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United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025
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Annex 4 **Global and regional programmes**

3. Arab States regional programme (2022-2025)

Contents

I.	Programme rationale.....	2
II.	Programme priorities and partnerships	3
	Accelerating the reduction of unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal deaths and gender-based violence and harmful practices	4
A.	Output 1: Policy and accountability	4
B.	Output 2: Quality of care and services	5
C.	Output 3: Gender and social norms	5
D.	Output 4: Population change and data.....	6
E.	Output 5: Humanitarian action.....	6
F.	Output 6: Adolescents and youth	7
	Enhancing organizational effectiveness and efficiency	7
G.	OEE 1: Improved programming for results.....	7
H.	OEE 2: Optimized management of resources	7
I.	OEE3: Expanded partnerships for impact	8
III.	Programme and risk management	8
IV.	Monitoring and evaluation	8
	Annex 1: Results and resources framework for the Arab States regional programme (2022-2025)	10

I. Programme rationale

1. Despite shared language and history, the Arab region is characterized by a high level of diversity in development with high-income, middle-income and least developed countries. In addition, notable disparities exist across and within countries in the region concerning income, political stability, humanitarian crises and socio-cultural norms. The high-income countries juxtaposed against those in humanitarian crises informed the diversity of the approaches of the Arab States regional programme. In all settings, challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic further polarized the existing discrepancies exacerbating gender-based violence (GBV) and affecting negatively the already restricted access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Increasingly, the region is also affected by other global megatrends, such as climate change, rapid demographic changes altering demographic age structures, and the size and rate of migration.

2. Common challenges in the region include the low rate of accessibility to health and social services, especially among constituencies that need services the most; gaps in the availability of a skilled health care workforce; and the weak financial support and domestic resources available or allocated to health. The persistent cultural barriers to gender equality and sensitivity to the human rights agenda also remain challenges for the implementation of the UNFPA mandate across the region.

3. Some of the most complex and prolonged humanitarian crises globally are in the Arab region. In 2021, an estimated 65 million people require humanitarian assistance. This figure is projected to increase with the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting vulnerable populations and those receiving humanitarian assistance. The regional Office will leverage this as an opportunity to further refine its humanitarian business model, and to also ramp up cash vouchers assistance for populations in need.

4. Despite the progress made on addressing GBV and harmful traditional practices, GBV prevalence remains a serious issue. Acute and protracted crises can affect gender and social norms, gender discrimination and inequality and women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. This includes limited access to healthcare services, gender-based violence and other human rights violations. The region is home to 50 million cases of female genital mutilation accounting for one-quarter of the global cases, and 40 million child brides married before the age of 18. There is growing evidence that engaging men can play a significant role in ending violence against women. The first study in the Arab region on understanding masculinities in the region was conducted in 2017, in Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon and Palestine; it revealed that a majority of the men surveyed supported a wide array of inequitable, traditional attitudes towards GBV. It also showed that many men in the region continue to uphold norms that perpetuate violence against women or confine women to conventional roles, and they act on these attitudes in ways that cause harm to women, children, and themselves. Compared with men, women consistently reported less control over the marriage decision, with fathers having the final say in most cases.

5. With a considerable decrease in maternal deaths in the Arab region, the regional aggregated average is estimated at 151 deaths per 100,000 live births, with wide disparities – from 3 per 100,000 live births in the United Arab Emirates to 829 per 100,000 live births in Somalia. Considering the social, economic, political and demographic changes in the region, achieving the transformative result of ending preventable maternal deaths remain a major challenge. The contraceptive prevalence rate is less than 60 per cent in two-thirds of the Arab countries, while the unmet need exceeds 10 per cent in three-quarters of these countries. In Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, the total fertility rate is still high, exceeding three children per woman of reproductive age.

6. The region has the largest youth cohort with 30 per cent of the population aged 15-29 years, or some 105 million young persons. Youth and young people in the region face enormous challenges of lack of adequate and decent work, weak and disempowered public participation, and inadequate quality of health and education services with limited access to high-quality youth-friendly services. In some countries, there is a risk of lost generations of young people, particularly, adolescent girls growing up in conflict and instability. The Arab States Regional Office will intensify critical work with the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians for Population and Development to empower an enabling legal environment and national funding for population policies being promulgated by UNFPA and its partners.

7. Within the burgeoning youth bulge, there is a simultaneous increase in the older age cohort. With an average annual 2 per cent growth, the region expects a total population of almost 470 million by 2025, with a variable increase in the older age cohort among some countries. For example, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries

expect a rise of an ageing population by 10.47 per cent by 2030 and by 2050 the Gulf Cooperation Council countries' ageing population is expected to be at an all-time high of 20.66 per cent, the highest in the Arab region. In addition to the needs of an aging population, at least one in four persons aged 65 and older has a disability, with more than half of them women. The changing demographics coupled with the changes in household patterns from extended families to nuclear families have left older persons with less investment in their being and overall less protection.

