Working together to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Joint annex on implementation of the common chapter of the Strategic Plans 2018-2021 of
UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women

Summary
This joint annex presents progress on the implementation of the common chapter of the Strategic Plans, 2018-2021, of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in response to a request by the Executive Boards of the four agencies for "details on the implementation of the common chapter in [their] annual reporting and, when applicable and as appropriate, at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards". The approach of working together is also measured annually by indicators from the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR) contained in the QCPR annexes attached to the respective annual report of each agency.

I.   Executive summary

1.   This report presents progress on the first year of implementation of the common chapter of the Strategic Plans, 2018-2021 of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women. The chapter spells out a commitment of the four agencies to work collaboratively in compliance with their respective mandates and in partnership with other members of the United Nations family to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, committed to the principles of universality, equality and leaving no one behind.

2.   The implementation of the common chapter builds on existing partnerships and collaborative approaches among the four agencies to support Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, the first year of implementation of the agencies' Strategic Plans, 2018-2021, the common chapter initiative created a strong enabling environment to enhance joined-up work among agencies.

3.   Key common chapter achievements include:

(a) Establishment of effective implementation and coordination arrangements to advance the common chapter at headquarters and regional levels;
(b) Complementary contributions to development results in each of the six key areas of collaboration specified in the common chapter as well as enhanced country and regional collaboration across all six areas to provide more integrated support to countries;
(c) Leveraging important collaborative partnerships with other United Nations entities as well as international financial institutions and other partners;
(d) Identification of eight regionally-based accelerator initiatives, laying the foundation for work in 2019 to accelerate the achievement of collective results;
(e) Continued progress in implementing common services at country level, improving transparency and further harmonizing results-based management; and
(f) Joint planning by the four evaluation offices for an evaluation of the common chapter over the period 2019 to 2021.

4.   Performance in each of these areas is reported, concluding with a set of year-one reflections on lessons and challenges.

II.   Introduction

5.   In May 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/279 on repositioning the United Nations development system (UNDS) in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR). To operationalize this resolution, the United Nations has embarked on a far-reaching and ambitious reform that will make it more effective and efficient in supporting Member States to achieve global aspirations. The common chapter anticipates a repositioned UNDS, in the context of the QCPR, that offers a coherent and harmonized value proposition to support Member States towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During 2018, the four agencies acted using the common chapter to leverage their collective collaborative advantage and to "crowd in" collaboration within United Nations country teams (UNCTs).

6.   Through the establishment of a common chapter coordination structure at the global, regional and country levels, the four agencies further strengthened work to accelerate together towards achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals, through doing four things differently: planning together; implementing collaboratively; enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships; and enhancing efficiency across the six key areas of collaborative advantage: (a) eradicating poverty; (b) addressing climate change; (c) improving adolescent and maternal health; (d) achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; (e) ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for development; and (f) emphasizing that development is a central goal in itself, and that in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations the development work of the entities of the UNDS can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in accordance with national plans, needs and priorities and respecting national ownership

7.   Reporting on the common set of Sustainable Development Goal indicators in the integrated results and resources framework (IRRF) tracks the collaborative contributions of the four agencies to the Goals through the implementation of the common chapter and is attached as an annex. Other indicators that reflect the contribution of each agency are also presented in the respective agency IRRFs. Relevant QCPR indicators are incorporated in the respective QCPR annexes of the agencies' annual results reports to monitor how the agencies work together to achieve organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

