

MEMBER STATE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Annual Session 2020

Comments by Denmark	UNFPA regional/country office response
<p>Section I, page 2, point no. 3 – It would be good to mention that South Africa has all the legal and Constitutional frameworks for gender equality and combatting gender-based violence. However, the <u>implementation</u> of such principles are weak due to poor infrastructure and in part, negative socio-cultural norms. This contributes to the explanation of the high rate of rape and gender-based violence in the country.</p>	<p>We thank the Government of Denmark for the comments provided on the South Africa CPD.</p> <p>This section has been updated to take into account the gaps in implementation of legal and constitutional frameworks to combat gender-based violence, and the role of harmful sociocultural norms in contributing to high levels of violence in the country, including femicide.</p>
<p>Section I, page 2, point no. 3 – South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa has recently outlined a few more initiatives to combat gender-based violence in his February <u>2020 State of the Nation Address</u> – this includes legislative changes in the country. These initiatives would be good to also mention in the initial background information about South Africa.</p>	<p>Selected initiatives reflected in the President’s SONA address have been incorporated into the document, including prevention measures and legislative reforms, and the development of the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) National Strategic Plan (NSP). The country programme will support strengthening of the national gender machinery with the establishment of the gender-based violence and femicide council, and will contribute to the Presidential Emergency Plan on Gender-based Violence.</p>
<p>Section I, page 2, point no. 7 – perhaps it might be good to make the link of the effects of climate change in South Africa, on issues of population migration and limited access to SRHR education and facilities?</p>	<p>The sentence has been strengthened as follows:</p> <p>‘South Africa is affected by climate change, including droughts and floods, leading to displacement of vulnerable communities, with consequences on coping mechanisms, livelihood options and access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. Accelerated evidence-based actions at national and provincial</p>

	<p>levels are required to strengthen resilience and adaptation in line with the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.’</p>
<p>Section III, page 5, point no.5 – The programme will be coordinated with the South African Department of Social Development. It may also be useful to engage the South African Department of Health as they have been engaged in similar SRHR projects under the campaign ‘She Conquers’ and have assisted in the ‘SheDecides’ international campaign.</p>	<p>The Department of Health is one of the key partners with which UNFPA collaborates, and which will continue to play an important role in the implementation of the CPD.</p> <p>UNFPA will also strengthen collaboration with other key partners, such as the Department of Basic Education, Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Statistics South Africa, Department of Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities, civil society, implementing partners, and youth leaders in the implementation of the programme.</p> <p>In order to maintain the brevity of the CPD, an exhaustive list of partners has not been included in the narrative, but can be found in the Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>The sentence in Section III, page 5 will be modified to read as follows:</p> <p><i>“The fifth country programme will be coordinated by the Department of Social Development through a National Coordination Forum, which convenes six other Departments and partners involved in implementation.”</i></p>