### Country: [Serbia]

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

### Reporting period: [2011-2015]

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

UNDP in Serbia focused its work around three interconnected areas, namely: social inclusion, good governance, and energy and environment.

With the EU accession agenda as a guiding principle, the UNDP country programme achieved tangible development results as was verified by independent evaluations and feedback from the beneficiaries. In its work, UNDP aimed to focus on fewer but larger projects with strong synergies and complementarities across thematic areas. Such strategy enabled the design and implementation of projects with high scalability and impact, including the increased number of UN Joint Programmes.

The most notable results include: decreasing **discrimination**, better **Parliament and Independent bodies performance and oversight capacity,** creation of more efficient **anti-corruption** mechanisms, establishment of integrated state response to **violence** **against women** and adoption of strategic framework on **environmental management and sustainable energy.** Specifically,UNDP, drawing on the wide network of partners and global/regional expertise supported social accountability in governance including accountability of office holders to their electorate and in public finance; the National Assembly became more accountable through increased collaboration with independent oversight bodies, use of public hearings and mobile committee sessions, and by piloting web-based dialogue with citizens. Significant progress has been made in public procurement: over 2000 public procurement officers certified country-wide, 60 certified auditors in the State Audit Institution, and training of municipalities in implementing audit findings. UNDP’s work to address violence against women helped establish a national policy framework and the introduction of integrated service delivery to women survivors; through the Youth Employment Fund, created jointly by the National Employment Service, ILO and UNDP, 2,800 disadvantaged young people got employed, trained or received self-employment grants. It is estimated that 25% of on-the-job trained people found employment and 74% sustained their own businesses.

In 2014, UNDP provided tangible and rapid support in the aftermath of severe floods that hit Serbia and the region. The immediate response was followed by an expanding package of expert, communication and coordination support at central level and by housing and infrastructure projects implemented across 38 municipalities.

During the programme period, UNDP in cooperation with its national and international partners, mobilized and delivered over $50mln in development programmes. Among the main partners who contributed financially to the achievement of the above results are the Government of Serbia, GEF, the EU, Norway and Switzerland. The Government of Japan has also made a very significant contribution in support of floods recovery efforts.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** |  |
| **Country name:** Serbia |
| **Current country programme period:** 2011 -2015 |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **OUTCOME 1.1:** Sustainable development and social inclusion enhanced | USD 11,518,916 | **Indicators:** 1. % of poverty decrease 2. % of HDI increase | 1. 9.2% (2011) – 10% (est. 2014) **Regression**
2. 0.735 (2011) – 0.745 (2013) **Some progress**

1.The impact of the world economic crisis and of the recession in the euro area can still be felt in terms of decreased employment and increases in the poverty. The unemployment rate went to a record high of 24% in October 2011, and ebbed to around 20% in mid-2014. According to the findings of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions in the Republic of Serbia, the at-risk-of-poverty rate in the total population totaled 24.6% in 2012. A total of 42.1% of the population (three million people) is at risk of poverty or social exclusion as a combination of three different factors (risk of poverty, low work intensity and severe material deprivation). Children (up to the age of 18) and youth (aged 18-24) are at the highest risk of poverty, after social transfers, compared to other target groups. Social protection expenditures in real terms were in decline – in the period 2010-2013 by as much as 8%. Such a trend undermines the state’s capacity to provide adequate protection to the population in times of rising poverty and a declining standard of living.1.Between 1990 and 2014, Serbia’s HDI increased from 0.726 to 0.745, an average annual increase of about 0.11 percent. The positive trend is due to the increases in life expectancy at birth (4.2 years) and mean years of schooling (2.1 years). GNI per capita, however, decreased by about 20.8 percent in the same period. When the value is discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.663, a loss of 10.9 percent. Besides, the geographical distribution of wealth is unequal and the regional disparities are high: 1:7 between the most developed and most undeveloped districts and 1:15 between municipalities |
