

COMMENTS ON THE UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF DRAFT COMMON COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR CABO VERDE

First regular session 2023

Comments by Portugal	Response to comments
<p>Specifically, with regard to the intervention of the joint office comprising the 3 agencies UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, the fact that the respective country program was structured in a single strategic action document is positively noted.</p> <p>However, it is considered that the descriptive content of the document could be more specific between the work/mission of the three agencies, offering, and more than the sum of action of each of the parts, an understanding of intervention as a whole.</p>	<p>UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF acknowledge and appreciate the positive comments from the Government of Portugal on their draft common country programme document for 2023-27.</p> <p>UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF appreciate the comment related to the structure of the common country programme as a single strategic action document.</p> <p>UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF welcome the opportunity to provide additional information that could not be adequately covered in the document, given the 8,000 word limit.</p> <p>The three agencies are committed to contribute toward common goals in a complementary and synergetic manner, as stated in the common country programme document. Below are some examples of this:</p> <p>Page 5, paragraph 16 highlights the importance of quality education, strengthening institutional capacity and foundational learning in a safe environment for all children.</p> <p>“16. Improving access to, and the quality of education at all levels, is a national priority, particularly for vulnerable children and children with disabilities. UNICEF will contribute to strengthening institutional capacities to provide inclusive and quality preschool services and foundational learning in safe, healthy, and resilient schools for all children. In coordination with the Global Partnership for Education, curriculum reform in secondary education will focus on improving skills for citizenship and entrepreneurship, including</p>

digital literacy. UNICEF and UNFPA will jointly support social and behavioural change interventions in schools and training institutes to promote practices that address gender inequality and related negative social norms. UNDP will support universities to become centres for accelerated learning and solutions-based research through institutional and technical capacity-strengthening programmes for students and teachers to promote scientific start-ups, networking, and knowledge-sharing.”

Furthermore, on page 9, paragraph 29 clearly articulates how a common framework will be used to build partnerships and strategic alliances, leveraging the technical expertise of the three agencies.

Building partnerships and strategic alliances: to develop new forms of partnership at local, regional, and global level, and to strengthen South-South cooperation within the SIDS framework to enhance UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA technical support role as an enabler at national and regional level.

Moreover, on page 8, paragraph 26 emphasises the importance of public sector efficiency, improved evidence-based policy coherence and strengthening the alignment of budgeting, planning, and monitoring for transparent and efficient financial flows in the country. The text explains that the agencies will combine efforts toward those objectives as stated below:

26. UNICEF and UNFPA will combine efforts to provide innovative support to all 22 municipalities, contributing to social and territorial cohesion by strengthening financial accountability and increasing participation in local economic and social development, especially for women, youth, and persons with disabilities, creating a gateway for upstream interventions to strengthen local service delivery and resilience.

	<p>UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF agree on the importance of risk management and accountability at all levels with the alignment of results and resources to the common programme at the country level.</p> <p>Page 10, Paragraph 30</p> <p>30. This common country programme document outlines UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Boards of the three agencies for the alignment of results and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the respective programme and operations policies and procedures and internal control frameworks.</p>
<p>The actions listed are surgical interventions in sectors that we consider to be crucial for safeguarding human rights and the rule of law. We salute the continuity of intervention in the area of Gender in multiple aspects (for example, access to health and justice services), which has been deserving increased attention and whose continuity seems necessary in view of the much that lies ahead in terms of self-determination (physical, financial and decision-making) of women and the deconstruction of gender stereotypes. We particularly welcome the attention that the CPD reserves in supporting actions specifically aimed at the area of Disability, as well as the scourge of sexual violation of children and young people. Two areas of work that greatly undermine human rights in Cabo Verde and which continue to require integrated and structured action.</p>	<p>UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF welcome the appreciation of the Government of Portugal for this important dimension of our work in Cabo Verde. The three agencies are committed to leave no one behind by joining forces to implement a people-centred human rights based and gender transformative approach to development.</p>
<p>We highlight the importance that was also given to strengthening Social Protection. Portugal, through the substantive financial support of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, channelled to the United Nations ILO agency, materializes with Cabo Verde, in a pioneering and catalytic way, more than two decades of relevant and expressive investment in the areas of</p>	<p>UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF are grateful to the Government of Portugal for their support in strengthening the social protection system in Cabo Verde. As clearly articulated in the common country programme document, the three agencies will support the development of legal instruments to strengthen the interoperability</p>

<p>struggle against social exclusion and reinforcement/extension of its social protection system. A reference and example of good practices in the African regional and continental context. Specifically, the “ACTION – Reinforcement of Social Protection Systems in PALOP and Timor-Leste” project ongoing since 2015 and under which Cabo Verde will continue to stand out and largely benefit. In this sense, and given that the technical execution of the ACTION/Portugal Project falls to a United Nations agency, the ILO, we understand the importance of, and in light of the principle of complementarity, the CPD alluding to the project in the respective section reserved for Social Security support (2.1).</p>	<p>of the social security register across all sectors, seeking to complement the work of ILO</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Comments by Spain</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Response to comments</p>
<p>Spain has been well informed during the works. The document is well aligned with the strategic development documents of the country as well as with the PEDS II</p>	<p>UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF acknowledge and appreciate the comments from the Government of Spain on their draft common country programme document for 2023-2027. The three agencies thank the Government of Spain for their support.</p>