

UNFPA Management Response to Evaluation

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	
Country, Region or HQ division/unit that commissioned the evaluation	Armenia-EECA
Evaluation Title	Independent Country Programme Evaluation Armenia
Year of the evaluation	2015
Type and/or focus area of evaluation	CountryProgEval
MR submission date	June 26, 2015
Approved By	
Evaluation Manager	TSOVINAR harutyunyan,NPO,Armenia
General Management Response	UNFPA Armenia CO accepts all 10 recommendations of the CPE and prepared a detailed response with actions addressing the recommendations and the operational implications presented in the CPE report.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
Recomendation 1	UNFPA should focus more strategically in this country programme and in planning the 3rd country programme on advocating for and reaching more of the most vulnerable and high risk people and groups as per its mandate, with a particular emphasis on prevention.
Management Response	Accepted
Comments	

No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
				Status	Comments
1.1	Develop and finalize 2016-2020 UNFPA Armenia Country Document which addresses and advocates for the most vulnerable and high risk people and groups as per UNFPA mandate.	March 30,2015	Assistant Representative	June 24,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
				June 25,2015	
				June 23,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
				June 23,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
				June 24,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
				June 24,2015	with support of CO team, CD and EECARO
				June 24,2015	
				June 25,2015	with support of CD and EECARO

1.2	Develop and finalize 2016-2020 UNFPA Armenia Country Program Action Plan which addresses and advocates for the most vulnerable and high risk people and groups as per UNFPA mandate.	February 01,2016	Assistant Representative	June 24,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
				June 23,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
				June 24,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
				June 24,2015	with support of CO staff, CD and EECARO
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	with support of CD and EECARO
1.3	Conduct a public inquiry into the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health rights in Armenia with focus on vulnerable groups in cooperation with the Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia.	December 30,2015	AR/RH/ Gender staff	June 24,2015	with support of UNFPA HQ, EECARO
				June 23,2015	with support of UNFPA HQ, EECARO
				June 24,2015	
1.4	Provide expertise to Ministry of Health in development of the National RH Strategy 2016-2020 with specific focus on most vulnerable and high risk people.	December 30,2015	AR/RH focal point	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
				June 24,2015	

1.5	Provide expertise to Ministry of Labour and Social Issues in development of the next National Gender Strategy 2016-2020 with specific focus on most vulnerable and high risk people.	December 31,2015	AR/Gender focal point	June 24,2015	
Recomendation 2				UNFPA should develop a carefully crafted sustainability strategy in coordination with the main partner organizations which will include strategies for resource sharing with government, donors, partners and UN agencies working on similar issues. This will include structured plans for Government takeover of funding responsibilities and strategies for fund raising. This will also include a human resources strategy that ensures secure funding.	
Management Response				Accepted	
Comments					

No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
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2.1	Conduct private sector mapping & database set up in Armenia, in support of the ICPD beyond 2014 and post 2015 agenda.	April 30,2015	AR/RM focal point	June 24,2015	with support and guidance of EECARO RM adviser
				June 23,2015	with support and guidance of EECARO RM adviser
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 25,2015	with support and guidance of EECARO RM adviser
2.2	Develop RM Strategy to ensure sustainability of ICPD agenda in Armenia.	August 31,2015	AR/RM focal point/RM adviser	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
2.3	Develop CO partnership plan and update on yearly basis.	June 30,2017	Assistant Representative	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
				June 24,2015	

2.4	Develop and sign Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and UNFPA to advance UNFPA mandated issues.	December 30,2015	Assistant Representative	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
Recommendation 3			UNFPA should support a nationally regulated system of monitoring and evaluation for a unified approach among government and assistance organizations, and should improve its own internal reporting and data collection to more effectively assess its contribution to the planned outcomes. The results or outcomes from UNFPA contributions need to be demonstrated through structured monitoring and evaluation to collect feedback from targeted groups and to predict changes in national level indicators.		
Management Response			Accepted		
Comments					

No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
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3.1	Actively contribute to UNCT M&E group at country level to strengthen nationally regulated system of monitoring and evaluation for a unified approach among government and assistance organizations.	December 30,2018	AR/PD focal point	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
3.2	Organize peer review exercise of Armenia CO M&E system.	December 30,2016	AR/M&E focal point	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
3.3	Undertake initiatives to build capacity of CO staff on M&E including systematic data collection and information based decision making.	December 30,2016	AR/M&E Focal Point/Regional M&E Adviser	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
Recomendation 4			UNFPA should expand its leadership and coordination efforts to draw in the needed cooperation and collaboration around the youth development and gender equality issues in order to make a greater collective impact especially in the marz and rural areas. More effort should be focused on gathering support from the private sector and the Armenian Diaspora for gender equality and youth interventions.		
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Comments					

