

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR BURUNDI

Second regular session 2023

| Comments by Belgium | UNFPA country/regional office response to comments |
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| <p>Belgium welcomes that a summary of the different CPDs (UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF) was presented to donors on 30/05 at the initiative of the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC). Prior to this consultation, bilateral informal exchanges had already taken place with UNFPA at the request of the mission. This is essential to us as a core donor and we would like to encourage UNFPA to engage in a more proactive dialogue with Belgium according to its status of core partner.</p> | <p>UNFPA thanks the Government of Belgium for the valuable comment, which is well received. UNFPA values Belgium's significant role and contributions as a core partner and donor, and is committed to even further strengthened engagements towards shared goals. UNFPA thanks Belgium for flagging the joint presentation made by UNFPA, UNDP, and UNICEF to technical and financial partners in Burundi. In addition, the UNFPA Country Office appreciates interactions with Enabel, the Belgian Development Cooperation, and the Belgian Embassy in Burundi during the process of designing the new country programme. UNFPA engagement with both entities to ensure a shared understanding of the pathways to transformative change in the new programme. UNFPA will continue to further strengthen engagements with development partners and donors, including Belgium, during the implementation of the new country programme</p> |
| <p>A total budget of 32 million USD is foreseen: 8 million USD from general resources and 24 million USD to be mobilized on the basis of co-financing or other resources, including domestic resources. Particularly in the current international budgetary context, this raises questions about the realistic nature of the budgetary exercise and the existence of a vision for a possible adjustment of the programs in the event of funding gaps. This also raises the question on how this ambitious objective in terms of resource mobilization will be achieved without increasing the competition between the UN agencies present in Burundi.</p> | <p>UNFPA thanks the Belgian Government for this comment. and agrees that the issue of funding remains an important challenge in Burundi, based on constrained domestic resources and the current international budgetary context.</p> <p>The resource target for the implementation of the CPD is informed by a number of factors, including a careful scoping of funding and financing opportunities across sectors and diverse stakeholders. It is important to highlight that in the course of implementing the current CPD, UNFPA Burundi has mobilized \$19 million against a target of \$28 million, mainly from traditional donors. In the resource mobilization strategy for the new CPD, the UNFPA Burundi Country</p> |

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| | <p>Office has a broader, robust strategy which focuses on diversifying the donor and resource base through engagements with non-traditional partners as well. It also includes innovative financing instruments and mechanisms; Joint Programming, including cross-border funding opportunities; and partnerships with International Financing Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks, among others.</p> <p>Regarding the possibility of competition among the UN system, UNFPA will leverage synergies with partner UN entities, while capitalising on its comparative advantages and areas of expertise within the UN system. Based on the UNCT configuration guiding the UNSDCF, UNFPA's role and division of labour will enable collaboration with other UN agencies to deliver joint initiatives, projects and programmes, especially on adolescents and young people.</p> |
| <p>We would like UNFPA to elaborate on how they will ensure adhesion to policies and interventions aimed at inclusive, human rights-based and sustainable development in order to avoid interventions perpetuating certain harmful practices and dynamics.</p> | <p>UNFPA thanks Belgium for the question. Human-rights based and gender transformative approaches are core to UNFPA's programme planning design and implementation processes and are identified accelerators in the country programme in line with the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025. Guided by evidence and data, the country programme will leverage its thought leadership and normative role in advancing inclusive policies and programmes with national counterparts, while also empowering communities to address harmful social and gender norms. UNFPA will also build capacities, at individual, community and national levels to address the root causes of structural inequalities, and empower women, adolescents, youth and those left furthest behind. The detailed strategies under Output 2 of the country programme on gender and social norms are intended to help address harmful practices.</p> |
| <p>We note with appreciation that the CPD refers to the UN Framework Plan for Burundi, indicating how the country program will contribute to its five pillars based on the comparative advantages. We would recommend more uniformity in the collection of data, the development</p> | <p>UNFPA takes note of Belgium's comment and agrees on the importance of coordination among UN agencies; UNFPA also remains firmly committed to advancing UN reforms at all levels, including in</p> |

