

## COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR AZERBAIJAN

*First regular session 2021*

<b>Comments by Armenia</b>	<b>UNFPA country/regional office response</b>
<p>In the Paragraph 2 of the Section “Programme Rationale” a reference is made to the “Protracted conflict with Armenia...”, whereas in the CPD for Azerbaijan for 2016-2020 it is referred to as “The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”.</p> <p>Therefore, we suggest replacing the term “The protracted conflict with Armenia” on the page 2 of the draft CPD for Azerbaijan with the agreed term “The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”.</p>	<p>UNFPA takes note of the comment. The language in paragraph 2 has been changed to refer to the “Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”.</p>
<b>Comments by Germany</b>	<b>UNFPA country/regional office response</b>
<p>Synergies and cooperation opportunities with the programme EPIC – Economic and social participation of vulnerable IDP and local population in the South Caucasus in the field of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (outcome 3). Synergies are possible in countering gender-based violence and promoting gender transformative approaches through community mobilization.</p>	<p>The UNFPA Country Office notes the comment. The country programme envisages cooperation opportunities with the EPIC programme in supporting institutional capacities of public authorities to improve the provision of services to vulnerable groups, including psychosocial support services.</p> <p>The implementation of the UNFPA country programme, in addressing gender-based violence and promoting gender transformative approaches, envisages a series of community-based interventions, including extensive upstream work with faith-based organizations, CSOs and local authorities and groups.</p>
<p>Comment: Outcome 1 – Sexual and reproductive health: improving the access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls in rural areas is of particular importance. However, rural areas often show low quality and shortage of medical services. Raising awareness, thus, seems to fall short to guarantee a better access to sexual and reproductive health services – this instead would need to be accompanied by an improvement of the local (rural) medical services.</p>	<p>The UNFPA Country Office welcomes the comment. The improvement of the local (rural) medical services is seen as a long-term result of the SRH work in rural areas, including capacity development of duty bearers, knowledge management and evidence-based advocacy. This result will be pursued through a comprehensive set of efforts. Relevant activities are duly reflected in the CPD, and will be implemented in the course of the next country programme.</p>

	UNFPA country/regional office response
	<p>In response to a request from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UNFPA aligned paragraph 28 of the CPD to the latest draft UNSDCF language, resulting in the following para. 28:</p> <p>28. The proposed programme is informed by an analysis of the risks. These include but are not limited to escalation of the conflict <b>in and around of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2020</b>; recurrent outbreaks of the COVID-19 pandemic; lack of common understanding regarding the country obligations under international human rights treaties; funding and financing shortage; deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and behaviours that limit opportunities for women and girls; limited and underdeveloped civil society capacities</p> <p>The 21 December draft CPD para. 28 reads:</p> <p>28. The proposed programme is informed by an analysis of the risks. These include but are not limited to escalation of the <b>Nagorno-Karabakh conflict</b>; recurrent outbreaks of the COVID-19 pandemic; lack of common understanding regarding the country obligations under international human rights treaties; funding and financing shortage; deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and behaviours that limit opportunities for women and girls; limited and underdeveloped civil society capacities.</p> <p>Differences are highlighted.</p>