8.   Agencies provided two joint briefings in 2018 to their Executive Boards on progress on the implementation of the common chapter, at the joint meeting of the Boards in June and during a joint informal consultation in August.
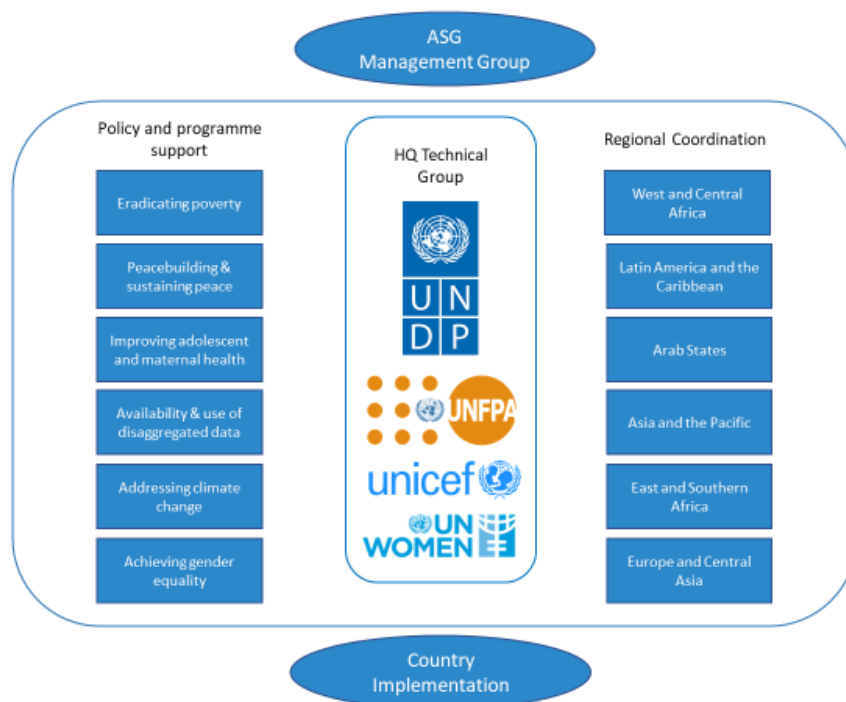
III.   Effective implementation and coordination

9.   The implementation of the common chapter is integral to the implementation of the Strategic Plans of the four agencies. The common chapter requires the four agencies to go beyond business-as-usual approaches, to more effectively offer responses to global development challenges and aspirations and demonstrate the value added of working together. In this regard, the four agencies made distinct management and technical arrangements in order to provide strong momentum for common chapter implementation.

10.   The heads of the four agencies provided an early internal communication to regional and country offices in May 2018, outlining the way forward in implementation of the common chapter. In order to provide effective and ongoing support for operationalizing the common chapter, Assistant Secretaries-General from the four agencies constituted a management team for the implementation of the common chapter, meeting quarterly to review progress and set priorities and ensuring regular communication to regional directors. These arrangements are supported by a technical team comprised of senior technical experts from the four agencies to take forward implementation and coordinate actions at headquarters level. Programmatic support is provided by thematic advisers from each agency in each of the six areas of collaboration as required.

11.   At the regional level, the regional directors of the four agencies manage coordination of the common chapter, with a lead agency designated in each region as follows: Arab States and Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA; West and Central Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP; Eastern and Southern Africa, UNICEF; and Europe and Central Asia, UN-Women. Regional directors coordinate communication on the common chapter with their country offices, with the focus of action driven by the respective UNCTs based on their specific contexts.

Figure: Implementation and coordination arrangements

III. Joint approaches to support the 2030 Agenda

12.   Over 2018, there has been steady progress driven by regional and country teams towards closer and expanded collaboration in the six areas of collaborative advantage.

Joint planning and advocacy

13.   Common chapter implementation is mainstreamed though existing planning and programming approaches at country level. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) formulation process is a key focus for joint engagement, and under the UNDS reforms will be the most important instrument for planning and implementation of United Nations development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Europe and Central Asia region, the four agencies are galvanizing support to the Common Country Assessments and planning processes in order to prepare for the completion of more than 10 UNDAFs in 2019. In Ecuador, among several other countries, the common chapter is reflected in the 2019-2022 UNDAF and the new country programme documents of the four agencies, with a focus on working together to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Ecuador; specific areas of collaboration are now under development.

14.   Across the regions, coordination between the four agencies is being enhanced with agencies systematically collaborating through regional coordination mechanisms and through thematic working groups or issue-based coalitions. Regional offices and many UNCTs used the opportunity of the common chapter to take stock of the joint work, discuss the new ways forward and identify potential areas and

partnerships for collaboration. In the Latin American and the Caribbean region, 15 UNCTs have joint workplans for UNDAF results, where not only the interventions of the four agencies contribute to a common result, but in many cases, complementary programmes are implemented together.

15.   Agencies are also collaborating on joint planning and advocacy tools. In the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, agencies have formed issue-based coalitions and prioritized advocacy efforts towards: (a) strengthening the resilience and well-being of adolescents and young people and fostering their participation and engagement in their communities and society; (b) gender equality and women's empowerment; and (c) data and Sustainable Development Goal monitoring. In 2018, a joint advocacy paper on social protection floors was developed, along with a common position paper on HIV and other communicable diseases, and an inter-agency guidance note on gender equality and the Goals.

