

# BOOSTING TAILORED UNITED NATIONS RESPONSE TO DIVERSE COUNTRY CONTEXTS

## CASE OF RWANDA

The Doha Programme of Action (DPOA) is an agenda for the structural socio-economic transformation of LDCs. Its priorities are similar to the SDGs. However, they speak to the specific context and needs of LDC and therefore offer a framework for the UN system to engage Government, Development Partners, Private Sector, Civil Society, and Policy Makers in country to mobilize international assistance to the particular needs of LDCs. It is a powerful complement to the UNDS reform agenda in that the role of the UNCT is strengthened to support the host government in strategic agenda setting, rather than in engaging in project implementation; and to support member states in the transition from funding to financing their national development. The UN Resident Coordinator leads a team of 22 entities who have begun the process to prepare for the next UNSDCF. This should ensure coherence with the DPoA; as well as engagement given that the UN agencies further incorporate and integrate priorities of the DPoA through respective Country Programme Documents (CPDs), as CPDs must be aligned with the UNSDCF.

 **22**

Number of entities in the UN country team

 **US\$ 631M**

UN country team's support through the Cooperation Framework (2018- 2024)

**1**

### ONWARD WITH IMPLEMENTATION



A happy mother with her new born. UNFPA supported health system strengthening programs to ensure every pregnancy is wanted & every childbirth is safe. ©UNFPA/Alain Mwizerwa

Having been adopted only in March this year, this offers to the UN development system an additional normative framework for grounding UN support to host countries. Through the two main instruments of the UNDS: the CCA and the UNSDCF, UNCTs are now able to more effectively engage DPs, private sector and other interlocutors on the specific needs of LDCs and to support the host government in realizing the promises of DPOA. Any UNCTs developing CCAs and CFs from 2023 onwards will now actively integrate the provisions of the DPOA into their plans and Programmes. An opportunity for the next UNSDCF to be fit for purpose in Rwanda whilst integrating UN policy, emerging and contextual issues and programming including the DPoA to contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**2**

### DPOA AS A TOOL FOR ADVANCING THE SDGS



The DPOA in many respects goes beyond the SDGs to integrate many new and/or emerging global development issues which have animated UNGA discussions over the last couple of years, into an agenda for the international development system, of which the UNCT is a key part of. Some of these issues emerged from the high level political summits of the last few years and through their adoption and integration into the DPOA have effectively become part of the new global development agenda of the UNDS and the international community. These include food systems; transforming education; our common agenda; sustaining the recovery from COVID-19 and building resilience against emerging challenges; climate change and adaptation including issues of loss and damage, and financing nationally determined contributions; the role of the private sector, regional value chains and regional integration to catalyze shared economic prosperity; bridging the digital divide; supporting LDCs to move from consumption to production among other issues and the role of infrastructure (including energy) in national development. These are big ticket items some of which in the past did not register in the development discourses led by the UN development system but have now become a core part of the UNDS's collective and strategic offer to their host governments.





A financial institution representative trains a refugee entrepreneur on how to access and use her bank account using a mobile phone, as part of UNCDF's digital financial inclusion and resilience programme in Rwanda  
©UNCDF Rwanda/ Jessica Massie

The key issue is financing as the needs are plentiful. What the UN brings is not project funding but new thinking and new approaches around financing the national development agenda so that the DPOA moves from aspiration to strategic implementation. It is obvious that the national budget and domestic public revenue streams are insufficient to finance the national development agenda. In many LDCs, tax collections are less than 15% of the national revenue profile while in developed countries, tax collections are more than 24% of the revenue stream. Through the INFF, the UNDS is supporting countries to first conduct diagnostics of the development needs and the extant revenue streams, and then to develop a strategy for leveraging a comprehensive range of revenue streams to finance the national development. The strategy includes opportunities at the national, sub national and sector levels for generating additional revenue streams and to deliver on the national aspirations as reflected in the DPOA. The UN Rwanda, through the leadership of the Resident Coordinator is supporting the GoR in the elaboration and implementation of the INFF. To date, the elaboration of the works to support INFF implementation has already resulted in the strengthening of partnerships for engendering a more coherent and effective strategy for SDG and NST development financing and cooperation through studies on innovative financing approaches, fiscal assessments, and the development of tools and guidelines to boost revenue generation. The existence of a strong governance structure championed by the GoR leadership of the INFF process, and continuous engagement of public institutions and civil society organizations in efforts to monitor budget transparency through the Open Budget Survey, will ensure the sustainability of the INFF.



UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo and Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in Rwanda, Dr. Ndagijimana Uzziel discussing during UN Joint Steering Committee Meeting.  
©RCO / Aristide Muhire

The UNCT is now challenged to work more in the upstream sector, to support member states to address the protracted and persistent national development challenges that hobble their national aspirations and limit the potentials for graduating into middle and upper middle-income status. The Government of Rwanda, in collaboration with UN System in Rwanda under the Co-chairship of the UN Resident Coordinator and alongside multilateral institutions/IFIs, some bi-lateral development partners through the Development Partners group, Development Partners Retreat hold regular forums on socioeconomic policy issues in the country, diagnostics and comparative experience, and offer expertise to the national authorities on the opportunities, strategies and entry points to take these ideas forward. This also provides an opportunity for implementation companionship, affirmation and tracking of results and to showcase the impact of the interventions.





## LOOKING AHEAD

We find ourselves in a very opportune space, as Rwanda is right on the heels of proceeding into the development of its second generation National Strategy for Transformation in 2024. At the request of the Government of Rwanda, the UN system Rwanda through the leadership of the RC is positioned to participate in the consultative processes through existing forums: Sector Working Groups (SWGs), Joint Action Development Forums (JADFs), and other Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). The UN system in Rwanda, under the leadership of the RC will support the national dialogues on this national development strategy including efforts to leverage financing for its implementation. This will undoubtedly ensure we are provided with a platform for integration of the DPoA at the national level.

