

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR SOMALIA

First regular session 2021

Comments by Canada	UNFPA country/regional office response
Overall, the UNFPA CPD responds well to the contextual needs and has very clear outcomes, implementation and partnership modalities.	Acknowledged with thanks.
The proposed activities are well aligned to the relevant global and national guiding documents including the ICPD25 commitments, Universal Health Coverage and Somalia’s National Development Plan. They are all within UNFPA’s mandate.	Acknowledged with thanks.
Suggest that the country programme documents integrate appropriate COVID-19 response strategic activities and promote the SRH system’s resilience to current and future epidemics.	UNFPA Somalia has fully integrated the COVID-19 response within its humanitarian response. As the situation is anticipated to improve in the second half of the first year of the five-year programme cycle, the response is more focused on the overall resilience of the health care system. Within the national health protocols, guided by WHO standards and early lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, support is and will be provided particularly as it relates to protection of health workers in the SRH system of care.
It could be helpful for the current and future CPDs to track and report on progress achieved at more strategic outcome levels.	The current CPD will periodically track and report results at outcome level for all outcomes in the Results and Resources Framework. This effort will also contribute to UNSDCF progress and results reporting.
Digital technology, especially mobile phone networks have proliferated throughout Somalia with the recent Somalia Demographic and Health survey indicating that at least 70% of Somali women own and use a mobile phone. UNFPA may consider including the use of well-designed digital technologies in their strategies as this offers a huge potential for Somali women to achieve positive SRHR outcomes at a low cost especially during emerging disease epidemics.	This observation is well noted. The programme does include the pursuit of innovative approaches that would leverage new technological opportunities, including utilizing digital technology. The specific innovations will be outlined in the annual workplans that will be developed.

<p>Private sector engagement in Somalia health sector may be considered in the strategy as is with other countries given that most healthcare services in Somalia are primarily provided by the private sector.</p>	<p>This point is well noted. However, the reality on the ground is that support to or engagement with private health service providers would, in most cases, not target the poorest and most disadvantaged part of the population; it is thus not singled out as a key priority.</p>
<p>In a progressive manner, from one CPD to the next, UNFPA could demonstrate a more active role in eliminating legal and policy restrictions to sexual and reproductive health service provision to ensure comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care for women and girls in the culturally sensitive Somalia context.</p>	<p>Work on legal and policy-related aspects of sexual and reproductive health as well as gender-based violence are part and parcel of the country programme. This work will be continued as a priority during implementation of the programme.</p>