

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT MULTI COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS

First regular session 2023

Comments by European Union	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>Output 5 only concerns disaster resilience (not response in case of disasters), but then output 2 refers to response across the humanitarian-development continuum. EU would consider it important to consider that given the risk profile of the island states combined with very high levels of GBV and relatively high discrimination against women, it would be very important that the capacity to respond to GBV in crises situations be prioritised.</p>	<p>UNFPA agrees that the capacity to respond to GBV in crisis situations must be prioritised.</p> <p>Output 5 of the programme is aimed both at the strengthening of national and subnational systems, mechanisms and capacities for disaster and climate resilience programming and on the timely, inclusive and accountable implementation of lifesaving sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and GBV services for affected populations. The specific interventions under the output are further aimed at building the capacity to prevent and respond to GBV, and one of the indicators under output 5 specifically captures the implementation of Minimum Initial Service Package, which includes GBV prevention and response, at the onset of a crisis. In addition, under output 2, UNFPA aims to provide a survivor-centred GBV response across the humanitarian-development continuum.</p>
Comments by New Zealand	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>New Zealand supports the UNFPA Multi-Country Programme 7 (MCP7) focus on addressing high unmet need for family planning, high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights and GBV into countries' policies and plans, improving access to services (including for adolescents and youth), addressing discriminatory gender and social norms, improving data availability and use and strengthening climate resilience.</p>	<p>Thank you. UNFPA appreciates this expression of support from New Zealand.</p>

<p>New Zealand acknowledges and supports the focus on universal health coverage within MCP7.</p>	<p>Thank you. UNFPA appreciates this expression of support from New Zealand.</p>
<p>Noting that this is the first MCP7 since the COVID-19 pandemic, a greater focus on how UNFPA is addressing the impact of the pandemic on the region and inequities that have likely been exacerbated by it may be warranted within MCP7.</p>	<p>During the implementation of MCP7, the impact of the pandemic on exacerbating the risk of inequalities and disparities will be addressed through the strong country and leave no one behind focus embedded in the programme. In each country, UNFPA aims to address the specific vulnerabilities of systems and of populations at risk of being left behind. This will be done, for instance, through integration of SRH/RR and GBV into pandemic recovery plans as mentioned under output 1.</p>
<p>Noting the “accelerators” that UNFPA will apply to MCP7, there is scope for further detail on what UNFPA will do differently, specifically how UNFPA will “accelerate” towards the targets/goals, and how these “accelerators” represent a shift from UNFPA’s business as usual.</p>	<p>The programme will accelerate results through the application of a hybrid of downstream and upstream work. This includes working to strengthen national accountability and sustainable financing of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. UNFPA will also support the strengthening of strategic alliances and partnerships at both grassroots and policy levels, promote South-South Cooperation, work to expand the pool of donors engaged, and support innovative service delivery models.</p> <p>In addition, UNFPA will assist national efforts to transform inequitable social norms using gender-transformative approaches, work with youth and women’s organisations, and expand the use of new technologies to extend the reach and accessibility of SRH/RR and GBV information and services.</p> <p>The programme will also accelerate through strengthening national capacities to manage global challenges such as pandemics and climate change. This will be done by enhancing the resilience of health systems for the continuity of SRH & GBV services during pandemics and disasters and bridging the humanitarian-development continuum.</p>

	Specific activity-level details for implementing the accelerators will be further elaborated during the work planning process.
The language in MCP7 refers to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as opposed to sexual and reproductive health and rights, which is New Zealand's preferred terminology as it includes all rights pertaining to sexuality and sexual health.	This preference is well noted. As is the case for all CPDs, MCP7 – which covers a number of Pacific Island Countries and Territories - was prepared under the principle of national ownership. During programme implementation, reference to sexual and reproductive health and rights will be used as and when country circumstances allow.