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| of the theories of change and results frameworks of the CPDs of the different agencies as working instruments for strengthening mutual coordination. | Burundi. The country programme priorities of UNFPA and other UN agencies are aligned with the priorities of the Burundi UNSDCF, with a view to ensuring coherence and coordination. Moreover, through the different coordination mechanisms established within the UNCT, UNFPA will contribute to four UNSDCF outcomes. As the lead of the Interagency Monitoring and Evaluation Group in Burundi, UNFPA will strengthen coordinated data for development related actions across the UN system. |
| Risk of overlapping and internal competition: gender equality is a theme around which there is a lot of uncertainty in terms of division of roles within the UN system. How was that aspect of the program coordinated with UN Women? | UNFPA appreciates this comment. While gender equality is an overarching priority of the UN System, each agency has a specific mandate based on its comparative advantages. The coordination on gender equality in-country is under the responsibility of UN Women, which leads the UN Gender Theme Group. UNFPA is part of the group and has involved UN Women in the development of its CPD to ensure alignment in terms of focus and strategies as guided by the UNSDCF. UNFPA also leads specific results areas in relation to gender equality (e.g. GBV/PSEA coordination mechanisms). These coordination mechanisms play an important role in leveraging synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts. |
| Important potential exists both thematically and geographically for a coherent programmatic approach with third actors, including with the Belgian implementation agency, Enabel, and the EU multi-year program. We therefore encourage UNFPA to engage in a proactive dialogue with our representation in Burundi, the EU delegation as well as the country office of Enabel. | UNFPA appreciates this suggestion, and agrees on the importance of a coherent programmatic approach with key partners. UNFPA Burundi has already started engaging with the mentioned counterparts, and other key partners and stakeholders, on the country programme priorities, and is committed to pro-actively continuing these engagements. A further discussion on the CPD took place with members of the Executive Board present in Burundi on 14 July 2023 and UNFPA looks forward also to subsequent engagement throughout the implementation of the CPD. |
| Belgium has no reserve on the outputs and more globally the results and resources framework highlighted in the programme. In regard of | UNFPA appreciates this comment, and greatly values its current collaboration with Belgium. With regards to the identified lessons |

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| the identified lessons learnt, we particularly encourage UNFPA to strengthen its partnerships with CSOs in Burundi and reinforce their capacities. | learned, UNFPA agrees that partnership with CSOs is key to achieving results. In this regard, the new country programme was developed in consultation with multiple stakeholders, including civil society organizations, especially women and youth-led organizations. The new country programme will continue to leverage partnerships with civil society and community-based organizations throughout the programme cycle. |
| Comments by European Union | UNFPA country/regional office response to comments |
| It appears overly ambitious that for the targeted period (2024-2027) co-financing modalities or other resources provide 75% of the resource bases (24 million USD out of 32 million USD). | <p>UNFPA thanks the European Union for this comment. and agrees that the issue of funding remains an important challenge in Burundi, based on constrained domestic resources and the current international budgetary context.</p> <p>The resource target that has been set for the implementation of the CPD is informed by a number of factors, including a careful scoping of funding and financing opportunities across sectors and diverse stakeholders. It is important to highlight that in the course of implementing the current CPD, UNFPA Burundi has mobilized \$19 million against a target of \$28 million. In the resource mobilization strategy for the new CPD, the UNFPA Burundi Country Office has a broader, robust strategy which focuses on diversifying the donor and resource base through engagements with non-traditional partners. It also includes means of raising resources, including through innovative financing instruments and mechanisms; Joint Programming including cross-border funding opportunities; and partnerships with International Financing Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks, among others.</p> |
| The national policies and the National Development Plan of Burundi should have been better reflected in the CPD, including with an analysis of their possible shortcomings. | UNFPA takes note of the comment, and assures the European Union that the current CPD has been developed under the principle of national ownership and is in line with the national priorities, as outlined in the |

