

**The former
Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia**

**Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Community
Dialogue and Collaboration (MDGF- 1948)**



Conflict Prevention and Peace building

Total Budget:	USD 4,000,000		
Budget by Agency:	UNESCO:	925,999	
	UNDP:	1,834,941	+ 20,000 advance
	UNICEF:	1,239,060	
Participating Gov. Entities:	Secretariat for Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement; Municipalities of Kicevo, Kumanovo and Struga; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Education and Science; Bureau for Education Development; State Education Inspectorate; primary and secondary schools in the selected municipalities; Municipal Committees for Inter-Community Relations, State Commission for Relations with the Religious Communities and Groups; University of Ss. "Cyril and Methodius"		
Start Date:	29 July 2009		
End Date:	29 July 2012		
Extension:	Not requested		
Disbursements:	First Disbursement:	29 July 2009	USD 2,005,409 + 20,000 advance
	Second Disbursement:	4 October 2010	USD 1,809,492
	Third Disbursement:	9 September 2011	USD 985,099
In Brief:	The proposed Programme—to be jointly implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO—aims to facilitate the establishment of a functional conflict transformation system by strengthening capacity at the local and national levels, as well as promoting a multi-cultural civic identity. The Programme will facilitate a systemic linkage among existing responsible mechanisms at national and local levels, building conflict resolution expertise where none exist. It will enhance the capacity of central and local bodies to facilitate inclusive problem-solving processes and consensus-building around community priorities. To strengthen the commitment to an inclusive civic national identity with respect to diversity, the Programme will support the longer term role of education, and work with local leaders, civil society and the media to facilitate constructive civic dialogue that promotes inter-cultural awareness and values informing peaceful co-existence.		

Outcomes:

- National Systems and Capacities for Inter-Ethnic Cohesion Enhanced;
- Capacity of national education system to promote and enhance ethnic and cultural diversity strengthened;
- Inter-cultural sensitivity and civic awareness promoted.



Regions of Intervention:	• National level and Kumanovo, Struga and Kicevo municipalities	
MDGs	MDG2 T2.A	
Beneficiaries	Direct	Indirect

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. Institutions • No. Women • No. Men • No. individuals from ethnic groups 	<p>502</p> <p>150,190</p> <p>161,558</p> <p>311,753</p>	<p>135</p> <p>300,510</p> <p>301,410</p> <p>601,920</p>
<p>Project coordinator ai: Mark McGinty RCO Focal Point: Mark McGinty</p>		
Status	The programme is on track and progressing well towards outputs and outcomes	
Estimated financial execution status as of the June 30, 2011 biannual report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graph will be inserted by MDG-F secretariat 	
Main Achievements:	<p><u>Outcome 1 (Governance):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key national and local institutions dealing with inter-ethnic relations achieved significant progress towards the building of inter-ethnic consensus. 29% of the recommendations of the participatory capacity assessment were addressed by Government and civil society organizations, strengthening inter-ethnic dialogue, collaboration and coordination. ▪ At national level, the Secretariat for Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement was supported to implement a grant scheme to enhance the role of civil society in the area of inter-ethnic relations. ▪ At the local level, the decision-making processes of Commissions for Inter-Community Relations (CICRs) have been strengthened, turning the CICRs into a mechanism for efficient facilitation of dialogue between the communities and local self-governments. <p><u>Outcome 2 (Education):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept for textbook development and methodology for textbooks review to ensure respect for ethnic, cultural and and gender diversity developed and launched with key stakeholders. ▪ Digital educational contents for the subjects of: Macedonian language, Albanian language, Macedonian language for students of the other communities, Albanian language as an elective subject, history, music education, art education and civic education developed and launched in schools. The aim of this digital content is to promote multiculturalism and inter-ethnic relations in education. This is also a model for developing additional digital content in other relevant curricula content. ▪ Life Skills Based Education curriculum for secondary education developed and adopted by the Minister as compulsory for all secondary schools in the country. LSBE is a subject which promotes cultural and ethnic understanding, tolerance and respect. Action plans for implementation of extracurricular activities on multiculturalism and democratic participation at municipal level for Kumanovo, Kicevo and Struga developed in order to scale up the activities. The schools have included the action plans in the school annual program and the Municipalities have committed support to these activities, aimed towards sustainability. ▪ Youth Centers providing joint extracurricular activities established in Kumanovo, Kicevo and Struga. The Municipalities provided the premises and are covering the utility costs until 2015, as part of the sustainability plan. <p><u>Outcome 3 (Society):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In order to create a network of dispute resolution practitioners, representatives of civil society organizations and community leaders were trained in dispute resolution methodologies. These participants will become part of a cadre of dispute resolution practitioners connected to a larger national pool of facilitation experts. ▪ The UNESCO Chair in Media, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding was established at the School of Journalism and Public Relations. ▪ “The Role of Higher Education in Fostering Inter-cultural Dialogue and Understanding in a Multiethnic Society” Conference gathered academics and students from most higher education institutions in the country to reflect on their work in this field and begin to chart a path ahead. ▪ Capacity building project grants implemented by UNESCO Clubs for enhancing interethnic dialogue in universities and the three pilot municipalities focusing on themes such as culture, environment and technology. 	

- “Diversity Reporting” handbook was produced and printed, which offers guidelines and recommendations to journalists on the ways in which the media can better reflect diversity in their newsrooms and through their reporting.