16.   In 2018, two or more agencies working on the common chapter participated in 14 Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) missions, with all four agencies participating in the Haiti and Palestine missions. "SDG Road Maps" resulting from the missions are now in progress and will include joint actions from the UNCTs, including the four agencies. MAPS missions have also provided fertile ground for the four agencies to ramp up work together with, for example, in the Europe and Central Asia region, a common focus on data through the issue-based coalition on Sustainable Development Goal data.

Joint implementation

17.   A significant number of joint efforts have been developed in 2018 in each of the six key common chapter areas of collaboration, involving two or more of the agencies and often involving additional development partners for stronger results for the Goals. The following section outlines the results contributions from a selection of the many initiatives under each of the common chapter collaborative areas.[1]

Eradicating poverty

18.   The focus of the common chapter is to enable full integration of the 2030 Agenda, as relevant in each context, in national, subnational and sectoral development plans, policies and investment frameworks; and to support the adoption of substantial, context-responsive and targeted measures designed to benefit the poorest and most disadvantaged groups in society to improve their social and economic status. Joint work under the common chapter in 2018 contributed to:

(a) **Protect and provide opportunities for the most vulnerable population.** UNDP and UNICEF, together with the African Development Bank and the World Food Programme (WFP), conducted a rapid assessment on the impact of the economic crisis on the urban population in Sudan to form the basis for joint interventions for poverty eradication in 2019. A landmark study on the socioeconomic status of the undocumented population in Sabah, Malaysia by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF identified challenges and solutions to support poverty reduction and assessed the risks of inaction. In Thailand, evidence provided by the UNCT contributed to the nationalization of the child multidimensional poverty index. In Albania, the four agencies are working together to ensure a fully-funded system of social care service at local level for the most vulnerable people. The four agencies with other partners also engaged in promoting legal reform, strengthening service delivery capacity and empowering the vulnerable groups to participate and lobby for their rights and entitlements;

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[1] The following section provides selected examples of how the four agencies have worked together in 2018. It is not intended to give a full picture of the overall collaborative efforts undertaken at the global, regional, sub-regional and country levels.

(b) **Improved service delivery.** In Mongolia, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Asian Development Back, worked with the Government to identify and address bottlenecks in service delivery for the poor through institutional strengthening and public finance management;

(c) **Social inclusion of persons with disability.** In Dominican Republic, agencies worked to strengthen capacities for building a disability-inclusive development model. The joint efforts supported girls and boys with disabilities to access school education, along with decent work and employment and social participation, in a more integrated, cohesive and cost-efficient way.

Addressing climate change

19.   The focus of common chapter work is to raise policy and public awareness of climate change and the urgency of a multisectoral response; and to assist countries to make the fastest possible progress towards sustainability and inclusion as they meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Collaboration under the common chapter contributed to the following in 2018:

(a) **Improved resilience.** As part of their efforts to strengthen resilience of families and vulnerable groups affected by drought in the Cuban province of Santiago, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP developed a water management chain with articulated results and strengthened local-level partnerships among different actors, promoting capacity strengthening and community participation and empowerment. In the Dominican Republic, UNICEF and UNDP worked jointly with the Government on the design of the National Action Protocol for Social Protection Against Climate Shocks, to strengthen the capabilities of the social protection system for emergency preparedness, response and recovery;

(b) **Disaster preparedness**. In Viet Nam, UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women, as part of the United Nations Result Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, mobilized seed funding from the Delivery Together Facility to implement data layering for disaster preparedness;

(c) **Disaster risk reduction (DRR)**. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a new joint initiative on DRR involving UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, as well as the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), was finalized. Implementation will start in 2019 in 10 selected locations to improve DRR capacities at the local level. UNDP, UN-Women and UNESCO jointly implemented the strengthening human security project in Haiti, which empowers vulnerable communities and builds their capacities for reducing the impact of disaster risks. In Cabo Verde, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA jointly commissioned a climate landscape analysis for children that addressed: an overview of the climate, environment and energy situation, how children are being impacted by related issues and how the Government and development partners are responding to children's needs. The recommendations of the study form a basis for increased collaboration in the areas of DRR reduction planning, the inclusion of climate change adaptation in water and sanitation programmes in schools and inclusion of children and young people as climate champions;

(d) **Low carbon development strategies**. In Malawi, UNDP and UNICEF collaborated to draft a "power for health" master plan to guide the implementation of renewable energy in support of a low-carbon development strategy for the health sector.

