Fund, implemented by UNDP, IOM and UNECE, \$7.97 million / total financing of \$46 million (April 2022 – March 2026)

### Regional Youth Project

Funded by UN Peacebuilding Fund, implemented by UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNICEF, USD 4.5 million, of which \$0.65 million for North Macedonia activities (May 2022 – May 2024)



### Bio-hack My World

Funded by Green Shark Challenge, implemented by UNDP and UNICEF, USD 0.25 million, May 2022 – May 2023.

### Identifying Systemic Pathways for Responding to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy and Finance in North Macedonia

Funded by Joint SDG Fund, implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and FAO, USD 0.25 million, July 2022-February 2023

### [3] SDCF outcome indicator trends

OUTCOME INDICATOR	CATEGORY	BASELINE	BASELINE YEAR	TARGET(2025)	ACHIEVED (2021)	LATEST VALUE	TREND
 <b>Inclusive prosperity</b>							
<b>Employment rate (20-64)</b>	Total (20-64 years)	59.2	2019	63.1	59.44	61.8	↗
	Female	48.4	2019	49.2	49.7	51.7	↗
	Male	69.8	2019	74.3	68.9	71.8	↗
	Youth (15-29) Total	34.4	2019	34.9	32.63	34.4	↗
	Female	28	2019	28.2	27.79	28.5	↗
	Male	40.4	2019	41.8	37.2	40.2	↗
<b>Proportion of informal employment in total economy</b>	Total	16.1	2019	14	12.93	12.3	↗
	Female	13	2019	not set	10.1	9.2	↗
	Male	18.1	2019	not set	14.89	14.5	↗
	Youth (15-24) total	24.01	2019	not set	16.53	17.8	↘
<b>Percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education and training</b>	15-29 years	24.5	2019	22	24.26	22.8	↗
	Female	28.3	2019	28.2	25.48	24.5	↗
	Male	20.9	2019	20	23.1	21.1	↘
	15-24 years	18.1	2019	15.8	17.82	18	↘
	Female	19.2	2019	19.1	16.83	18.4	↘
	Male	17.1	2019	16.9	18.75	17.6	↘
	25-29 years	34.9	2019	33.3	34.7	31.6	↗
	Female	43.1	2019	43	39.45	35.8	↗
	Male	27.1	2019	25.6	30.19	27.6	↗
<b>Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person</b>		-1.3	2019	2.7	1.54	2.4	↗
<b>Global Competitiveness Index 4.0</b>	Rank	82/141	2019	67	82	not available	↔
	Points	57.3	2019	not set	57.3	not available	↔
<b>Working Poverty rate</b>	Total	8.8	2019	7	10	12.5	↘
	Female	6	2019	not set	not available	8.9	↘
	Male	10.6	2019	not set	not available	15.1	↘
 <b>Quality services for all</b>							
<b>Percentage of children age 36-59 months attending an early childhood education program (attendance rate)</b>	Total	39.8	2019	60	36 (2020)	41	↗
	Girls	47.76	2019	60	not available	47	↘
	Boys	52.24	2019	60	not available	53	↗
<b>Proportion of children and young people at the end of lower secondary education, achieving at least minimum proficiency level</b>	Reading	45	2018	55	next survey in 2022	Survey postponed	↔
	Numeracy	39	2018	49	next survey in 2022	Survey postponed	↔
<b>Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care, % of population aged 16 and over</b>	Total	2.3	2018	2	2.5 (2019)	1.7 (2020)	↗
	Female	2.6	2018	2.2	2.4	1.8	↗
	Male	2	2018	1.8	2.6	1.7	↗
<b>Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme</b>	All vaccines coverage	95	2018	>95	<90 (2020)	<90 (2021)	↘
	3 doses of DTP3	92.5	2018	95	83.9	80.9	↘
	Second dose of MCV2	74.8	2018	95	68.5	80.4	↗
<b>Probability of dying from any of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases (CRD) between age 30 and exact age 70</b>		20.3	2016	18.5	22.73 (2019)	No data	↔
<b>Modern contraceptive prevalence rate</b>		14	2018	next survey in 2023	20	No data	↔
<b>Neonatal mortality rate</b>		3.8	2019	3.5	4.2	4.5(2021)	↗
<b>Proportion of households covered by social protection cash transfers</b>		8	2019	14.5	30.9	44.4	↗