| **UNDP Contribution:**Despite measurable project results and UNDP’s active engagement to address the increase in poverty of vulnerable communities in Serbia, due to the economic crisis the poverty rate for Serbia overall increased. UNDP’s interventions included piloting of active labor market measures, strengthening of rural tourism, incorporating migration and social protection in Municipal plans in South Serbia and assisting the Government adopting more gender sensitive policies.**CPD Outputs:****Output 1.1.1 MDG-related and other data collection, monitoring, analysis, reporting improved**UNDP supported the Government to prepare the 2013 MDG report, to conduct post-2015 consultations and to prepare the 2011 Human Development report on social inclusion. Currently, the CO is setting the stage for the preparation of 2015 NHDR on resilience of municipalities and small towns (working title).**Output 1.1.2 Social inclusion policies advocated and implemented** The Serbian Government adopted a new Law on Social Welfare Services in April 2011 which recognized the UNDP-inspired Social Innovations Fund (SIF) as a model and best practice. The Social Innovations Fund (SIF) was the culmination of a multi-year effort launched with UNDP assistance in order to fast-track reforms in the area of social protection services. SIF introduced a “mixed modality” in service provision, which for the first time included Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as service providers. Thanks to SIF, 298 innovative projects were implemented in over 100 communities across Serbia. The spectrum of services included home health care for the elderly, independent living for people with disabilities, day care centers for children, and more. Community services were significantly expanded in municipalities which previously had few or none due to shallow capacity and a dearth of funding. UNDP helped to pioneer innovative services, such as the establishment of shelters for street children, training programs for women in organic farming, job-search support for people with cognitive disabilities, and new treatment programs in juvenile detention centers. An independent assessment of SIF asserted “the innovation of the SIF has been in its design as a mechanism that directly encouraged the concept of plurality of service providers, thus pursuing the ultimate goal of the Social System Reform”. The Law adopts and advances measures that SIF introduced, tested and advocated for, and thus has institutionalized the transformational change in social assistance and social service provision in Serbia. The Law on Social Welfare Services has embraced the targeted social services approach, the standardization of services, and the increased devolution of responsibility to for local level implementation. The new Law also envisages enhanced and strengthened services monitoring, a feature tested through SIF and which engaged Community Support Organizations intimately in this process. Independent estimates suggest that the new legislation will increase eligibility of the poorest households for Financial Social Assistance (FSA) by 18.4%, while the average amount received could increase by about 10.6% per adult. **Output 1.1.3 Increased availability and quality of employment and social services for all citizens, especially marginalized groups and people living in rural areas**UNDP’s piloting of active labor market measures within the Joint Programme “Youth Employment and Migration” (YEM). UNDP supported over 2800 disadvantaged youth to get employment, vocational training or receive self-employment grants. Around 10% of them were social welfare beneficiaries and with this measure transited from welfare to work. The impact assessment confirmed that 25% of young people that underwent on-the-job training got employed afterwards, 74% managed to sustain own business and 97% of PWD that received employment subsidies remained employed. Through its Human Security Programme in Southwest Serbia, UNDP supported job activation of 40 young people. As a result, 3 public spaces in South West Serbia were “reconstructed by programme participants who thus had the opportunity to apply the newly gained skills” (Civic Initiatives, 2013 progress report). UNDP supported implementation of employment policies through a Local Development Programme (PBILD) in South Serbia by stimulating women entrepreneurship and self-employment of single mothers and female social cases. The final evaluation assessed that “employment interventions with local Self-Governments resulted in supported access to employment for at least 600 people through: 35 new jobs created (support to women entrepreneurship through establishment of 2 cooperatives), 58 start-up businesses, 200 youth instructed in job search skills, 160 youth gained English and IT skills and 200 high school students trained in entrepreneurship”. The impact of employment interventions remained limited. The national coverage of active labour market measures remains at 15% of the registered unemployed. The national budget approved for active labour market measures in 2014 still represented below 0.1% of GDP which still too low to seriously address youth and long-term unemployment.UNDP promoted domestic and international investment in rural tourism, building local capacities for project implementation, enhancing environmental protection and increasing social inclusion of marginalized groups. Over 140 companies participated in the Investment Forum on 24-25 November in Belgrade. A total of 235 local and regional officials completed trainings on Local Action Groups and the LEADER approach, the relevance of cultural heritage for tourism promotion and Project Management in general.