8. Reaching the furthest behind and underserved populations is a challenge in the Arab region. In 2020, Arab countries hosted 41.4 million international migrants and refugees, who made up around 15 per cent of all migrants and refugees worldwide. Providing services for refugees and internally displaced persons has strained already stretched national services, impacting host communities. About 60 million people in the Arab region live with disabilities, both congenital and acquired as a result of armed conflict and traumatic humanitarian experiences. The prevalence of disabilities in the region is reflective of wide diversities between countries from 0.2 per cent in Qatar and reaching 5.1 per cent in Morocco. It dramatically increases in humanitarian contexts, as in Syria, where one-in-four people aged 12 and above have a disability.

9. Advancing United Nations development system reform, the Arab States Regional Office will continue to develop joint programmes with sister United Nations agencies such as UNICEF on female genital mutilation and UN-Women and UNDP on gender justice. Within its comparative advantages, the regional office will continue its active engagement through the issue-based coalitions, co-chairing with UNICEF the issue-based coalition for adolescents and youth through synergies and coordination across 17 agencies and programmes. The issue-based coalition will continue to cover youth participation and civic engagement, adolescent health and well-being, education and life skills, entrepreneurship and employability, as well as conflict and post-conflict situations. The regional office will continue to co-lead the issue-based coalitions on gender justice and equality, advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and relevant normative frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.

10. Incorporating the evaluation of the Arab States Regional Interventions Action Plan (2018-2021), the regional programme includes scale-up in data for development reflective of the United Nations Data Strategy, to enable the optimal tracking of vital issues, calibrated by country-specific issues, such as migration, fertility, mortality, and population change and dynamics – and, more recently, the impact of and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The critical role of partnership in the implementation of the regional programme is recognized as central to the organization's ability to harness data in humanitarian settings. Collaborating with the League of Arab States paved the way for population policies across the region, as all the country categories that contained sensitive components would not have been implemented without the League of Arab States as a supporting partner. This programme will build on the disability-related regional evidence to develop advocacy tools and briefs in contribution to mainstreaming inclusion in the regional programme, regional and national legal frameworks, including the development of a regional roadmap on operationalizing the disabilities inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Arab region, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

11. The regional programme, 2022-2025 is closely aligned with the UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on reduced maternal death, reduced unmet need for family planning, and reduced gender-based violence across the complementarity of humanitarian action, development and peace-responsive efforts. The regional programme accounts for context-specific issues, such as increasing vulnerability and instability, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations, including migrants, people with disabilities and adolescent girls. The implementation modalities are based on the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review, lessons learned from the review of the Regional Interventions Action Plan, 2018-2021, and will continue to evolve and adapt in response to the fluid political, social, and economic environment in the region.

12. The regional programme was developed based on a change story that delineated the Arab region's core issues, underlying causes, risks, and accelerators towards the achievement of three transformative results. It is based on the six strategic plan outputs adapted to the regional context, with a focus on (a) policy and accountability; (b) quality of care and services; (c) gender and social norms; (d) population change and data; (e) strengthening complementarity across the humanitarian, development, and peace-responsive efforts; and (f) adolescents and youth. The programme considers regional specificity across countries and adapts the interventions according to

the different categories of countries within the region; humanitarian, conflict and post-conflict contexts, high-income countries, least developed countries and middle-income countries.

13. The regional programme will utilize the following accelerators to achieve intended results: human rights-based approach; strategic partnerships; innovation; data; leaving no one behind; and resilience. Furthermore, the programme will contribute to the achievement of the results in an integrated manner by (a) strengthening advocacy and intergovernmental policy dialogue; (b) enhancing knowledge generation and dissemination; (c) building and expanding strategic partnerships with nongovernment organizations, including feminist and youth groups, while expanding interagency collaboration; (d) enhancing the capacity of country offices, partners and stakeholders and promoting the dissemination of good practices and South-South and triangular cooperation, (e) delivering technical, operational and programmatic advisory support to countries; and (f) promoting international norms and standards.

14. Countries in the region, particularly middle-income countries, require state-of-the-art tailored support, with increased investment in data availability, knowledge production, innovation and South-South and triangular cooperation. The regional office will support prototyping and piloting of innovative approaches throughout each thematic area to serve as an incubator for country-level interventions in a newly established innovation platform. The platform will serve as a forum for sharing new ideas, developing proposals, and piloting initiatives for scale-up throughout the region. The regional office will continue to generate evidence and operational research based on cutting edge humanitarian knowledge products, branded as “knowledge series”, to enhance its overall humanitarian programmatic and operational response and inform policy decisions. The regional office will promote knowledge-sharing through South-South and triangular cooperation, interregional and intraregional exchange of experiences and the documentation and dissemination of good practices.

15. The regional office will take note of regional and continental frameworks such as Agenda 2063, to stimulate policy response and accountability advancing towards achieving the Cairo and Addis Ababa Declarations on population and development, particularly those related to ending GBV and empowering women and girls. Through the strengthened coordination and cooperation with strategic partners and regional institutions, the regional office will maximize its comparative advantage of shared value and ensure sustainability.

16. Critical to the realization of the ICPD Programme of Action, in the Gulf Cooperation Council subregion, the regional programme will further expand the range of partnerships, with a focus on the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, to bring a stronger subregional presence and diversified partnerships. Building on its previous joint initiatives with other United Nations agencies and regional partners, such as the League of Arab States, the World Health Organization (WHO), International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UN-Women, UNFPA will continue forging regional and global strategic alliances for advocacy, knowledge generation and mobilizing resources.

