

## COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

*First regular session 2023*

<b>Comments by European Union</b>	<b>UNFPA country/regional office response to comments</b>
<p>Conflict-related sexual violence (CR-SV) is reported as a criminal practice systematically perpetrated in CAR against women in conflict and crisis settings. In this perspective, the gender-sensitive approach suggested by UNFPA in its support to the DDR national process seems to be of particular relevance. Capacity building of DDR-CVR actors in gender mainstreaming will be nevertheless necessary and should be clearly foreseen.</p>	<p>UNFPA welcomes and appreciates this comment. Capacity building of stakeholders on the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process and related tools, particularly Community Violence Reduction (CVR) activities, to mobilize and empower women will be addressed during implementation of this programme. Para 23 has been modified to emphasize this intervention; it has also been amended to add capacity building and awareness raising of women and girls to increase demand for SRH services.</p>
<p>Offer of SRHR services will be improved through UNFPA priority action in CAR. It is recommended that a substantial effort is also dedicated to the increase of demand for health services from women and girls, particularly on family planning and AN/PNC.</p>	<p>UNFPA takes note of this comment and will dedicate substantial effort to increase the demand of health services from women and girls, particularly for family planning, antenatal and postpartum care. Paragraph 23 articulates the strategy for this approach.</p>
<p>In order to increase sustainability and positively impact women's leadership and role modelling, UNFPA could reinforce its support to the national feminist movement and networking.</p> <p>Given the focus on integrating sexuality education in curricula, the Ministry of National Education should be mentioned among line partner Ministries (page 8)</p>	<p>UNFPA takes note of this comment and will reinforce its support to the national feminist movement. The partnership with the Ministry of National Education will be developed during implementation and selection of implementing/strategic partners. The programme management section in the proposed programme, para. 26 has been revised to include the Ministry of National Education as a partner of UNFPA.</p>
<p>The European Union, neither the EU Delegation nor ECHO, is mentioned as stakeholder in the Country Program, while several potential synergies in the areas of intervention exist, notably on the health, protection and gender equality sectors.</p>	<p>While the partnership with the EU regarding key interventions such as health, protection and gender issues are clearly mentioned in the partnership and resource mobilisation plan, it was mistakenly omitted in the proposed programme. It has been added among stakeholders in para. 21.</p>

<p>No references are made to the RCPCA coordination mechanism, despite the implication of UNFPA in several sectoral coordination committees (<i>comités de coordination sectorielle – CCS</i>).</p>	<p>Although UNFPA is an active member of several sectoral coordination committees, the coordination of the programme is done by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation in collaboration with the technical Ministries that ensure sectoral coordination of the identified outputs.</p>
<p>The Output 1 on national policies and legislation should emphasise the urgent need of dissemination of national laws promoting women’s rights and gender equality and their implementation measures, at subnational level, with local actors, notably local authorities, and traditional/opinion leaders.</p>	<p>UNFPA agrees with this comment and has included this intervention under output 1; it is now reflected in para. 22 in the proposed programme.</p>
<p>No references are made to the status of ratification/application at national level of the Maputo Protocol, particularly relevant on SRHR matters.</p>	<p>UNFPA takes note of this comment and continues to advocate for CAR to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). Output 1 focuses on integration into relevant national laws, policies, development and accountability frameworks. Further, in para. 22 the proposed programme articulates that UNFPA will support effective implementation, monitoring and coordination of laws, policies and frameworks that promote gender equality and women’s participation and empowerment. The issue of human rights laws and policies of SRH and the challenges related to their implementation has also been added in para 8.</p>
<p>CAR has the highest regional prevalence of child marriage among boys (17%). A specific gender analysis on root causes of child early and forced marriage among girls and boys would improve prevention effectiveness. Menstrual health and the way lack of access to menstrual hygiene products and adapted wash facilities affect girls’ access/retention at school should be specifically addressed.</p>	<p>UNFPA agrees with this focus area and it is planned as part of the proposed programme. In para. 24, the CPD articulates that it will analyse the root causes of existing negative social norms leading to gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage.</p> <p>Menstrual health will be looked at in a joint programme with UNICEF which includes wash facilities in school ensuring the retention of girl in school.</p>