**Output 1.1.4** **Frameworks and institutional mechanisms for access to justice implemented** UNDP supported the Government in adopting the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in 2009. The Law introduced positive measures for countering discrimination, such as reversed burden of proof in processing cases and the formation of a specialized, independent equality body – the Commissioner for Protection of Equality (CPE). Based on a new Law, UNDP supported the establishment and operations of the CPE, and actively advocated for an operational budget through the Ministry of Finance making the CPE the first independent body in Serbia relying on regular resources. UNDP assisted CPE to cooperate with relevant authorities to finalize administrative registration procedures and conducting the job classifications, and furthermore supported the introduction of an own mediation practice. Beside policy and institutional support UNDP focused on awareness raising, using innovative mechanisms such as entertainment-education and developing an entire TV series with subliminal anti-discrimination messages, which achieved high viewership. The high quality of UNDP’s achievements was validated by an EU ex-post evaluation, which noted: “The choice of having UNDP as an implementing partner [in EU funded anti-discrimination programme] was vital due to their experience in dealing with antidiscrimination issues and due to their authority as an UN organization. The combination of legal, policy, institutional and public awareness components built-in the project design was only possible to be implemented by one such organization which possesses in-house multi-sectoral experience.” The impact of UNDP’s intervention in the sector was indisputable. The 2011 census recorded an unprecedented 40% increase of Roma registering, as compared to the last census in 2002, which suggests that Roma feel less fear and are more secure to express their ethnicity. A public opinion poll, conducted by UNDP in November 2012, showed a significant decrease in personal experience with discrimination. While 22% of respondents were directly exposed to discrimination in 2009, the figure decreased to 16% in 2012. Ethnic distance towards Albanians and Roma decreased by about 8 percentage points in comparison to the period before UNDP interventions started, evidencing the transformation of Serbia to a less ethno-centric and more tolerant society. UNDP supported the establishment of 5 Citizens’ Advisory Services (CAS) in South Serbia to expand outreach services to possible migrants and returnees. 70 municipal administrators were trained on how to facilitate reintegration process of returnees under the readmission agreements and subsequently provided 847 advisory services. UNDP helped 9 municipalities to incorporate migration management into social protection strategies and action plans. 725 Roma individuals thus obtained their first ever ID cards and personal documents. 400 health professionals were educated on Roma culture, vulnerabilities and rights and Roma Health Coordinators reached over to 5,000 new families which resulted in 1,400 previously unregistered Roma entering the health system for the first time. UNDP initiated Regional Roma programme through which segregated Roma communities in Southwest Serbia are mobilized to participate in housing programme. 10 housing units will be built and 22 houses refurbished in settlement near Novi Pazar in 2015. Combined with other partners’ activities this will contribute to improved health and housing conditions of Roma. Preparation of new Action Plan to improve status of Roma has been initiated but not finalized, although the existing Plan expired in December 2014. Roma continue to be exposed to multiple forms of exclusion seriously lacking community based services. Adequate financial and human resources, as well as better involvement by local authorities in implementing the Roma strategy are needed. UNDP supported the establishment of local Ombudsman offices in three municipalities in South Serbia and trained 20 media outlets to report on gender and minority rights.On issues of human rights and access to justice, covered by the first negotiation chapters, UNDP provided authorities with evidence-based inputs for enhancing the efficiency of the judiciary in view of implementing the Judicial Reform Strategy. UNDP also facilitated the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations by assisting the Government to set up an implementation mechanism, officially launched on Human Rights Day. |

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| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **OUTCOME 2:** Good governance strengthened | USD 24,835,454 | **Indicator:** Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI) | 39 (2012) – 41 (2014) **Some progress** Results of the regular Corruption Benchmarking Survey UNDP conducts, show a steadily lower level of incidence of corruption (at household level). However, overall perception still remains high, with the CPI in 2014 having dropped by one percentage point (compare: 2012- 39, 2013 – 42, 2014 – 41). |