Improving adolescent and maternal health

20.   The focus of common chapter work is to support advocacy and policy dialogue and provision of an essential package for improving maternal and newborn health; provision of information and services for preventing HIV infection among adolescents and youth, and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and acceleration of progress towards universal access to reproductive health services. Initiatives in 2018 contributed to:

(a) **Evidence to foster innovative and improved solutions**. UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women in Albania jointly funded and supported the Demographic and Health Survey in obtaining important demographic, health and gender data. The data and evidence of health inequities and their multisectoral determinants provided by the Every Woman Every Child programme in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, were essential for the adoption and implementation of pro-equity health strategies and interventions;

(b) **Improved strategies for adolescent and maternal health.** In 2018, the H6 partnership[2] provided joint support to Every Woman Every Child at the global level and coordinated technical support to countries. The joint support of UNFPA and UNICEF, with WHO, culminated in the first reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health strategy in Libya, with coordinated action including a package of low-cost and high-impact programmes for actions and scaling-up. The Guide for Implementing the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health in the Latin America and the Caribbean, developed under the joint efforts of the four agencies and beyond, became an important tool for countries to adapt and reach their health goals;

(c) **Eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM)**. The joint work of UNFPA and UNICEF to eliminate FGM reached nearly 100,000 girls and women who received prevention and protection services on FGM and nearly 7 million people participated in education, communication and social mobilization platforms to promote the elimination of FGM;

(d) **Improving the quality of reproductive maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health**. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNFPA and UNICEF enhanced coordinated support to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to improve the quality of maternal health and neonatal care through the development of sexual and reproductive health and neonatal essential service packages. In the Philippines, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and WHO, supported the passage of the HIV and AIDS Policy Act in 2018, which allows persons aged 15 to 17 years to undergo HIV testing without the consent of a parent or guardian. The common programme in Kenya as part of the H6 partnership harnessed the collective strengths of UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women, UNAIDS, WHO and the World Bank Group to increase the utilization of integrated quality reproductive maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services. In Kenya, joint efforts for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health included a new partnership with Safaricom, the largest cellular phone network provider in Kenya, utilizing mobile technology to develop a joint maternal and child health programme in Lamu County.

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[2] The H6 partnership (formerly H4+) harnesses the collective strengths of the UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women, WHO, UNAIDS, and the World Bank Group to advance the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy and support country leadership and action for women's, children's and adolescents' health

Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

21.   The common chapter promotes the participation of women in decision-making and helps achieve women's economic empowerment; strengthens the health of women and adolescents; supports ending violence against women and girls and eliminating harmful practices; promotes the well-being of women and girls in all settings; and involves men and boys in advancing gender equality. Joint efforts by the four agencies contributed to:

(a) **Eliminating violence against woman**. In Europe and Central Asia, a joint study undertaken by UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) analysed the root causes of all forms of violence against women and girls, and provided systematic recommendations to address physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. To support countries in Central Asia in their efforts to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls, the four agencies organized a regional conference which brought together parliamentarians, representatives of key line ministries, national human rights and gender activists and members of civil society from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, together with regional and international experts and representatives of United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations, for innovative and multisectoral partnerships;

(b) **Gender data and analysis**. In Cuba, an inter-agency project supported data analysis of gender inequality and helped the country incorporate gender equality into decision-making processes;

(c) **Ending child marriage.** Joint UNFPA and UNICEF work to accelerate action to end child marriage provided 3 million adolescent girls aged 10-19 with prevention and care interventions to address child marriage in 2018. UNFPA and UNICEF in Nepal contributed to the revision of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage in 2018 and supported efforts to end child marriage using a multisectoral approach, promoting both the retention of girls in school and enhancing access to adolescent-friendly health services. In Niger, where it is estimated that around three of every four young girls were married before the age of 18, the multipronged *Illimin* programme engaged religious and traditional leaders, expanded village child protection committees, organized community dialogues on the harms of child marriage and intervened with parents seeking to marry off their daughters. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women are implementing the Region Free of Child Marriage and Early Unions: 2018-2022 initiative to address the most challenging causes and consequences of child marriage and early unions;