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| | <p>National Development Plan of Burundi, 2018-2027 (Strategic Priority 2 – Development of Human Capital – and 3 – Strengthened Governance). The UNFPA monitoring system will also be aligned with the monitoring systems of the National Development Plan, 2018-2027, and the UNSDCF.</p> <p>The programme is also anchored in key national policies and plans as indicated in para 19, including the National Development Plan (2018-2027); the Strategy on Youth and Adolescents SRH, including menstrual health management; the new Gender Policy, 2023-2027; Burundi’s National Health Policy, 2016-2025; the National Strategic Plan for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health, 2019-2023; and the renewed commitments for FP2030.</p> <p>Furthermore, the programme priorities are informed by challenges and lessons linked with gaps identified in the National Development Plan and national policies. As highlighted in the CPD (paras 11 and 14), there are challenges in the implementation of laws and policies protecting women and girls. There are also notable challenges in the analysis and utilization of data at national, provincial, and district levels. These gaps persist and hamper the successful integration of data into policy design and planning processes.</p> |
| <p>Many actions proposed in the programme might have overlaps with the activities of other UN agencies and partners. It would have been useful to include an overview of the activities envisaged by other UN agencies and establish a clear separation of tasks.</p> | <p>UNFPA appreciates this comment. UNFPA remains firmly committed to advancing UN reforms at all levels, including in Burundi. The country programme priorities of UNFPA and other UN agencies are aligned with the priorities of the Burundi UNSDCF, with a view to ensuring coherence and coordination. UNFPA will closely work with different agencies through the existing division of labour and coordination mechanisms established within the UNSDCF framework to minimize overlaps, leverage synergies and foster complementarity.</p> |

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| For all the HIV proposed activities the programme should be complementary to the activities envisaged by the Global Fund under discussion. | UNFPA takes note of this comment. UNFPA remains committed to ensuring increased alignment and complementarity of HIV activities, including with the Global Fund. UNFPA, as a member of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism, participated in development of the country funding proposal including for Cycle 7 2024-2026, as well as grant implementation oversight activities. UNFPA's continued engagement will enhance alignment especially for activities focused on adolescent girls and young women, and key populations. These will eliminate duplication and expand coverage of integrated HIV and SRH interventions. |
| Gender activities should be based on a detailed analysis of the current policies, and target also key reforms. | UNFPA appreciates this comment. The proposed gender- and social norms-related actions are based on the unfinished business for women and girls in the country with underlying factors requiring gender transformative actions. This is elaborated in paragraph 11 of the CPD. |
| Comments by United States | UNFPA country/regional office response to comments |
| Overall, the draft country programme document appropriately focuses on identified development challenges. | UNFPA thanks the Government of the United States for this comment. |
| UNFPA's strategy is youth-focused, and addresses GBV, both of which are high priorities for the U.S. UNFPA emphasizes social and behaviour change approaches aligned with the US, including shifting harmful gender norms. Lastly, FP/HIV integration is emphasized, an area of interest and historic collaboration within the US. On the results and resources framework for Burundi (2024-2027). Output 1, we appreciate the inclusion of an output indicator. Regarding modern contraceptives, we encourage continued support for offering clients a broad range of family planning options, including natural family planning methods. | UNFPA appreciates the valuable comments by the Government of the United States. Regarding modern contraceptives, UNFPA will continue to advocate for the inclusion of new and lesser-used contraceptives within the method mix, and national essential medicines list |

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| <p>We look forward to further engagement between the US to advance strategies that UNFPA developed to increase youth access to SRH services and for GBV prevention and treatment.</p> | <p>UNFPA appreciates this comment, and looks forward to continued engagement with the US, including with USAID locally, on scaling up equitable access to adolescent responsive and youth sexual and reproductive health services with targeted GBV prevention and response interventions.</p> |
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