17. During the Decade of Action, another focus of the regional programme is to support countries, with interventions tailored to each specific context across the Arab region, in their efforts to provide universal and equitable access to high-quality SRH and GBV services and fulfilment of reproductive rights. This will be achieved by contributing to an enabling environment to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the achievement of the three transformative results and the SDGs.

Accelerating the reduction of unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal deaths and gender-based violence and harmful practices

A. Output 1: Policy and accountability

By 2025, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as well as the prevention and response to gender-based violence and harmful practices, are integrated into universal health coverage-related policies and plans, and other relevant laws, policies, plans, and accountability frameworks

18. To achieve this output, the regional programme will continue to work on evidence-based advocacy tools knowledge and guidance on the three transformative results, including in humanitarian settings. Specifically, it will coordinate the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the prioritization of SRH and reproductive rights within the framework of universal health coverage; advocate for national budgeting for SRH

and GBV services through the roll-out of the recently developed regional health-friendly budgeting strategy; build strategic partnerships and coalitions for advocacy on integration; support the development of investment cases and costing of the three transformative results. The interventions will strengthen data systems; support capacity development in terms of evidence generation and development for advocacy tools that aim at mainstreaming disability inclusion and the development and implementation of policies and legal frameworks on GBV. Increasingly, these efforts will include partnering with regional governmental entities to increase accountability among Governments while ensuring the implementation of laws and policies on GBV; engage with regional bodies to issue regional position papers; and support capacity building efforts for the development and implementation of policies and legal frameworks on GBV.

19. The regional programme will build the capacity of national human rights institutions, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders to integrate the human rights-based approach into programming with a focus on the most vulnerable. It will scale up its work in providing support to regional institutions and country offices, to support capacity building for better involvement in the universal periodic reviews and translating the comments, especially those related to SRH and GBV, into policies and actions at the national level. Work will also promote dialogue between civil society organizations, including women-led and youth-led organizations, with government representatives to promote the protection of the rights of women and adolescent girls, including their access to SRH services and comprehensive sexuality education; and support country offices to ensure that SRH, gender and GBV issues are mainstreamed in national climate policies.

B. Output 2: Quality of care and services

By 2025, strengthened capacity of systems, institutions, and communities to provide quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services, including supplies, as well as essential services to address gender-based violence and harmful practices

20. To maintain continuity and access to sexual and reproductive health services, the regional programme will identify country-specific needs of health systems and communities; support countries to assess and monitor the quality, accessibility and affordability of existing services using ‘accountability to affected populations’ approaches; determine the training and logistical requirements for services; and address prevailing resource constraints. Special attention will be given to addressing the unmet needs of those left furthest behind, such as adolescent girls, unmarried women, people with disabilities and migrants, and adequate SRH supplies in humanitarian contexts. Costing exercises and research will be undertaken to develop evidence-based advocacy tools and initiate policy dialogue.

21. The regional programme will also support integrated health systems to respond to the needs and expectations of adolescents and youth by strengthening adolescent-friendly SRH and GBV services. Initiatives will support the roll-out and implementation of the essential service package for women and girls subject to violence calibrating interventions for countries in crisis to adopt GBV in interagency minimum standards in emergencies, including the mental health and psychosocial support needs of women and girls affected by GBV and harmful practices while considering the new context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Identifying barriers to accessing services and building a cadre of advocates focusing on midwives, nurses and doctors will help to generate evidence on midwifery practice in the region, to provide countries with country-specific policy and planning tools, including for projections of midwifery workforce needs, to achieve the relevant SDG/ICPD indicators by 2030. It will also address the medicalization of female genital mutilation by supporting health professionals to champion the elimination of female genital mutilation as a human rights violation; build capacities of civil society organizations and regional partners on WHO medical guidelines and protocols on female genital mutilation. In parallel, there will be a special focus on comprehensive sexuality education to address sexually transmitted infections and HIV as well as unintended pregnancies by creating demand for SRH and family planning information and services.

C. Output 3: Gender and social norms

By 2025, strengthened mechanisms and capacities of actors and institutions to address discriminatory laws, social norms and practices that hinder gender equality and women’s decision making

22. The regional programme will expand work with regional partners through the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programmes on female genital mutilation and child marriage, the African Union, the Men Engage network, the Y-PEER network, the Girls Not Brides global partnership and the regional accountability frameworks for child

marriage. Targeted interventions will engage men and boys to combat GBV and harmful practices, focusing on countries where harmful practices are prevalent and/or are compounded by humanitarian or post-conflict factors. Capacity building to transform harmful gender roles, norms and power relations in their communities, along with region-specific knowledge products on understanding social norms and beliefs around GBV and harmful practices among men, will advance ongoing interventions with faith-based organizations, such as Al-Azhar and the Coptic Church, and religious leaders in gender-transformative work. The regional youth networks covering middle-income countries and humanitarian settings will be the conduits for gender-transformative approaches for adolescent boys and young men to understand and transform inequitable gender norms and power dynamics into positive values, developing partnerships with regional bodies working on engaging men and boys in ending GBV, such as the Men Engage Alliance. The programme will produce creative stories disseminated in the media and through cultural events and artistic products to promote messages across all levels.