(d) **Promoting the well-being of women with disabilities**. In Serbia, through the programme on autonomy, voice and participation of women with disabilities in sustainable and measurable terms, UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, together with ILO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), worked to strengthen voice and participation of women with disabilities. The collective interventions went beyond addressing discriminatory actions to also providing channels for voice and agency, raising the women's self-confidence and increasing their power and authority to take decisions in all areas;

(e) **Preventing violent extremism**. In April 2018, the regional gender thematic group issued a position paper on gender and violent extremism at the high-level event, 'Women, violence and terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel region: Towards a regional and international response'. The work contributed to a call to action for the international community, States and Governments of West Africa, United Nations agencies and international and local non-governmental organizations to take effective measures to

systematically involve women in all initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism and fighting terrorism.

Ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development

22.   Joint work under the common chapter aims to increase the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data for sustainable development and support the development of national statistical capacities that are vital for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, as adapted in each country context. Programmes in 2018 contributed to:

(a) **Nationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals supported by comprehensive and consistent data systems**. In Tunisia, 2018 saw a completed data gap analysis of indicators for the Goals, rapid assessment of the level of alignment of national and sectoral development strategies with the targets for the Goals, and the development of strategic paper on leaving no one behind. In Morocco, cross-cutting analysis of the national gender equality agenda, the national strategy on disabilities and the national strategy on children, helped the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development to identify linkages between targets for the Goals and the Ministry's policies and programmes, and prioritize targets and adapted indicators to monitor the Ministry's contribution to the Goals. In Indonesia, the UNCT Data for SDGs Working Group supported the Government to apply internationally accepted definitions and metadata, enrich the interactive and user-friendly dashboard for all Goals for monitoring and reporting and for policy development. In Myanmar, the Government was supported to undertake a review of availability of Goal-related data and prepare a plan for filling gaps;

(b) **Availability and use of disaggregated data**. The four agencies supported national household surveys in the Europe and Central Asia region, including Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), and violence against women and population censuses in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo,[3] Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In Kiribati, UNFPA and UNICEF provided support for much-needed information on the situation of children and women in the country across a range of Goal-related indicators. UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women enabled data collection, dissemination and national consultations on the findings of the OSCE survey on the well-being and security of women in South-East Europe and Eastern Europe in conflict and post-conflict contexts. The four agencies supported MAPS missions, especially in Eastern Europe/Central Asia, in person and with remote commentary on data issues;

(c) **Data for development planning**. In West and Central Africa, the sixth round of MICS has been conducted in nine countries (Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo) by the four agencies in collaboration with other key technical and financial partners (WFP, WHO, European Union, World Bank, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, French Development Agency, Korean International Cooperation Agency, United States Agency for International Development). The information provided reliable, consistent and disaggregated data on child- and adolescent-related issues for advocacy, planning and reporting of progress towards the Goals (including through voluntary national reviews).

Emphasizing that development is a central goal in itself, and that in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations the development work of the entities of the UNDS can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in accordance with national plans, needs and priorities and respecting national ownership

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[3] All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

23.	Through the common chapter, agencies are working on analysis, dialogue and action in response to humanitarian emergencies and situations of protracted crisis. Efforts in 2018 contributed to:

(a) **Reducing violence and improving access to justice**. Recognizing that traditional approaches to citizen security and governance have proven to be of little impact in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, new approaches were developed including defining a common goal of violence reduction and using a multidimensional index as a yardstick for effective monitoring and accountability. The joint programme on the rule of law in Somalia helped to increase access to justice through the expansion of mobile courts and community dispute resolution centres;

(b) **Sustaining peace**. In 2018, several joint initiatives for sustainable peace were implemented in Sri Lanka in a more coordinated, coherent and integrated manner to address multidimensional challenges. UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) supported the Government's framework on reconciliation reform for comprehensive resettlement solutions. UNDP, UNICEF and WHO promoted reconciliation-focused media programming. UNFPA, UN-Women and United Nations Volunteers promoted youth empowerment and women's political representation at the local level for lasting peace. UNDP and UN-Women supported combating sexual bribery and sexual exploitation experienced by military and war widows;