| **UNDP Contribution:**Under this Outcome UNDP was assisting the Government of Serbia at different levels to fight corruption and increase transparency, accountability and participation.  **CPD Outputs:****Output 2.1.1. Support for reform, professionalization and modernization of the public sector at all levels**In 2014, a new Public Administration Reform Strategy has been adopted, however, shortly after a round of elections followed, which hindered its full implementation. The central theme underpinning all Public Administration Reform efforts is reduction of the total number of civil servants – an activity UNDP did not support directly, due to its sensitivity and UNDP’s programmatic focus on professionalization of staff rather than pure layoffs, quality assurance mechanisms and agile development of e-solutions which have the potential to be more effective in addressing problems at the community level than lengthy, process and resource heavy reforms. UNDP directly supported its national partners in the EU accession process i.e. in preparing for screenings of chapters 23, 24 and 5, while its assistance was also referenced in the screening of chapter 32. UNDP also supported the Government in implementing its EU accession communication strategy (previously adopted through UNDP assistance). The key message: “The reforms in Serbia are needed for the citizen’s own sake and not only because it is the EU request” - is widely used by politicians. As a result of the strategy implementation, EU was brought closer to Serbian citizens whose support for EU bounced after two consecutive downward cycles, by 9 % and skepticism dropped by 7 %. The EU has noted improvements in all areas supported by UNDP projects, in its 2014 Progress Report. **Output 2.1.2. Strengthened oversight function of parliamentary, independent and regulatory bodies**In the area of legislative accountability, UNDP support to Parliament resulted in the adoption of a Law on Parliament and new Rules of Procedure, which introduced mechanisms for collaboration with independent oversight bodies and reviewing their reports. As a result of these acts public hearings have been institutionalized. On a related issue – UNDP has been supporting the authorities in raising accountability in public finances. Through technical assistance, over 2000 public procurement officers have been certified country-wide, the State Audit Institution equipped with 60 certified auditors and over 30 municipalities trained in implementing audit findings. As a result, the Public Procurement Office has recorded an impressive 45% drop in the number of non-tender (negotiated) procedures in the first half of 2013, compared to the first half of 2012. On another front, UNDP is supporting the Parliament to create an electronic link (web-portal) to the Ministry of Finance/Treasury, in order to allow MPs real-time access to data on State budget expenditures and a tool for effective oversight over public finances. As a starting point, UNDP supported the establishment of a GOPAC chapter which set as it primary objective to enhance oversight over public finances, through advocating for establishment of the electronic portal. On the issue of parliamentary oversight in general, the EU Progress Report for 2013 notes that it has improved. This has been a focus of UNDP assistance in the past years, through support in institutionalizing public hearings and regulating relations with independent bodies. A success story featured in 2013 is the recorded impact of mobile committee sessions that aim at exercising scrutiny over the Executive at national level, on local or regional topics, taking MPs to the field where a certain issue arises. A number of sessions have been supported, which resolved local problems in a matter of days, that have been pending for years (e.g. 4,500ha of disputable land was cleared for rent by the Ministry of Agriculture, the committee determined that a Ministry failed to apply for EU Rural Development funds and requested it to apply in the next round, etc.). “Parliamentary committees have developed a more proactive approach” assessed the EU Progress Report 2013. Finally, UNDP’s survey confirmed that the citizens’ attitudes towards the Parliament improved in 2013. 34% of citizens have expressed positive attitude towards the work of the Parliament, which is a twofold increase compared to 2011.UNDP started supporting Public Procurement Office (PPO) in 2009 under the assumption that a sound public procurement management is a milestone towards accountable governance. Even though the PPO had been formally established, it still lacked adequate capacities to perform a full mandate. These related mainly to lack of resources (29 employees only) and inadequate official follow-up to their decisions and recommendations. UNDP’s intervention logic was that permanent accountability mechanisms and improvement of transparency were required in order to raise efficiency and effectiveness of public spending. The projections showed that if the effectiveness of total public procurements was