D. Output 4: Population change and data

By 2025, strengthened data systems and evidence to account for population changes and megatrends including ageing and climate change, in development policies and programmes, especially those related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

23. To support the achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action and accelerate progress towards the three transformative results, in line with the 2030 Agenda, the regional programme will focus on high-level policy dialogue and advocacy; strengthening population-related data systems in all countries of the region; supporting capacity building of partners, across all country categories, to generate and analyse accurate data in support of evidence-based policies and plans; strengthening national surveys, including population and housing censuses, and civil registration and vital statistics data systems.

E. Output 5: Humanitarian action

By 2025, strengthened capacity of critical actors and systems in preparedness, early action and in the provision of life-saving interventions that are timely, integrated, conflict- and climate-sensitive, gender-transformative and peace-responsive

24. Protracted crises and weak governance have resulted in overloaded health systems, weakened and disrupted supply chains and interrupted access to essential SRH and GBV services and related commodities. Across all contexts, the regional programme will strengthen the engagement of the country offices with their respective national and local partners, including women-led civil society organizations, for increased localization of capacity building and decision-making about SRH services and GBV prevention and response.

25. Due to vaccine inequities and slow vaccine roll-outs, it is expected that the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impact will shape the realities of the region for years to come. Lessons learned from addressing the pandemic will be built into programming, including integration of infection-prevention control measures, including the use of personal protective equipment within service provision, building on telemedicine and virtual hotlines experiences for innovative SRH and GBV services. Leaving no one behind will be at the heart of interventions, grounded in humanitarian principles, with a focus on strengthening women-led organizations.

26. The programme will guide the country offices to strengthen resilience, adaptation and complementarity of humanitarian action, development and peace-responsive efforts to reduce the humanitarian needs, health risks and vulnerabilities of populations. These efforts will include (a) support to SRH life-saving services; (b) capacity building of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in crisis situations, as part of preparedness for rapid service implementation during acute crises, and building capacity to scale-up and transition more effectively to more comprehensive SRH services in protracted crises and during the stabilization of humanitarian situations; (c) strengthening regional training partnerships and national capacities in building capacity in the clinical management of rape as well as in GBV case management, including strengthened mental health and psycho-social support in both stable and protracted humanitarian contexts; (d) supporting the scaling-up of cash and voucher assistance to increase access to GBV prevention and response, strengthen SRH and reproductive rights programming in emergencies and promote protective outcomes, linking to social protection networks and livelihood mechanisms, where available; and (e) integrating menstrual hygiene management in emergencies

programming within the country office emergency response, including provision of dignity kits and other essential supplies.

27. The regional office will advance as a thought leader through the Arab States humanitarian knowledge hub, providing tailored programmatic and operational support based on these knowledge products. The aforementioned “knowledge series” is based on identified gaps and needs arising from UNFPA humanitarian operations; it is informed by the experience of women and girls and focuses on quality assurance and standardization of multi-country interventions in humanitarian settings. The hub will continue to leverage its expertise in coordinating and supporting multi-country humanitarian responses. Lessons learned from this interregional approach will be shared and applied in similar contexts, such as within the Horn of Africa, to address regional mixed-migration flows – comprising refugees and irregular migrants.

F. Output 6: Adolescents and youth

By 2025, strengthened skills and opportunities for adolescents and youth to ensure their bodily autonomy, leadership and participation, and to build human capital

28. The regional programme will focus on evidence-based strategic responses to the key priority needs of adolescents and youth in the Arab countries to support the achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action and the three transformative results, in line with the 2030 Agenda. This will be accomplished, in tandem with country offices, by developing guidelines and tools, building the capacity of youth-led networks and regional and national partners to implement programmes that promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth, particularly adolescent girls, as well as their empowerment and active participation. The regional office will also calibrate country approaches for policy dialogue and guidance to develop or upgrade existing youth policies and strategies. Special attention will be on the most vulnerable adolescents and youth, including youth not in education, employment or training, youth with disabilities and those living with HIV.

29. The regional programme will expand the UNFPA leadership position in the region on youth-related issues, including convening the regular “Youth Forum in the Arab Region” – a unique resource mobilization model that includes the Regional Youth Platform and Digital Tool, Regional Youth Charter, and the Regional Youth Forum Center. These platforms will sustain and expand opportunities for the empowerment of youth, especially adolescent girls, particularly concerning life skills education; comprehensive sexuality education; youth, peace and security; and the UNFPA assets building framework.

Enhancing organizational effectiveness and efficiency

G. OEE 1: Improved programming for results

30. Utilizing expertise and knowledge to provide technical support and provide quality assurance, the Arab States Regional Office will provide support throughout the entire country programme development process. The regional office will support country offices to develop robust, responsive and collaborative country programmes, enhancing the use of evidence from evaluations and other critical sources for the delivery of life-saving interventions to beneficiaries. The regional office will scale up its quality assurance and quality management systems to country offices to enhance the quality of programme implementation on a real-time basis, allowing for course corrections in programme execution at the country office level.