(c) **Engaging youth in peace and security initiatives**. In the Europe and Central Asia region, UNDP and UNFPA worked closely in developing programming ideas as a direct follow-up to the joint consultation on youth, peace and security in Europe and in the Western Balkans region, including a large-scale youth-led youth perceptions survey exploring young people's attitudes to peace and security across the subregion. UNDP and UN-Women conducted research on violent extremism in Central Asia, together with other United Nations agencies, not only to counter violent extremism but also prevent it. In the Central African Republic and in line with the national youth policy and a national youth charter that addresses the issue of adolescent development, UNFPA, UNICEF and FAO supported the Government to implement a joint project to involve adolescents and young people in social cohesion activities and conflict prevention, to reduce youth unemployment and the violence arising from frustrations due to their exclusion from the labour market. Building on previous results, the United Nations supported the Government in reaching over 187,000 youth and adolescents (45 per cent girls) who participated or led civic engagement initiatives. In Niger, UNICEF, UNFPA and OHCHR supported the development of youth platform in 26 municipalities. These included 44 youth peace brigades, which promote a culture of peace and mediate community conflicts, and 19 youth dialogue structures, to help young people of both sexes participate in municipal decision-making. As of 2018, 1,600 youth including 320 girls/women were active in these 63 platforms.

## IV.	Accelerator initiatives

24.	Accelerator initiatives demonstrate how collaboration of the four common agencies and beyond contribute to accelerate and scale up achievement of greater and more transformational results around the Sustainable Development Goals. They operate within the framework of the UNDAF and other processes such as MAPS, recovery and peacebuilding assessments, post-disaster needs assessments and conflict and development assessments. Accelerator initiatives leverage the operational assets and complementary mandates of agencies to accelerate the achievement of collective results, while also forging partnerships beyond the four agencies and the United Nations.

25.   Accelerator initiatives are characterized by: all four agencies collaborating in one or more of six thematic areas or regionally; a focus on issues that have a strong cross-border dimension that exceeds the mandates or capabilities of individual teams; clear collaborative advantage in advancing large-scale impact; relevance to expressed demands for assistance/collaboration from programme countries and development partners to accelerate progress towards the Goals in the given context; critical mass of ongoing work and capacity for scaling-up; scope for innovation; and the scope, feasibility and potential effectiveness of collaboration is based on programmatic elements such as a common theory of change, joint activities, joint resource mobilization and communication as well as joint monitoring and reporting.

26.   The focus in 2018 was on identification and the early stages of development of regional and thematic common chapter accelerators with implementation to commence in 2019. Accelerators include:

(a) In **Asia and the Pacific,** ensuring the availability of disaggregated data for policymaking and tracking of progress of Sustainable Development Goals was identified as a cross-cutting issue, with a regional accelerator focus in the Pacific region, supported by the joint United Nations presence;

(b) In **Eastern and Southern Africa region,** three multi-country-level accelerator initiatives are in progress: (i) adolescent and youth development and empowerment through evidence-based advocacy around budgetary and policy investments for the middle income-countries of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia; (ii) adolescents', young people and women's access to formal and informal education, sexual and reproductive health and rights information, livelihoods, employment, living free of gender-based violence and engaging and contributing to peacebuilding in the Great Lakes; and (iii) children and young people on the move, preventing violent extremism, strengthening children's and young people's participation and civic engagement, education and skills development, and adolescent health in the Horn of Africa area;

(c) **The Sahel** support plan's overarching goal is to scale up efforts to accelerate shared prosperity and lasting peace in the Sahel countries and the region at large by implementing priorities to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063. Key priority areas for common chapter collaboration include: reinforcing good governance; ensuring durable stability and resilience; inclusive economic growth; wider health coverage; nurturing resilience; and promoting the development of micro- and small-scale enterprises in relation to renewable energy;

(d) **In Latin America and the Caribbean,** two multi-country initiatives are under implementation: (i) reducing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras through a framework to promote data compilation and analysis on the impact of violence on women, children and youth to identify trends and policy responses to reduce violence; and (ii) within the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework with the 18 English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries and overseas territories, joint efforts under the common chapter will focus on disaster management, preparedness and resilience-building.

27.   In the Europe and Central Asia region, the development of more than 10 Common Country Assessments and UNDAFs in 2019 will be reinforced by the regional issue-based coalitions in the common chapter priority areas, including adolescents, youth, gender and data. All four agencies have been actively

engaged in MAPS missions, and follow-up actions will be taken as chairs of issue-based coalitions or individual agencies.