improved by 5%, this would result in savings of about 200 million EUR that could be used for other purposes. UNDP was the first development partner in Serbia who initiated the establishment of permanent channels of communication between four players dealing with use of public funds: a) PPO-setting the rules for use of public funds; b) Commissioner for information of Public Importance-making the information of use of public funds available to public; c) State Audit Institution-control of spending of public fund; d) Civil Sector (NGO and media) acting as a watchdog and later, in 2014, adding also the Commission for Protection of Rights in Public Procurement Procedures, Ministry of Finance, Central Harmonization Unit covering internal controls and internal audit, judiciary and city and municipal authorities. Up to date, UNDP supported delivery of tangible results: •Over 2000 public procurement officers have been certified country-wide •PPO achieved milestones in the EU integration process with regards to chapter 5 and excelling in initial negotiations, as well as in preparation of the new Public Procurement Strategy and the corresponding Action Plan•Percentage of direct negotiated procedures decreased from 25% in 2013 to 3% in 2014 at the local level. This may be, cautiously, brought into correlation with the significant savings incurred amounting to 50% at city and municipal level•Over 50% increase in the number of authorities reporting regularly to the PPO •Capacity of the PPO to provide over 100 consultations daily to stakeholders in public procurement proceduresUNDP’s certification programme was assessed by final evaluation as a process that “set a new benchmark of competence for the procurement officers, which will likewise be sustained”. All these results were drivers of change. Today, there has been a significant improvement in the percentage of competitive procedures: from 36% in 2002 to 54% in 2013 and 86% in 2014. In technical terms, Serbia is ready to open the respective EU negotiation chapter.UNDP supported the State Audit Institution to enable a wider array of candidates to take state audit exams than was the case until now, and, introduced continuous education of state auditors in order to maintain their license. This was done through the adoption of new internal acts, based on analyses provided by the program.**Output 2.1.3. Anti-corruption institutions and mechanisms strengthened**UNDP contributed to increased government accountability by brokering MoU between the Government and the Anticorruption Agency, outlining their collaboration in the fight against corruption and specific points of joint action. As a result the Agency began developing integrity plans, registering the assets of civil servants and combating conflicts of interest. Based on initial recommendations from UNDP experts, the Prosecution allocated additional resources, both human and financial, to its anticorruption units. UNDP assisted the Anticorruption Agency draft whistleblower protection guidelines, develop a new anticorruption strategy/action plan, and initiatives targeting the sub-national level. UNDP conducted a series of 8 corruption benchmarking surveys (2010-2014) at the household level, which provided data on the incidence of corruption. The media covered the survey reports, which further contributed to UNDP’s leadership position in the field. With technical assistance, the Government adopted a National Anticorruption Strategy; following UNDP recommendations, a law on whistleblower protection is being drafted; through a social accountability approach, areas of risk in the health sector have been identified, spurring the development of health sector citizens charters; an sms-system for reporting corruption in the health sector is in place and the NGO administering it, with the support of UNDP and Ministry of Health, is actively referring corruption cases for investigation and prosecution and providing feedback to citizens.**Output 2.1.4. National capacities strengthened to mainstream gender in public policies and practices**UNDP has assisted the Government to broadly adapt more gender sensitive policies which contributed to an increase in reported cases of violence against women. UNDP’s value added was also evident in support for the Gender Equality Directorate which established a set of new sexual and gender based violence measures focused on 1) prevention (e.g. adoption of National Strategy for Combating and Preventing Violence against Women in Family and in Intimate Partner Relationships); 2) protection (e.g. hotlines and safe houses, work with perpetrators); and 3) support measures (capacity development of service providers) for the victims of family violence. In order to increase the rate of reported violence, UNDP supported the establishment of 4 new hotlines and 2 new hotlines for ethnic minority and Roma women. Tangible results in this area were recognized in 2012 EU Progress Report. Furthermore, on the prevention side, UNDP “launched a programme for (work with) perpetrators, an important step in the effort to end VAW” (Final project evaluation). With the media company B92, UNDP started the first web-one-stop-shop-info-center in Western Balkans, which provides comprehensive information about the VaW ([www.sigurnakuca.net](http://www.sigurnakuca.net)). UNDP also supported the instutionalisation of work with perpetrators programme and 8 Centers for Social Welfare started implementing it.UNDP worked with journalists in order to improve the quality of media reporting on VaW. The number of SGBV related articles increased from 600 in 2010 to 3.762 2012, and the volume of articles with a sensationalistic tendency significantly decreased. More than 800 general service providers in 16 towns were educated on delivering integrated services, which is expected to result in more efficient protection of survivors on one hand and more efficient prosecution of perpetrators through improved procedures for documentation and evidence collection on the other. The sum of interventions supported a progressive increase of the number of reported cases, almost tripling between 2006 and 2012 to 9327 per year, which also indicates an increased trust in Serbia’s institutions to respond to SGBV. The final evaluation of UNDP’s intervention concluded: “In the past, institutions in Serbia perceived domestic violence as a private issue or as the socio-pathological behaviour of socially at-risk families. UNDP succeeded in mainstreaming a gender-based approach to domestic violence within state institutions and ensured a targeted focus on female victims of violence”. Recently, UNDP initiated preparation of SOS helpline minimum standards that will eventually inspire bylaw of Social Protection Law. Most significant behavioral change is reflected in the fact that a number of pressed criminal charges against perpetrators have doubled in 2013 in comparison to 2012 – 637. This could be directly contributed to UNDP’s interventions in strengthening multisectoral cooperation between judiciary, police, social protection, health care system, education and CSOs.Nevertheless, data indicate that the low rate of prosecution of perpetrators remains a burning issue. Court processes are lengthy and rarely result in imprisonment of perpetrators. That is why UNDP plans to support judges and prosecutors towards better enforcement of existing legislation for the protection of victims of violence. UNDP/SEESAC spearheaded efforts to mainstream gender in security sector reform and advance regional cooperation in achieving gender equality in police and military services in South-East Europe **Output 2.1.5. The role of civil society in accountable and transparent governance enhanced**UNDP provided cutting edge expertise to young journalists working in 10 NGOs to investigate malfeasance in public finances in an unbiased fashion. 56 stories were published through mainstream and social media, which sparked over 20 institutional reactions and even removal from office of a mayor. Some stories were picked up by traditional media while some even lead to Government bodies (e.g. Ministry of Health and Ministry of Culture) filing charges. **Output 2.1.6. Improve disaster preparedness and risk reduction and management framework**UNDP contributed to increasing safety measures of the delaboration process in Serbia’s main ammunition overhaul facility in Kragujevac by installing the antistatic floors in seven deliberation facilities. UNDP initiated delaboration of 550 tons of white phosphorus filled ammunition out of which 20,367 kg was disposed. UNDP supported the destruction of 17,000 weapons and initiated the disposal of stockpiles of 115 tons of napalm powder.UNDP assisted the recovery of 38 affected municipalities in order to improve livelihoods, Infrastructure and environment after the devastating May 2014 floods. UNDP started construction of 20 torrential barrier dams in 8 municipalities on 16 priority water flows. 203 houses were demolished, in order to clear the ground for construction of new houses. 11,547 m3 of debris was removed from 50 sites. Construction of 35 new houses has been almost finalized. UNDP provided submersible water pumps and cleaned four large water-wells connected to the main water supply system In Šabac. In the municipality of Ub, the main sewage collector was unclogged in the length of 2km; A further 188 private water-wells have been cleaned; In Lajkovac, 61 septic tanks/manholes have been unclogged and 105 private water-wells cleaned; In the municipality of Vladimirci, electro-material was procured for the main water-well; In Kosjerić, reconstruction works have been performed on the central water purification plant; and the asbestos pipes were replaced; In Smederevska Palanka, four motors were procured for the water pumps and five motor-starters for the five municipal wells, ensuring regular water supply for 50,000 people; the 300m long sewage was cleaned and 13 new manholes were constructed. A further 10 water and mud pumps have been provided to the six municipalities for disaster risk reduction and preparedness. |

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| **Country information** |  |
| **Country name:** Serbia |