H. OEE 2: Optimized management of resources

31. The regional office will strengthen resources management, support supply-chain management and maintain high-quality financial management to achieve greater efficiencies that will impact 2025 results. The regional office will maintain its oversight over country offices, building capacity through targeted support for strengthened field operations. To generate new ways of achieving results effectively and efficiently, the regional office will strengthen its oversight of the Reproductive Health Commodity Security programme. The establishment of new positions in the Gulf Cooperation Council will support an expansion of regional partnerships and resource mobilization opportunities related to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

32. In close collaboration with the respective corporate units, the regional office will play an active role in the implementation of the ICT strategy, with specific support to the digitization and roll-out of the new enterprise resource planning and enterprise risk management systems, as well as integration of environmental sustainability in operations. This is in addition to the active role of UNFPA in United Nations development system reform related to business operations, supporting regional initiatives at the regional operations management teams (Africa and Arab States) to support the consolidation of service provision through a common back office.

I. OEE3: Expanded partnerships for impact

33. Communication is critical for achieving the three transformative results. Building on lessons learned and good practices, the regional office will partner with journalists to strengthen their capacity to report on issues related to GBV, SRH and reproductive rights. The strategy will have a strong policy advocacy component to help the regional office make concrete policy recommendations to influence the adoption of policies that lead towards the achievement of the three transformative results.

34. The newly developed resource mobilization and partnership plan contains extensive details on the activities and targets for 2022-2025. Within the scope of the Global Strategic Partnership Framework, the regional office aims to continue expanding strategic partnerships with new partners and the development of institutional cooperation, working with international financial institutions and other partners, including women-led organizations, academia, thematic funds, foundations and the private sector, to explore innovative financing modalities and more sustainable funding mechanisms.

III. Programme and risk management

35. The regional office will continue proactively assess risks, looking to link standard operating procedures into integrated process management. This will not only identify business risks and appropriate controls to mitigate them but also incorporate elements of process improvements, maintaining an operations plan that will be accompanying the annual planning to identify the different inputs needed to achieve the milestones throughout the programme cycle.

36. With UNFPA earmarking programme funds for staff to provide technical and programme expertise, human resources will be aligned with programme needs. This will involve continuous improvement, including the establishment of professional rosters key to achieving programme results.

37. A portion of the programme initiatives will be implemented jointly with implementing partners. The partners will be selected through implementing partner selection modalities; and programmes will be implemented accordingly, in line with the harmonized approach to cash transfers, including the establishment of robust assurance plans.

38. In aspects of programme implementation, the regional office will ensure full compliance, including for country offices, with the policies on the protection against sexual exploitation and abuse as well as 'accountability to affected populations' standards.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

39. The regional programme will build on the UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025, and its results monitoring and evaluation component, contextualizing it to reflect the regional approach to programme monitoring and evaluation. A strong focus will be on monitoring for results, qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis and reporting, as well as impact assessments and planned evaluation, strengthening the internal capacity of evaluations, both at the thematic and country programme levels. It will expand the work on strengthening national evaluation capacity as one of the core components of the SDG accountability mechanisms. The interventions on strengthening national evaluation capacity will scale up ongoing support to national entities, including voluntary organizations for professional evaluation to enhance the feasibility of evaluations at country and regional levels, intensify support for the young and emerging evaluators scheme as a means of developing sustainable capacity for evaluation. The programme will continue to adopt innovative approaches for evaluations, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lessons learned and recommendations from evaluation exercises will be synthesized in a manner that strengthens decision-making and enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of UNFPA interventions by

adopting an adaptive management approach that also ensures learning while focusing on achieving results. These will be utilized to strategically shape policy and advisory support and programme design and implementation over the next planning cycle.

40. To ensure an effective system to monitor for results, the regional programme will be implemented using results-based and adaptive management approaches, including results monitoring, data collection, real-time monitoring, analysis and course correction, periodic reviews, and other innovative, inclusive and consultative methods. The regional office will also continue to utilize its already well-developed quality-assurance review process and feedback mechanism that was built on a country-level peer-review process for the quality assurance of routine quarterly monitoring reports and the annual reports of the country offices.

41. The regional programme will also scale up its support for the United Nations development system reform processes through established inter-agency mechanisms, such as the programme support group. Through this engagement, the regional office collaborates with other key UNSDG agencies to provide technical support to the United Nations country teams. The programme will also support, where necessary, regional institutions and national Governments to enhance SDG monitoring and support for the preparation of voluntary national reports.

Annex 1: Results and resources framework for the Arab States regional programme (2022-2025)

UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025, Goal: Achieved universal access to sexual and reproductive health and realization of reproductive rights, and accelerated progress on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action			
UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025, Outcome 1: By 2025, the reduction of preventable maternal deaths has accelerated		Indicative resources \$8.2 million: (\$5.8 million from regular resources and \$2.4 million from other resources)	
UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025, Outcome 2: By 2025, the reduction of unmet need for family planning has accelerated		Indicative resources \$8.4 million: (\$6.7 million from regular resources and \$1.7 million from other resources)	
UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025, Outcome 3: By 2025, the reduction in gender-based violence and harmful practices has accelerated		Indicative resources \$6.3 million: (\$4.2 million from regular resources and \$2.1 million from other resources)	
Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency		Indicative resources \$2.5 million: (\$2.5 million from regular resources and \$0 from other resources)	
Regional programme output	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partner contributions	Indicative resources
Output 1: By 2025, improved integration of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as well as the prevention of and response to gender-based violence and harmful practices, into universal health coverage-related policies and plans, and other relevant laws, policies, plans, and accountability frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of country offices responding to humanitarian emergencies supported with SRHiE and GBViE related evidence-based advocacy tools for programming (Hub) Baseline: 50% Year: 2021; 2022Target: 70%; 2023Target: 80% 2024Target: 100%; 2025Target: 100% Number of countries supported to integrate comprehensive SRH and reproductive rights progressively into universal health coverage, primary healthcare-related and other relevant laws, policies, plans, strategies and guidelines Baseline: 0 Year: 2021; 2022Target: _3_; 2023Target: _5_ 2024Target: _6_; 2025Target: _8_ Percentage of country offices that provided technical support to align with UNFPA corporate PSEA strategy to ensure the integration of PSEA in the programmes Baseline: 50% Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 100%; 2023Target: 100%_ 2024Target: 100%; 2025Target: 100% Availability of the “regional costing analysis” of resources required to end unmet need for family planning and eliminate preventable maternal deaths in the Arab region Baseline: No Year: 2021; No 2022Target: Yes; 2023Target: N/A 2024Target: N/A; 2025Target: N/A Number of additional outcome documents of regional intergovernmental processes supported by UNFPA that integrate the commitments related to the achievement of the three transformative 	ESCWA; UN-Women; LAS, Parliamentarians; WHO; IPPF; IDRC; OCHA	\$6.1 million: (\$3.8 million from regular resources and \$1.4 million from other resources)

	<p>results <i>Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 4 2024Target: 6; 2025Target: 8</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of additional joint programmes and/or initiatives on issues within the UNFPA mandate areas in the region supported by the regional office <i>Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 4 2024Target: 6; 2025Target: 8</i> • Percentage of country offices supported to integrate SRH and reproductive rights, gender, and population issues into national climate policies, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction plans <i>Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 10%; 2023Target: 20% 2024Target: 50%; 2025Target: 60%</i> • Number of additional country offices equipped with evidence-based advocacy tools to promote allocating more domestic resources for family planning/SRH/gender and youth programming <i>Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: N/A; 2023Target: 2 2024Target: 4; 2025Target: 6</i> • Number of additional country offices with strengthened capacity in applying a human rights-based approach to programming in their programme design or implementation (cumulative) <i>Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 5; 2023Target: 10 2024Target: 13; 2025Target: 15</i> • Number of functional platforms and/or mechanisms developed to mobilize parliamentarians' commitment to supporting the UNFPA mandate and ICPD implementation based on SDGs and follow up on the voluntary ICPD25 commitments (cumulative) <i>Baseline: 3 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 5; 2023Target: 6 2024Target: 7; 2025Target: 8</i> 		
<p><u>Output 2:</u> By 2025, strengthened capacity of systems, institutions and communities to provide high-quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services, including supplies, as well as essential services to address gender-based</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of country offices supported to implement impact assessments (including client feedback mechanisms) to assess and monitor the quality of the provision of SRH and reproductive rights and GBV programmes <i>Baseline: 5 Year: 2020 ; 2022Target: 7; 2023Target: 9 2024Target: 10; 2025Target: 12</i> • Number of country offices and regional partners with enhanced capacity for improving logistics management information systems, forecasting, procurement and delivery of reproductive health supplies including emergency reproductive health kits, supply chain management, and 'last mile' assurance <i>Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ;</i> 	<p>IDRC; WHO; UNICEF; IPPF; JSI</p>	<p>\$2.0 million: (\$1.1 million from regular resources and \$0.9 million from other resources)</p>

<p>violence and harmful practices.</p>	<p>2022Target: 4; 2023Target: 6 2024Target: 8; 2025Target: 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of additional country offices provided with technical support to improve maternal death surveillance and response systems including linkages with civil registration and vital statistics systems Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 4 2024Target: 6; 2025Target: 8 • Number of disability-inclusive knowledge products/advocacy materials/strategies/technical or operational guidance/outcome documents produced Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 4 2024Target: 6; 2025Target: 8 • Number of additional country offices supported in the roll-out of the essential service package guidelines at the national level Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 4 2024Target: 8; 2025Target: 10 		
<p><u>Output 3:</u> By 2025, strengthened mechanisms and capacities of actors and institutions to address discriminatory gender and social norms to advance gender equality and women’s decision-making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of country offices supported in the development of draft policies/legislative documents to protect women and girls from gender-based violence with sound implementation mechanisms Baseline: 0 Year: 2020; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 6 2024Target: 10; 2025Target: 14 • Number of additional country offices supported to establish well-functioning essential services and referral systems for women and girls who are survivors of violence Baseline: 0 Year: 2020 ; 2022Target: 1; 2023Target: 3 2024Target: 5; 2025Target: 8 • Number of country offices provided with support to strengthen the national response to the anti-medicalization of FGM Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 3 2024Target: N/A; 2025Target: N/A • Number of country offices supported to establish networks of faith-based organizations and religious leaders to address harmful gender and sociocultural norms Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 3 2024Target: 5; 2025Target: N/A • Percentage of country offices supported to capacitate male leaders (including YPEERs) in the high FGM prevalence countries in the region (5 countries) to engage in FGM prevention in the region (cumulative) Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 	<p>UN-Women; UNICEF; UNDP; ESCWA; LAS; ABAAD; AUC; AUB; WRC; AIHR; CAWTAR</p>	<p>\$5.2 million: (\$4.2 million from regular resources and \$1 million from other resources)</p>

