

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR GUINEA-BISSAU

First regular session 2022

Comments by the European Union	UNFPA country and regional office response to comments
Overall: An excellent situation analysis and landscape assessment of the country's outlook especially the impact of climate change and other external factors affecting life opportunities for women and girls.	UNFPA appreciates the feedback. The programme document for Guinea Bissau benefited from several analytical exercises in consultation with partners, particularly assessments on the impact of climate change in the country.
The risk management approach seems to downplay the scale of the challenges; sharper prioritisation and clearer options appraisal could strengthen this section to make it more operational. As the significant challenges materialise, how will UNFPA select its focus areas and manage trade-offs between systems strengthening and demand creation in this context?	This comment is well noted. UNFPA places a high degree of importance in risk management and mitigation. UNFPA's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) integrated system, is a tool to manage the type of risk, inherent risk level as well as strategic solutions to mitigate those risk in a proactive approach. Audits, spot checks, internal control systems, accountability measures are all mechanisms to ensure risk mitigation. The level of priority is identified by a criticality assessment and prompt action will be taken for high priority risk. High risk is a priority because it is imperative to ensure it does not negatively impact programme delivery.
GB has made excellent progress expanding the numbers of family planning users it seems to reach more than 26,000 new users. Yet the achievement of planned results according to the review, suggest many were not achieved. It would be important to understand what has driven the increase in family planning users? Is the Ouagadougou Partnership funding scheme something to do with it? Or some other kind of intervention or cultural shift? It would be really important to understand that	The impressive increase in family planning users is partly due to the development of the national family planning strategy and the implementation of the reproductive health standards supported by UNFPA. Further, the introduction of more mobile and fixed family planning services in 11 regions have played a strong role in that success. All initiatives in this field, including that of the Ouagadougou Partnership, contributed to the positive outcome.

better probably.	
Comments by Portugal	UNFPA country and regional office response to comments
<p>On the reduction of unmet need for family planning, given that PIMI III has been approved recently, we suggest that UNFPA may articulate efforts related with access to sexual and reproductive health with European Union and implementing partners.</p>	<p>UNFPA will continue joint efforts for greater synergy and better results with the European Union and other implementing partners.</p> <p>Also, the recent approval of the PIMI III is fully aligned with UNFPA's goal of the reduction of unmet need for family planning. Efforts will be made towards an increase in collaborations with traditional leaders, men's clubs and the demand for family planning services.</p>
<p>Also, on the reduction of unmet need for family planning, we suggest maintaining support for the NGO AMI in terms of providing information on the reality of Guinea-Bissau at the level of sexual and reproductive health and sharing models of training and, information, education and communication materials, as well as providing some contraceptive methods and methods for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. We think that the creation of new collaboration strategies with the NGO AMI related to the work carried out with the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices within the scope of the same above-mentioned project funded by the Portuguese Cooperation may help to consolidate the results achieved in this field.</p>	<p>UNFPA is working with the NGO AMI through small grants given to them for activities in the Bijagos islands, and the expectation is to continue with those efforts. The collaboration ensures that data, including research, evidence and situation assessments are interchangeable and organized and shared between the two entities which will enable and strengthen sexual and reproductive health. At the beginning of each new programme cycle, UNFPA calls for expressions of interest to collaborate from civil society, including NGOs, on specific thematic areas. NGO AMI, being an actor in the field, is free to submit its application for consideration by a selection committee based on set criteria.</p>
<p>Still, on reduction unmet need for family planning, articulate the support that will be provided to youth and women through the package of sexual and reproductive health and rights services in six regions, with the Community Health programme funded by the Global Fund and implemented by UNDP. Portuguese Cooperation has been a traditional donor of Community Health in Guinea-Bissau.</p>	<p>The programme will deliver an integrated package of SRHR services for women and adolescents in six regions (Gabu, Bafata, Tombali, Quinara, SAB, Bolama/Bijagos) chosen because of the size of the population and the lagging ICPD indicators, as outlined in the programme rationale. All groups of left behind people in rural and peri-urban areas in the six regions will be targeted for assistance. The efforts to achieve this objective will be in collaboration with partners.</p>

<p>On the reduction in gender-based violence and harmful practices accelerated, we suggest a continuation of the work related to harmful practices with the Portuguese NGO that has worked with UNFPA and Portuguese Cooperation/Secretaria de Estado para a Cidadania e Igualdade - the P&D Factor, including the support given to the Comité Nacional para o Abandono das Práticas Nefastas.</p>	<p>UNFPA plans to continue strengthening national capacity to promote human rights and gender equality, prevent and respond to GBV and harmful practices, and support empowerment of women and girls, especially the most vulnerable and left behind, including in humanitarian settings. UNFPA had a good working relationship with P&D Factor and Comité Nacional para o Abandono das Práticas Nefastas, which is currently an implementing partner with UNFPA, working on activities related to GBV and harmful practices. At the beginning of the new country programme cycle, calls for expression of interest will be announced, and NGOs and other civil society organizations will be considered on merit (their experience in each thematic area, outreach) and other factors.</p>
<p>Finally, on the review, implementation and dissemination of national policies related to health, we advise an articulation with the work that has been done in the project funded by the European Union, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian and Portuguese Cooperation - Ianda Guiné Saúde, particularly in the review of the National Health Development Plan (Plano Nacional de Desenvolvimento Sanitário).</p>	<p>UNFPA has started discussions with the European Union to continue to advocate for national policies related to health in an effort to accelerate results and the success of the current project. Due consideration will be given to partners and ongoing initiatives in this field.</p>