Does the JP incorporate gender considerations in the **activities/outputs/outcomes**?

Gender is mainstreamed across all of the programme’s activities.

Efforts are made at striking a gender balance for programme beneficiaries (direct beneficiaries to date: 150,190 men and 161,558 women).

A gender baseline study was produced to guide the mainstreaming of gender to the programme’s work on governance.

The Programme has established a partnership with UN Women, where UN Women have collaborated with the programme on integrating the gender concept in local development forums and providing training on gender and mediation to mediators forming part of the Support Unit for Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.

Observations

Paris Declaration

Leadership of national and local governmental institutions:

The MTE found a remarkable level of ownership by national and local stakeholders at the level of outputs and activities. The Government is fully supportive and involved in the programme through regular meetings, consultations, coordination with and among other government bodies, adopting methodologies and concepts for JP activities. The highest level of political leadership has consistently supported JP activities.

Involvement of CSOs and citizens:

Many of the activities of the JP are fully implemented by civil society organisations (i.e. 11 civil society organizations were selected to implement activities in the three municipalities. Activities focused on strengthening the capacities of the Commissions for Inter-Community Relations, improving the co-ordination and co-operation with Municipal Councils, bridging and enhancing dialogue between religious leaders and neighbourhood units, the youth, majority and non-majority groups). Also, partnerships with institutions at the national level are established, in particular related to the support of dispute resolution system to enhance inter-ethnic dialogue and collaboration through national and local level through the Support Unit.

Alignment and Harmonization:

The programme is relevant and consistent with the main national priorities.

Innovative elements in mutual accountability:

- The Programme Management Team meets weekly to discuss and decide on joint implementation issues.
- The Programme Coordinator ensures day-to-day coordination and coherence of programme activities. Since June, the UN Coordination Officer is acting as Programme Coordinator a.i.
- The heads of UN implementing agencies meet at least every two months to assess progress and to give direction to the PMT.
- The PMC responsible for the technical and operational oversight, management and coordination meets bi-annually. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Orhid Framework Agreement and the UNRC co-chair the PMC.
- The NSC responsible for the overall programme activities meets annually.
-

Delivering as One

Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices:

- A tri-lateral MoU has been developed and agreed between agencies for the common premises and programme services
- An online workspace for the programme team has been established that contains a calendar of activities, news feed, important documents / reports, etc.
- The JP has taken several missions and trainings together, such as on communication, conflict-sensitivity, capacity assessment, as well as gathering other donors on inter-ethnicity in education.
- The programme has established strategic linkages with UN Women, to enhance the gender approach of the programme, and OHCHR, implementing jointly a grants scheme for civil society activities in human rights and for human rights training.

Role of the RCO and synergies with other MDG-F JPs:

The RC Office has provided continuous support and oversight, and keeps good communication with the MDG-F Secretariat.

	<p>Inter-agency coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme teams of each implementing agency sit together in common premises to allow for better coordination and cross fertilisation between the programme's components. • Substantive programme coordination can be specifically noted in the programme's work with media. • The programme has successfully collaborated with other UN agencies, UN Women and OHCHR. 	
<p>Sustainability (concrete actions and strategic partnerships)</p>	<p>Sustainability Plan in place?</p> <p>All of the programme's outputs are aimed towards sustainability, through national partnerships and ownership. Most activities are implemented with and through national institutions: curriculum development, grant schemes, inter-religious conference, capacity building of Municipal Commissions for Inter-Community Relations, etc.</p> <p>The programme is developing a sustainability plan in consultation with national partners and to be endorsed by the PMC.</p>	
<p>Innovation and Scale-up</p>	<p>There are many outputs of the Programme that can be considered innovative and suitable for scaling up/out.</p> <p>Innovative approaches and best practices are being assessed together with national stakeholder in order to identify activities suitable for scaling-up/out, as part of the Programme's sustainability plan.</p> <p>To name but a few examples: the media monitoring mechanism being established to monitor culturally / ethnically sensitive media reporting, capacity support to local Commissions for Inter-Community Relations, action plans for the implementation of extracurricular activities on multiculturalism and democratic participation at municipal level developed in order to scale up the activities to more schools.</p>	
<p>External Factors and mitigation</p>		
<p>Communication and Advocacy</p>	<p>C&A plan in place?</p> <p>An Advocacy and Communication Strategy is in place. A full-time UN Communications Officer supports the communications and advocacy of the programme.</p> <p>A website dedicated to the JP as part of the UN website (www.un.org.mk) has been established and provides a space for communicating the objectives, activities and results of the programme to partners and the general public.</p> <p>A number of communications products have been produced during the reporting period – a programme leaflet, programme banner and local programme factsheets.</p>	
<p>M&E</p>	<p>The monitoring and evaluation framework of the programme has been improved which was praised by the MTE. The M&E framework has provided the programme with a comprehensive framework of quality indicators to measure activities, processes and impacts. Measuring progress on all indicators is done quarterly.</p>	
<p>Missions from MDG-F Secretariat:</p>	<p>Date: February 2010</p>	<p>Members: Sophie de Caen, Paula Pelaez</p>
<p>Mid Term Evaluation:</p>	<p>Evaluator: Eva Otero</p> <p>Period: May 2011</p>	