	<p>2022Target: 20%; 2023Target: 60% 2024Target: 80%; 2025Target: 90%</p>		
<p>Output 4: By 2025, strengthened data systems and evidence that take into account population changes and other megatrends including ageing and climate change, in development programmes and policies, especially those related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of tools or guidance notes to support country national systems in the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data on the incidence of gender-based violence and other harmful practices (e.g., female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage) Baseline: 0 Year:2021 ; 2022Target: 1; 2023Target: N/A 2024Target: 1; 2025Target: N/A • Number of country offices supported whose countries have census results that are disaggregated by age and sex for administrative level 3 which are publicly accessible online Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: N/A; 2023Target: N/A 2024Target: 1; 2025Target: 2 • Number of country offices that received technical support to include questions on disability and migration in national censuses Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 2022Target: 1; 2023Target: 2 2024Target: 3; 2025Target: 4 • Number of country offices operating in humanitarian crisis settings supported to report age- and sex-disaggregated programme data Baseline: 0 Year:2021 ; 2022Target: 1; 2023Target: 2 2024Target: 3; 2025Target: 4 • Number of country offices capacitated to support the production of a common operational data set on population statistics Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022 Target: N/A; 2023 Target: N/A 2024 Target: 1; 2025 Target: 2 • Number of countries supported to feed qualitative and quantitative humanitarian data into a common data platform (e.g. regional data platform; humanitarian master sheet) Baseline: 1 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 5; 2023Target: 7 2024Target: 10; 2025Target: 12 • Number of additional country offices supported to generate and use qualitative or quantitative SRH and GBV vulnerability data (at admin level 1 or below) in disasters and humanitarian crises response Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: N/A 2024Target: 4; 2025Target: N/A 	<p>ESCWA, LAS, IOM, UNICEF, WHO, UNOCHA AITRS and UNHCR, HelpAge</p>	<p>\$2.9 million: (\$2.5 million from regular resources and \$0.4 million from other resources)</p>
<p>Output 5: By 2025, strengthened capacity of critical actors and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of GBV national-level sub-clusters with identified needs/gaps that have received ongoing and extended coordination and information management technical support from the regional office (disaggregated by type of support received) 	<p>GBV AoR, OCHA, UNHCR, WRC, WHO, WFP, IOM, JHU, IASC</p>	<p>\$3.5 million: (\$1.5 million from regular</p>

<p>systems in preparedness, early action and in the provision of life-saving interventions that are timely, integrated, conflict- and climate-sensitive, gender-transformative and peace-responsive</p>	<p>Baseline: 50% Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 60%; 2023Target: 80% 2024Target: 90%; 2025Target: 100%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of country offices in protracted and acute humanitarian settings that have received technical assistance in humanitarian response (for at least 2 of the following components - SRHiE, GBViE, MHM, cash vouchers assistance, MHPSS, FTP activation, EF/HTF request, resource mobilization) Baseline: 10% Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 40%; 2023Target: 50% 2024Target: 70%; 2025Target: 100% • Percentage of country offices contributing to a regional programme that are supported to establish systems for safe and ethical GBV incident data management (through the GBVIMS/GBVIMS+ or other safe and ethical data systems) Baseline: 20% Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 30%; 2023Target: 40% 2024Target: 50%; 2025Target: 50% • Number of country offices supported to establish and utilize the cash vouchers assistance approach as part of their GBV or SRH programming Baseline: 6 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 5; 2023Target: 5 2024Target: 5; 2025Target: 5 • Number of country offices supported to partner with women-led civil society organizations and networks contributing to humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery efforts Baseline: 2 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 4; 2023Target: 5 2024Target: 6; 2025Target: 7 • Number of country offices supported to work with partners to develop a youth, peace and security national framework or coalition, with the support of UNFPA Baseline: 1 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 3 2024Target: 4; 2025Target: 5 • Number of countries technically supported by the regional office to review/develop clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence guidelines/strategies/protocols (cumulative) Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 1; 2023Target: 3 2024Target: 5; 2025Target: 7 		<p>resources and \$2 million from other resources)</p>
<p><u>Output 6:</u> By 2025, strengthened skills and opportunities for adolescents and youth to ensure bodily autonomy, leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of country offices supported to work with partners on the operationalization of comprehensive sexuality education curricula in informal, non-formal and informal settings Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 1; 2023Target: 2 2024Target: 4; 2025Target: 8 	<p>UNESCO; WFP; UNV; UNWOMAN, UNDP; ESCWA; UNICEF; ILO; IPPF; WHO; UNAIDS WHO; YPEER ICs Network; LAS; Union for the</p>	<p>\$5.1 million: (\$3.1 million from regular resources and \$2.0 million from other resources)</p>