OUTCOME INDICATOR	CATEGORY	BASELINE	BASELINE YEAR	TARGET(2025)	ACHIEVED (2021)	LATEST VALUE	TREND
<b>Human Development Index</b>	Index points	0.759	2019	0.78	0.774	0.770	↘
	Rank	82/189	2019	not set	82	78	↘
<b>Proportion of population living below the national poverty line</b>	Total	21.9	2018	15.5	21.6	21.8 (2020)	↘
	Female	22	2018	16.8	22	21.0	↗
	Male	21.8	2018	14.2	21.1	21.9	↘
	0-17 years old	29.3	2018	not set	27.8	30.3	↘
	Youth (15-24)	29.7	2018	not set	27.4	28.6	↘
	Adult (16+)	20.6	2018	not set	20.4	20.1	↗
	25+	19.2	2018	not set	19.3	21.1	↘



## Healthy environment

<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Gg CO2-eq)</b>		8,021	2016	6196	12,290* (2019)	Biannual data	↘
<b>Proportion of a country designated total area that is protected</b>		10.34	2019	15	13.47	13.9	↔
<b>Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter PM10 (µg/m3)</b>		51.32	2019	<40	41.90	35.91	↗
<b>INFORM Risk Index (2020) (on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is very low and 10 is very high)</b>	Points	2.6	2020	2	2.5	2.4	↗
	Risk level	low	2020	very low	Low	Low	↔
<b>System for integrated pest management in place</b>		no system in place	2020	system fully functional	no	no	↔
<b>Average use of pesticide per area of cropland (kg/ha)</b>		0.22	2017	EU average: 3.14	0.3	0.3	↔
<b>Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)</b>	Points	33	2020	60	40	40	↔
	Level	medium-low	2020	medium-high	medium-low	medium-low	↔
<b>Renewable energy share in the total gross final</b>	Energy consumption	18.18	2018	29	19.22 (2020)	17.29	↘
	Electricity consumption	24.84	2018	46	23.53 (2020)	21.53	↘



## Good governance

<b>Rule of law index (overall, on a scale from 0 to 1)</b>		0.53	2020	not set	0.53	0.53	↔
<b>Gender equality index</b>		62	2019	65	next survey in 2022	64.5	↗
<b>Level of establishment of permanent national child rights coordinating mechanism</b>		weak	2020	established	weak	weak	↔
<b>The country has a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment</b>		no	2020	yes	no	no	↔
<b>Worldwide Governance Indicators</b>	Average	49.72	2018	>60	52.92	52.36	↘
	Voice & accountability				50.24	52.17	↗
	Political stability & absence of violence/terrorism				50.47	50	↘
	Government effectiveness				57.69	50	↘
	Regulatory quality				68.75	66.35	↘
	Rule of law				52.4	52.4	↔
	Control of corruption				37.98	43.27	↗
<b>Open Budget Index</b>	Transparency	41	2019	>=45	41	36	↘
<b>Percentage of official statistics aligned with EU acquis</b>		67	2019	95	67 (2019)	67	↔
<b>Level of general satisfaction with public services at the local level (on a scale from 1 to 5)</b>	Total	3.07	2020	3.5	2.97	3.2	↗
	Female	3.12	2020	3.6	2.97	3.21	↗
	Male	3.02	2020	3.4	2.97	3.19	↗
	Urban	3.09	2020	3.5	2.83	3.26	↗
	Rural	3.05	2020	3.5	3.08	3.16	↗
<b>The level of the alignment of the refugee protection and migration systems with the international and EU standards</b>		partially aligned	2020	fully aligned	mostly aligned	mostly aligned	↗
<b>Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive</b>		19.8	2020	25	19.3	24	↗



## [4] Acronyms & abbreviations

BOS	Business Operations Strategy	NEET	Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy	NES	National Employment Strategy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	OG	SDCF Outcome group
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture	OPDs	Organizations of persons with disabilities
DV	Domestic violence	PAs	Protected areas
eNDC	Enhanced nationally determined contribution	PMT	UN Programme Management Team
EPR	Environmental Performance Review	PSD	Partnership for Sustainable Development
ESA	Employment Support Agency	PWD	Person with disabilities
ESC	Economic and Social Council	RC	Resident Coordinator
EU	European Union	RCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
GCF	Green Climate Fund	RMPS	Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy
GHG	Greenhouse gas	SDCF	Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
GRB	Gender-responsive budgeting	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	SEEU	South-East European University
HCFCs	Ozone depleting substances	SEL	Social and emotional learning
HDI	Human Development Index	SSO	State Statistical Office
HORECA	Hotels, restaurants, and cafes	UN	United Nations
HOTAM	Association of employers in hotel and catering	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ICF	International classification of Functioning, Disability and Health	VET	Vocational education and training
ILS	International Labour Standards	WAV	Violence against women
JSC	Joint Government-UN SDCF Steering Committee		
MAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy		
MAP	Modified atmosphere packaging		
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy		
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science		
MoEPP	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning		
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification		
NDS	National Development Strategy		



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