| **Current country programme period:** 2011 -2015 |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **OUTCOME 3:** Enabling framework for environmental management and energy efficiency strengthened | USD 8,984,682 | **Indicator:** % of energy generated from renewables in final energy consumptionProtected national resource area | 21.2% (2009) – 19.1% (2014) **Regression**Data regarding the share decrease, which is primarily the result of annual oscillations, the non-representative year that was chosen for determining the baseline values of the RES share, and macro energy disturbances that affect the gross final energy consumption in Serbia5.86% (2011) – 6% (2014) **Some progress**Spatial plan changed which affected calculation of the area under protection. 5.86% (2011), 5.91% (2012) and 6% (2014), thus some progress. |
| **UNDP Contribution:**Serbia has taken important steps towards a strategic framework on environmental management and sustainable energy. Government adopted the National Renewable Energy Action Plan committing to increase the amount of energy generated from renewables to 27% by 2020.**CPD Outputs:** **Output 3.1.1**  **Improved environmental and natural resources stewardship, management and financing** In environmental protection and biodiversity, UNDP focused on “Ensuring Financial Sustainability of the Protected Area System of Serbia (PA)”. According to its mid-term evaluation, the project has managed to increase the “health” of the PA system in Serbia from 27.6% on the UNDP/GEF PA Financial Scorecard in 2009 to 38.67% by 2013. Financial sustainability of protected areas has been improved due to UNDP’s support to diversification of revenue streams. Full effects will be visible after 2015 tourism season. Indicative results include: National Park Tara revenues from tourism increased by 10% and the number of visitors from January to September 2014 increased by 6% compared to 2013. Srbijasume managed to collect USD 140,000 from June to September 2014 by using database that was created with UNDP’s support for Nature Park Stara Planina. UNDP encouraged local communities in Vlasina Lake national park to recognize ecotourism as the way forward in local economic development. With UNDP’s support, hiking and biking trails were marked and soft infrastructure such as seasonal market, rest stops and bird watching platform were constructed. According to the Tourism Organization of Surdulica the number of international arrivals in 2013 had doubled compared to 2009, reaching 1818 overnights in 2013. From a strategic point of view, UNDP has started promoting a new approach to financing and planning of environmental protection in Serbia, combining active participation from private sector with a self-sustaining, municipality owned eco-tourism business model. UNDP plans to replicate this approach in at least one additional PA in 2015.UNDP Serbia is helping Serbia to provide more sustainability to its protected areas by promoting greater use of its natural treasures for tourists locally and from abroad. The opening of hiking trails Tara national park, accessible for Persons with Disabilities, was part of that effort. UNDP has launched pilot activities, to increase the development of nature-based tourism and self-sufficiency of non-timber forest resources in four national parks and six other protected areas. **Output 3.1.2 Improved energy sector performance through enhanced market mechanisms, renewables and demand-side initiatives**According to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan, the share of renewable is at 21.2%, from which it has not moved notably since the adoption of the Energy Strategy in 2005. To reach the 27% target, Serbia will have to take significant actions in the coming years. UNDP Serbia project “Reducing Barriers to Accelerate the Development of Biomass Markets in Serbia” analyzed underlying problems for the slow progress, while simultaneously raising awareness on biomass production and developing guides for investors on renewable energy (wind, thermo, solar, small hydro, hydro geothermal and biomass). Each of the six guides describes procedures and identifies relevant institutions and necessary planning and design documents needed for investors. The government issued 62 energy permits in 2012, increasing installed capacity by 60 MW; 22 producers obtained the status of ‘privileged power producer’. Together, these achievements provide the groundwork for UNDP project on promoting biomass production through which the work of four biomass plants will be supported in 2015. As UNDP’s analysis highlights, such solutions will be sorely needed, since one of the biggest barriers to the development of renewable energy is a lack of investment capacity especially among small and medium sized companies.**Output 3.1.3. Improved national response to adapt to and mitigate the impact of global climate change, and adhere to relevant international conventions**With regard to climate change, the EC Progress Report 2013 acknowledges limited progress on legislation and implementation. However, binding emissions reduction commitments have still not been set by the government. To support this process, UNDP Serbia started Second National Communication to the UNFCCC, which has through the kick-off activities already gained a renewed focus to the climate change issue, as witnessed by big turnout of government representatives at UNDP organized roundtable and increased presence of the issue in media. The project will also continue to significantly develop monitoring, reporting and institutional coordination on the