

Linkages between the MDGs, PRSP and CCA/UNDAF¹

3.1 ...The CCA and UNDAF bring the UN together at country level to support governments *inter alia* to achieve the MDGs. Both instruments provide a vehicle for the UN to dialogue jointly with government and other partners to identify how UN actions will **support national efforts**. They should be a strong incentive for the UNCT to work better together in all aspects of the programming cycle, and should demonstrate greater **coherence, focus and results**. National poverty reduction strategies are the main focus of the UNCT at the country level. The PRSP is the 'national roadmap' for reaching longer-term MDG targets through short/medium-term policy reforms and budget restructuring.

3.2 The UNDG 2002 PRSP GN and the Joint UNDG-WB letter of 5 May 2003 describe the linkages between the PRSPs and the CCA/UNDAF with the objectives being to achieve greater complementary, cooperation and non-duplication between the two processes. From country level feedback it is recognised that it has been a challenge to align the different instruments largely because of different time-lines, and positions in the programme cycle. In the ideal situation, however, the **CCA has fed into the PRSP process, which in turn has been the framework for the UNDAF**.

3.3 The Resident Coordinator should try to get the agreement of the Government on early and better **harmonisation of UN frameworks with the national planning cycle**. The 2003 revisions to the CCA/UNDAF guidelines propose greater synchronisation whenever possible between the CCA and UNDAF, and the national development planning cycle, including the PRSP. With the CCA drawing on both national monitoring and analytical processes, and on international assessments, it should obviate the need for country assessments by individual agencies and other external partners as part of their preparations for country programmes.

3.4 The CCA can be used to provide valuable analytical inputs into the formulation of the PRSP, which can then be taken as a basis for developing the UNDAF, and vice versa in situations where the PRSP precedes the CCA. UNCTs may need to address issues of timing of the CCA/UNDAF cycle to ensure alignment with national planning cycles including the PRSP. In this respect, flexibility with respect to the UNDAF timeline so that it is aligned with the national planning cycle or the PRSP cycle, would be desirable.

3.5 In addition, if the sequence of work can be coordinated, the CCA can either contribute to, or benefit from, **monitoring of progress towards the PRSP and MDGs**, carried out through the MDGRs by the Government, the United Nations system and other partners. It would be highly desirable to streamline the reporting processes of the PRSP, MDGR and other frameworks from the view point of reducing transactions cost.

3.6 **CCAs and UNDAFs are MDG driven and should support and complement the national poverty reduction Strategies/PRSPs.** They should be set firmly in the national context, showing clear linkages with, and describe the relationship with the MDGR, PRSP or other national poverty reduction strategy.

3.7 Based on valid analysis, the UNDAF should result in agreement on a strategic and goal driven response of the UN system to country-led efforts to achieve the MDGs. The UNDAF should be derived *inter-alia* from the national poverty reduction strategy/PRSP and will be a contribution to implementing the strategies for reaching the MDGs, as reflected in the Poverty Reduction Strategy....

¹ Page 4-5, Guidance Note on UN Country Engagement in PRSPs, prepared by the UN Development Group, December 2003. http://www.undg.org/documents/3533-2nd_PRSP_Guidance_Note.doc

Annex 1: Examples of the linkages between CCA-UNDAF-PRSP.²

The following scenarios, based on experiences to date in the field explain the possible relationships and sequencing. Above all, all instruments should be closely linked to and derive from national development plans.

1. CCA and PRSP

(a) CCA developed before PRSP. The PRSP can explicitly build on a draw from the analytical work undertaken in the CCA.

The UNCT in Cambodia used the analysis of the CCA (and the work of the Theme Groups) as a basis for advocacy with government on the content of the PRSP.

The WB considers the CCA as a "...contribution to the process of achieving a comprehensive approach to development and poverty reduction in Vietnam". The CCA was viewed as a valuable analysis for developing the PRSP.

"The CDF process helps government formulate its strategies and programmes, building on the analysis of the CCA" (Ghana).

(b) CCA developed at same time as PRSP. The PRSP can be developed in tandem with the CCA using the same consultative processes.

The CCA in Nicaragua helped the UNCT prepare its inputs to the government and contains a critique of the PRSP.

2. PRSP and UNDAF.

UNDAF developed after PRSP. The UNDAF can be seen as the UN's business plan to support implementation of aspects of the PRSP.

"The PRSP is an *expression* of strategy, and we then use that to formulate our business plans – the CAS, the UNDAF and the PRGF." (Ghana)

"The UNDAF is firmly based on the Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS), and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The UN System has set four strategic objectives for its UNDAF including that of enhancing national capacity for development management to eradicate poverty, including capacity for policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and co-ordination."

The UN in Nicaragua is currently preparing the UNDAF, "for which it has taken the PRSP and the agreements from UN International Conferences and Summits as references".

² 1st UNDG Guidance Note to United Nations Country Teams on the PRSP