<p>and participation, and to build human capital.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of country offices able to support the involvement of adolescents and youth, including marginalized adolescents and youth, in the formulation and implementation of policies related to the three transformative results Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 1; 2023Target: 3 2024Target: 5; 2025Target: 8 • Number of countries that received support from the regional office on the implementation of adolescent and youth-led programmes that build life skills, and health, social and economic assets Baseline: 0 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 3; 2023Target: 6 2024Target: 8; 2025Target: 10 • Number of youth-led regional flagship projects effectively implemented in the context of the Youth Forum in the Arab Region Baseline: 2 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 3; 2023Target: 4 2024Target: 5; 2025Target: 6 • Number of countries in humanitarian settings that have received support to implement targeted programming for adolescent girls Baseline: 2 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 3; 2023Target: 4 2024Target: 5; 2025Target: 6 	<p>Mediterranean; Council of Europe; Anna Lindh Foundation; AUB; Arab Adolescent Health Association</p>	
<p><u>OEE 1</u>: Improved programming for results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of new country programmes that meet organizational quality standards: technical quality; results-based management; and evidence-based programming quality; addresses the needs of persons with disabilities criteria Baseline: 0 Year: 2020; 2022Target: 80%; 2023Target: 90% 2024Target: 100%; 2025Target: 100% • Percentage of additional country programme evaluations completed as planned. (cumulative) Baseline: 0% Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 50%; 2023Target: 80% 2024Target: 90%; 2025Target: 95% • Percentage of country offices with improved reporting quality (rated at least ‘good’) Baseline: 0 Year: 2021; 2022Target: 45%; 2023Target: 60% 2024Target: 70%; 2025Target: 80% • Percentage of country offices that leverage South-South and triangular cooperation as a strategic accelerator for the achievement of the country’s goals Baseline: 0% Year: ; 2022Target: 10%; 2023Target: 20% 2024Target: 30%; 2025Target: 40% • Percentage of country offices supported by the regional office to have dedicated resources to support innovation to accelerate quality programme delivery 	<p>--</p>	<p>\$1.1 million: (\$1.1 million from regular resources and \$0 from other resources)</p>

	<p>Baseline: 0% Year: ; 2022Target: 40%; 2023Target: 60% 2024Target: 80%; 2025Target: 90%</p>		
<p><u>OEE 2:</u> Optimized management of resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of identified processes targeted for a future paperless or automated operation that become fully digitized Baseline: 60% Year: 2020 ; 2022Target: 70%; 2023Target: 80% 2024Target: 850%; 2025Target: 90% • Percentage of total resources used for recurring management costs Baseline: 16% Year: 2020 ; 2022Target: 15%; 2023Target: 14% 2024Target: 13%; 2025Target: 12% • Percentage of non-core contribution agreements expiring in a given year that have cumulative disbursements of at least 95 per cent of the original agreement amount by the end of the original agreement period Baseline: 0% 2022Target: 75; 2023Target: 80% 2024Target: 90%; 2025Target: 95% • Operational efficiency gains realized in USD Baseline: 100,000 Year: 2020 ; 2022Target: 30,000; 2023Target: 30,000 2024Target: 30,000; 2025Target: 30,000 • Proportion of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions Baseline: 0% Year: 2020 ; 2022Target: 1%; 2023Target: 2% 2024Target: 4%; 2025Target: 5% 	--	<p>\$0.9 million: (\$0.9 million from regular resources and \$0 from other resources)</p>
<p><u>OEE 3:</u> Expanded partnerships for impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of annual resource mobilization target for non-core resources met Baseline: 0% Year: 2020; 2022Target: 90%; 2023Target: 90% 2024Target: 90%; 2025Target: 90% • Number of countries in Arab States region contributing to core resources Baseline: 9 Year: 2021; 2022Target: 10; 2023Target: 10 2024Target: 10; 2025Target: 10 • Number of partnerships with new and non-traditional donors (cumulative) Baseline: 13 Year: Average of 2018-2020 ; 2022Target: 13; 2023Target: 15 2024Target: 17; 2025Target: 18 • Number of results group or issue-based coalitions chair or co-chair posts that UNFPA holds in United Nations regional collaborative platforms Baseline: 1 Year: 2020 	--	<p>\$0.6 million: (\$0.6 million from regular resources, \$0 million from other resources.)</p>

	<p>2022Target: 2; 2023Target: 2 2024Target: 2; 2025Target: 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of external communications products to enhance the Arab States Regional Office visibility and outreach Baseline: 0 Year:2021 ; 2022Target: 20; 2023Target: 50 2024Target: 70; 2025Target: 90 • Number of followers of page on Facebook Baseline: 51,000 Year: 2021; 2022Target: 58,750; 2023Target: 66,500 2024Target: 74,250; 2025Target: 82,000 • Number of followers on Twitter page Baseline: 8,950 Year: 2021 ; 2022Target: 10,150; 2023Target: 11,350 2024Target: 12,600; 2025Target: 14,850 • Number of journalists trained on reporting of GBV and SRH and reproductive rights Baseline: 75 Year: 2020 ; 2022Target: 80; 2023Target: 80 2024Target: 80; 2025Target: 80 		
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