28. Globally, Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe started working on the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative, a global partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative has been designed by the United Nations and European Union as a global financing mechanism in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly Goals 5 and 16. The Initiative will contribute to accelerating the realignment of the UNDS with the 2030 Agenda and enable critical system-wide capacities that can lead to more impactful and synergistic support by the UNCTs in line with the United Nations system-wide strategic document. The Spotlight Initiative provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate that a significant investment in gender equality, backed by expertise, a comprehensive theory of change and strong partnerships, can make a transformative difference in the lives of women and girls, as well as contribute to the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

V.   Working together more effectively

29. The focus of common chapter implementation in 2018 was on establishing the enabling environment for enhanced programmatic collaboration. Nonetheless, progress was made in several areas for more effectiveness and efficiency in working together. This included:

(a) **Harmonization of reporting of development and organizational results**, of QCPR mandates and their underlying technical methodologies, reflected in the respective agency annual reports and their IRRFs and report cards submitted to the respective Executive Boards at their annual sessions;

(b) **Enhanced transparency.** The four agencies worked together and supported each other to enhance transparency in accordance with the standard set by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), using a common indicator to monitor and improve the level of transparency using the IATI summary statistics. UNDP closely worked with UN-Women and UNFPA by providing guidance to enhance the comprehensiveness and timeliness of their data publication to IATI. All agencies achieved a 'very strong' rating for the comprehensiveness of their data publication, with all agencies 'strong' or 'very strong' in relation to timeliness;[4]

(c) **Implementing common services**. The four agencies continued to make good progress in implementing common services – including procurement, finance, information and communication technology, logistics, human resources and common facilities, including common premises – with the percentage of country offices adopting these service lines uniformly tracking up;

(d) **Business operations strategy**. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, the harmonization of business processes was supported. Through UNICEF and UNFPA co-chairing the Regional Operations Management Team, experts on the business operations strategy as well as policy guidance and incentives, were provided to support seven UNCTs in finalizing their strategies, a sevenfold increase from the previous year.

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[4] Data source: IATI Summary Statistics. Performance Rating: Very Strong (75-100), Strong (50-74), Weak (25-49), Very Weak (0-24)

VI.   Joint evaluation of the common chapter

30.   As requested by the respective Executive Boards, the evaluation offices of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women will jointly evaluate the strategies, implementation modalities and initial results arising from the agreed joint actions in the collaborate areas set out in the common chapter. A concept note was developed and discussed with the agencies. A series of outputs will be presented to the respective Executive Boards including a baseline study in 2019, a report assessing the implementation of accelerator initiatives in 2020 and a final report on the evaluation of the common chapter in 2021.

VII.   Lessons and challenges from the first year of the common chapter

31.   Overall, there is evidence of **an increase in communication and collaboration** across the four agencies at country, regional and headquarters levels as well as the broader United Nations system along with partnerships with domestic and international public, private and civil society actors that have the potential to deliver real impact on the ground, and a solid and growing portfolio of joint programming at country level. All regions used the common chapter to enhance their coordination in compliance with the respective mandates of the four agencies and beyond. The UNDS repositioning had a mutually reinforcing influence on the common chapter implementation.

32.   The **implementation of the common chapter is different in each region**. This flexibility is a strength and there is an associated opportunity for regions to exchange good practices and learning to enhance overall impact. The first common chapter regional exchange was held in March 2019 and was appreciated by regional directors as a valuable forum. Efforts will be made to make this a regular feature and to develop a knowledge base and a repository of information and lessons learned on the implementation of the common chapter at country, subregional/cross-border and regional levels.

33.   The common chapter is seen to be most effective when anchored in existing regional coordination mechanisms. These established mechanisms provide ways for the four agencies to enhance their collaboration and efficiency through working together to address cross-border issues and common challenges. In all regions, the work of the regional-level joint task forces (or similar) on the six areas complemented and provided additional support to the work of UNCTs, and helped to address cross-border issues by pooling human and financial resource.