topic as it proceeds further.UNDP has contributed to metropolitan emissions reductions through the project “Support to the Sustainable Transport in the City of Belgrade”. The mid-term evaluation concluded that one of the main results of the project was to promote Belgrade’s embarking onto preparing the first Sustainable Urban Transport Plan in the country. Initial steps to replicate the project in Novi Sad have been taken, which would further contribute to emission reduction. In addition, UNDP promoted bicycling and alternative mobility through outreach and awareness campaigns, which led to a commitment by the Mayor’s office to construct additional 200 km of bicycling lanes by 2020 and improved road safety standards around selected elementary schools. Through the stimulation for children to increasingly walk to and from schools, UNDP’s interventions will contribute to decrease of traffic, less congestion and thus reduced GHG emissions. With UNDP support, emission of GHG in Belgrade have decreased. Overall direct GHG mitigation potential of sustainable transport measures is estimated on cumulative reduction of 99,832 kt of CO2-eq for the period 2012 – 2020, or approximately 0,53% of the estimated baseline emissions under business-as-usual (midterm evaluation).The direct effects on emissions reductions will, however, remain moderate, as changes in transport development will require a longer time to be realized.UNDP supported preparation of the 5th National Report to the UN Convention on Biodiversity. 1st Biennial Update Report is ongoing, including collection of data for GHG inventory, analyses of climate change impacts, vulnerability assessment and definition of adaptation options in key economic sectors. **Output 3.1.4. Awareness raising for environmental governance, rights and justice improved**UNDP marks the European Mobility Week with the city of Belgrade and the EU delegation to Serbia. Cyclists staged a rally from the heart of the city and schoolchildren displayed drawings of the “green” Belgrade they want to live in. As part of a campaign throughout Europe to encourage local authorities to promote sustainable transport, and to encourage the public to use alternatives to cars, Belgrade joined hundreds of cities and towns to mark this annual event. UNDP handed over 20 bicycles to the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection. Bicycles will enrich the Ministry’s „rent-a-bike” system and further promote alternative mobility modalities, encourage the civil servants to cycle to work and break prejudices that Belgrade is not a bicycle friendly city.UNDP launched “I like cycling” photo competition in order to promote cycling in Belgrade and all positive aspects of using bicycle as a mode of transport. To raise awareness that Serbia’s nature preserves should be enjoyed by all and fully accessible, UNDP opened first hiking trail for those with special needs, at Tara National Park. The project, “Tara for All”, featured new bicycle route markings, construction of tourist facilities and a business plan that includes facilities for those with special needs. Within the Biodiversity Week, the European Park Day was marked by visiting Natural Monument Lazar’s Canyon, organized by UNDP and the Public Enterprise Srbijašume.UNDP and “Srbijašume” also opened the visitor Centre “Vrelo” („Waterspring“) at the Nature Park Stara Planina on the International Biodiversity Day. At the opening ceremony, the public was appealed to act responsibly as preserved biodiversity contributes to climate regulation, mitigation of the effect of greenhouse gases, maintenance of air quality and droughts and floods control.UNDP supported workshops dedicated to raising knowledge and level of awareness on climate change related facts and challenges for the Republic of Serbia. More than 100 participants, representatives of local self-governments, CSOs, business, academic community and media, attended these workshops. Workshops were organized under the framework of the UNDP/GEF project “Second National Communication to the UNFCCC for Serbia”, in cooperation between UNDP and Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia. Particular attention was given to the preliminary results of vulnerability assessment for agriculture, forestry and water resources in Serbia, proposed adaptation measures, as well the consideration of consequences that projected climate change may cause to natural and manmade environment, health and economic development. |

III. Country Programme Resources (2011-2015)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Focus area** | **Regular (TRAC)** | **Other** | **Total** | **% of Total** |
| Sustainable development and social inclusion  | 503,312 | 11,015,604 | 11,518,916 | 25% |
| Good Governance  | 1,246,426 | 27,589,028 | 28,835,454 | 55% |
| Environment and Energy | 494,096 | 12,102,586 | 12,596,682 | 20% |
| **Total** | **2,243,834** | **50,707,218** | **52,951,052** | **100%** |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)**  |
| Outcome evaluation reports, project evaluation reports, administrative data (e.g. center for social work reports), municipal websites, labour force survey, EU progress reports, media reports, surveys (e.g. corruption perception), Human Development Reports |