

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR LEBANON

First regular session 2023

Comments by European Union	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>We are unclear why the UNFPA country plan will be delivered under the overall coordination of the PM office and the Centre for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)? Is this the case for all UN agencies country plans?</p>	<p>There is no overall national coordinator for UN agencies in Lebanon. Each agency selected the national entity that is most relevant to its mandate i.e. Ministry of Public Health for WHO, Ministry of Agriculture for FAO, etc. For UNFPA and for previous Lebanon CPDs, CDR was the main counterpart to approve and coordinate the CPDs, in line with UNDP's practice. For the current CPD, UNFPA sought PMO approval on the CPD with coordination still with CDR, given PMO's coordination support to the UN on the one hand as well as the main counterpart endorsing the UNSDCF.</p>
<p>Importance of coordination with other UN agencies, iNGOs and overall response frameworks will be key to the success of this country plan. We see a lot of joint advocacy that needs to be undertaken. As an example, on period poverty, joint advocacy by UN Women, WHO and UNFPA will be essential, as so far their work on this issue has been done separately.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. The CPD summarises key past coordination efforts with UN agencies under paragraph 17. These partnerships will be expanded under the new CPD also among INGOs to ensure coherent and effective responses. UNFPA is, for instance, an active contributor to the UNCT and a number of its working groups.</p> <p>For period poverty, a joint UN position paper was developed in 2021 with the contribution of several agencies including UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and which provides an ongoing framework for coordinating joint interventions, including advocacy, increasing funding base, community awareness, etc. WHO will also be approached to contribute to this issue.</p>
<p>We welcome the focus on support to social welfare and provision of social services; given that UNFPA has been participating in the process of drafting a National Social Protection Strategy supported by UNICEF and ILO, it would have been good to reference this document in the UNFPA Country programme, to support a coherent policy approach from the UN.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment and well noted. Paragraph 14 makes reference to the key strategies that the CPD will contribute to namely to protection, youth, health, older persons, ending violence against women and for persons with disabilities. Protection is meant to refer to social protection; this has been updated in the CPD under paragraph 14.</p>

Comments by Germany	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>General comment: The current aid and coordination structure in Lebanon is very complex. <i>[The Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is not mentioned, but essential as only link between LCRP and ERP]</i>. Together with other donors Germany strongly advocates the “ONE UN” vision in Lebanon. Many UN organizations present in Lebanon are not exclusively working in the areas of their respective core competencies. Through up-coming new crises around the world, we do not expect a decrease in donor engagement in Lebanon. Therefore, we see a strong need to use resources much more efficiently and effectively as well as to channel resources and consolidate the implementation structure.</p> <p>We welcome the focus on women and youth, who are especially vulnerable in the current crises. In light of the deterioration of the health sector we support in particular the activities regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. As violence against women is increasing while social services are often unable to respond to the needs of the population, we also strongly support the activities regarding gender based violence.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment and well noted. UNFPA also strongly supports using resources more efficiently, the vision of One UN and is fully engaged with the UNCT to ensure its responses are effective and coherent with the rest of the UN agency partners. Para 13 in the CPD has been revised to reflect the 3RF.</p> <p>This comment is well noted with appreciation. UNFPA welcomes and fully plans to pursue a continued dialogue with the Government of Germany on our activities regarding gender-based violence.</p>
<p>In relation to other UN organisations, the program budget of UNFPA is relatively small (\$16 million). To ensure the efficiency of these activities we recommend a strong coordination with other UN programmes, for example in the health sector or in community-based projects. Institutional structures should be proportional to the relatively small program.</p>	<p>As noted in paragraph 17, UNFPA’s engagement in past UN collaboration will be scaled up and expanded under the new CPD. Through its lead role of the reproductive health sub-working group, UNFPA will ensure further coordination with health actors including UN agencies in support of the health sector reform and health system strengthening, both at the national and periphery levels.</p>
<p>[Output 2]: Several donors are also providing technical assistance on GBV topics and community-based GBV projects. Therefore, we welcome standard operating procedures, concerted efforts and exchange on lessons learnt to appropriate and promising approaches with regards to certain vulnerable groups. Still donor coordination is needed in order to avoid parallel structures and to identify synergies among different GBV actors.</p>	<p>UNFPA agrees that coordination is important to deliver effective results and avoid parallel structures. UNFPA will continue leading the inter-agency GBV sector task force and will aim at engaging a wider spectrum of donors into this coordination mechanism. UNFPA will also continue ensuring transparency among all donors on GBV priority and emerging matters. Lastly, UNFPA looks forward to working with donors towards a more effective</p>

	<p>coordination on areas related to GBV and indeed SRHR more broadly.</p>
<p>[Output 3]: We welcome data collection and data sharing among UN-Organization, GoL as well as donors. Evidence-based policymaking, project development and monitoring as well as impact measurement in Lebanon have been challenging the last years. Therefore, data pooling and sharing is of high interest also for German development cooperation.</p>	<p>This is well noted and appreciated. We welcome the opportunity to discuss further with German development cooperation efforts to strengthen data collection.</p> <p>To align the CPD with recent changes made to the UNSDCF, the CPD has also been updated to reflect a) revised outcome and output indicators with the corresponding outcomes and b) revised outcome indicators baselines and targets. These updates are reflected in the Results and Resources Framework and are captured here below.</p> <p>These three indicators were deleted from UNSDCF and therefore deleted from the CPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of births occurring in health facilities • Process for development of Youth, Peace and Security Action Plan is participatory and inclusive of youth with disabilities and those affected by crisis and conflicts that could leave them further behind • Number of key policies and legislation that explicitly promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels <p>The target for the following indicator was changed in the UNSDCF therefore it was changed in CPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on sex <p>Baseline: changed from 67 to 27.27; Target: changed from 72 to 30</p> <p>These two UNSDCF outcome indicators were added to the CPD:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age • Number of adopted National Action Plans (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security with monitoring indicators <p>In addition, reference to the corresponding UNSDCF outcomes were updated in the CPD RRF to correspond to the revised outcome indicators as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPD Output 2: People outcome 3 (i.e. Enhanced Protection for the most vulnerable) and Peace outcome 2 (i.e. Strengthened security, stability, justice and peace) were deleted and Peace outcome 1 (i.e. Strengthened inclusive social contract grounded in human rights to enhance good governance, effective and accountable institutions and women's participation) was added. • CPD Output 3: Peace outcome 2 (i.e. Strengthened security, stability, justice and peace) was added.
<p>Monitoring and output evaluation are very important, but sometimes do not go far enough. In order to obtain an overview of the long-term achievement of programs and, further, to be able to identify needs for adjustments in future programmes, German development cooperation prefers an impact measurement approach.</p>	<p>UNFPA agrees that impact measurement approaches are essential and will work with the UNCT on conducting joint impact measurement exercises to collectively gauge the support of the UN.</p>
<p>[COSTED EVALUATION PLAN]: No objection.</p>	<p>This is well noted.</p>