No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
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4.1	Mobilize/leverage resources to implement projects on youth and gender focused on grassroots level.	December 30,2017	AR/Youth and gender staff	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	with EECARO and HQ support
				June 24,2015	
4.2	Advocate to establish UNCT Theme Group on Youth issues using Gender Theme Group model.	December 30,2016	AR/Youth focal point	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
Recommendation 5			UNFPA should assess the potential outcomes and repercussions of legislation and other restrictions planned or in practice against pre-natal sex selection as well as assessing other potential and pre-eminent problems affecting women's reproductive health and rights as well as the population demographics such as miscarriages, abortions and cases of infertility.		
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No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
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5.1	Continue advocacy to develop, adopt and implement 2015-2016 National Action Plan to Combat GBSS in Armenia.	December 31,2016	AR/Gender focal point	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
5.2	Implement "Promoting Contraceptive Security in Armenia" project to promote family planning as a powerful tool for prevention of abortions and infertility.	December 31,2016	AR/RH staff	June 24,2015	
				June 25,2015	
				June 23,2015	
Recomendation 6			UNFPA should focus its efforts on means to reach the high risk and vulnerable people who need reproductive health services, to increase their access and demand. UNFPA should continue to support capacity development with a view to ensuring greater resource sharing with the Ministry of Health and building and sustaining national institutions for continuous medical education for obstetrician/gynecologists and reproductive health staff. Efforts should center on improvement of midwifery skills and standardization of obstetrical care, in addition to developing outreach capacities.		
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No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
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6.1	Conduct assessment of the midwifery training system to increase midwifery skills for the provision of a range of required midwifery services in line with international standards.	December 30,2020	AR/RH staff	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
6.2	Provide expertise to Ministry of Health in introduction and adaptation of Reproductive Health and Rights clinical guidelines/protocols in line with WHO standards.	December 31,2018	AR/RH staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
6.3	Mainstream newly developed RH guidelines into the academic/training curricula of national institutions responsible for academic and continuous medical education.	December 31,2018	AR/RH staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
				June 23,2015	
6.4	Conduct community awareness raising events nationwide on RH/FP.	December 30,2016	RH/Communication staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
6.5	Advocate for increased budget contribution for RH/FP by Government of Armenia.	December 31,2015	AR/RH staff	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	

Recomendation 7	UNFPA should work with Government and other partners very closely to make sustainable impact on various levels, including at the policy level, in the youth friendly health services, in school curriculum, through peer education, in research and at the regional level. UNFPA should devote and seek more resources for the youth theme and boost its profile while promoting stronger coordination such as through a Youth Thematic Group.
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7.1	Provide necessary expertise to national counterparts to align content and methodologies of teaching healthy lifestyle education with international standards.	December 30,2017	AR/Youth staff	June 24,2015	
				June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
7.2	Provide needed expertise to Government partners to create a viable youth development and reproductive health policies and strategies.	December 30,2018	AR/Youth staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
7.3	Serve as a Secretariat for UN Youth Advisory Panel and strengthen it to become wider platform for involving youth in policy formulations/monitoring and evaluation.	December 30,2018	AR/Youth staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
7.4	Expand and enhance Y-peer network in Armenia to conduct peer education and awareness raising on UNFPA mandated issues, especially in rural areas and among vulnerable groups.	December 31,2019	AR/Youth staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	

Recomendation 8	UNFPA should initiate and support with partners the establishment of an integrated information center which collects and analyzes data from various administrative databases to promote timely and efficient demographic data collection and analysis which includes critical data on health and migration that is currently not effectively collected and analyzed.
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No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
				Status	Comments
8.1	Advocate for establishment of the integrated information center in Armenia.	December 31,2019	AR/PD staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
8.2	Advocate for generation of data collection, analysis, dissemination and use for informed policy development and provide relevant expertise to Government in creation of databases with population-based data through web-based platforms that facilitate mapping of socio-economic and demographic inequalities.	December 31,2019	AR/PD staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
				June 23,2015	
8.3	Conduct PSA in Armenia.	December 31,2016	AR/PD staff	June 24,2015	
				June 25,2015	
				June 23,2015	
8.4	Conduct desk reviews, secondary analysis and sample surveys addressing population dynamics.	December 30,2018	AR/PD staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	

Recomendation 9	UNFPA should strike a balance between policy work and promoting community empowerment to support gender equality and prevent domestic violence. UNFPA should advocate for passage of the gender based violence bill, promote gender sensitive training, promote research, and use the media effectively to challenge gender stereotypes. UNFPA should use its leadership in the Gender Thematic Group to ensure coverage, unified messages and joint efforts for the range of needed interventions.
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No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
				Status	Comments
9.1	Co-chair Gender Thematic Group in Armenia.	December 31,2015	AR/Gender staff	June 23,2015	
				June 26,2015	
9.2	Implement activities on multi sectorial response to GBV.	December 31,2018	AR/Gender/PD staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
9.3	Assess implementation of 2011-2015 policies on gender equality and combating GBV in special areas and suggest recommendations for the next strategy.	December 30,2015	AR/Gender focal point	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
9.4	Generate data and analytical studies on gender equality/GBV/DV for further policy guiding such as Bibliographic Survey of Gender Studies in Armenia, Diagnostic Study of Disparities in Terms of Gender Equality.	December 31,2018	AR/Gender staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
9.5	Advocate and provide expertise for developing new laws/policies/concept notes on GE, GBV and DV.	December 31,2019	AR/Gender staff	June 24,2015	
				June 23,2015	
9.6	Actively participate in the platforms on gender equality/GVB/DV/GBSSS at country and regional level.	December 31,2019	AR/Gender staff	June 26,2015	
				June 26,2015	

Recomendation 10		UNFPA should work in the marz and communities through women's centers, committees, support groups and organizations, media, community leaders, priests and Y-PEER. Interventions should encompass adherence to laws and protocols, sensitization of the communities, counselling, mentoring, and education for children, adolescents and youth to address and prevent discriminatory gender stereotyping.											
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Comments													
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Status	Comments												
	10.1	Develop and implement activities/projects for community empowerment and mobilization to support GE and prevent GBV/DV, including engaging men and boys.	December 31,2019	AR/Gender staff	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>June 24,2015</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 24,2015</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 24,2015</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 23,2015</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	June 24,2015		June 24,2015		June 24,2015		June 23,2015	
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	10.2	Work closely with FBO and fund their projects on GE/GBV issues.	December 31,2018	AR/Gender staff	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>June 24,2015</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 23,2015</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	June 24,2015		June 23,2015					
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