34.   There is strong engagement of agencies to implement the common chapter, although some **constraints** were identified at the country and regional levels in 2018, which can be addressed to improve implementation in 2019. There is demand for more communication, including in relation to positioning the common chapter under the broader umbrella of United Nations reform. Common chapter direction and guidance need to be received ahead of country-level planning exercises to feed into stronger planning for joint initiatives. With no additional funding for common chapter implementation, agencies will submit, where appropriate, proposals to the joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and other potential sources. As the common chapter accelerator proposals are fully developed, resource mobilization strategies will be developed.

35.   The common chapter is a good example of inter-agency initiatives **reinforcing the objectives of the ongoing reform of the UNDS** at country, regional and global levels and creating "new ways of working" collectively including across the humanitarian-development continuum. Over the coming years, we will build on these lessons to further strengthen our common impact on the ground. To this end, the

repositioning of the UNDS opens the next chapter for United Nations collaboration with a strong focus on integrated Sustainable Development Goal solutions in support of countries' development priorities.

Status of the Common Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators

Data source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report and Statistical Annex (published annually 2016, 2017 and 2018) available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/

(a) Poverty eradication and reduction of inequalities

Common SDG Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018
SDG 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	World: 12.7% (2012) - Employed Population: 9.8% - Employed Adults: 9.3% - Employed Youth: 15.5% - Employed Male: 10.2% - Employed Female: 10.2%	World: 10.9% (2013) - Employed Population: 9.9% - Employed Adults: 9.0% - Employed Youth: 15.1% - Employed Male: 9.8% - Employed Female: 9.9%	World: 10.9% (2013) - Employed Population: 9.2% - Employed Adults: 8.3% - Employed Youth: 14.7% - Employed Male: 9.1% - Employed Female: 9.4%	No update
Note: Based on the International Poverty Line of US$1.90/day. Adults refer to persons aged 25 and above; youth refers to those between 15 and 24 inclusive. 2015, 2016 and 2017 numbers are cited from the Statistical Annex of the Secretary General's Report on the Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, 2016, 2017 and 2018 versions, respectively. Disaggregation by location is not available.				
FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES COMMON CHAPTER INDICATOR **Corresponding SDG target:** 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day				
SDG 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	Not available	Children[a]: 34.9% Mothers with newborns[b]: 41.1% Older persons[c]: 67.9% Unemployed[d]: 21.8% Persons with severe disability[e]: 27.8% Vulnerable[f]: 24.7%	No update	No update
Note: As published in "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018" and in the "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General Supplementary Information" 2018, also known as the "Statistical Annex." There is no update in 2017 available for this indicator. Social protection for different groups refers to: [a] Proportion of children/households receiving child/family cash benefit. [b] Proportion of mothers with newborns receiving maternity cash benefit. [c] Proportion of population above statutory pensionable age receiving a pension. [d] Proportion of unemployed persons receiving unemployment cash benefits. [e] Proportion of population with severe disabilities collecting disability cash benefits. [f] Proportion of vulnerable population receiving social assistance cash benefit.				

Common SDG Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018
Corresponding SDG target: 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable				

(b) Addressing climate change

Common SDG Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018
SDG 1.5.1, 11.5.1, 13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (disaggregated by sex to the extent possible)	Not published in the SDG report	Not published in the SDG report	Not published in the SDG report	Not published in the SDG report
Corresponding SDG target: 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries				

(c) Improving adolescent and maternal health

Common SDG Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018
SDG 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	World: 0.27 Male: 0.31 Female: 0.28 Adults (15+): 0.37 Children (0-14): 0.08	World: 0.26 Male: 0.27 Female: 0.25 Adults (15+): 0.32 Children (0-14): 0.08	No update	No update
Note: As published in "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018" for the world aggregated estimate and in the "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General Supplementary Information" from 2018, also known as the "Statistical Annex," for disaggregated estimates. 2015 value for "World" is revised in the 2018 report.				
Corresponding SDG target: 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases				

(d) Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Common SDG Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018
SDG 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and age	Not available	19%	No update	No update

Note:
As published in "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017" for the world aggregated estimate and in the "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General Supplementary Information" for 2017, also known as the "Statistical Annex." The next update will be available in "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019", scheduled for release in June 2019. The data is from 2005-2016 and refers to "Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-49 years subjected to physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months".

Corresponding SDG target: 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

(e) Ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development

Common SDG Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018
SDG 17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	Not published in SDG Report	Not published in SDG Report	Not published in SDG Report	Not published in SDG Report

FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES COMMON INDICATOR (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN)
Corresponding SDG target: 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts