



**Executive Board of the
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Programme, the United Nations
Population Fund and the United
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UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

United Nations Population Fund

Extensions of country programmes

Summary

The present note contains information on the extensions of UNFPA country programmes. First-time extensions of country programmes up to one year are approved by the Executive Director, and presented to the Executive Board for information. All other requests for extensions of country programmes are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bangladesh, Guinea Bissau, Maldives and Tanzania, as presented in table 1, and may wish to approve the second one-year extensions for Guatemala and Venezuela, and the fourth, six-month extension for the Syrian Arab Republic, as presented in table 2.

Table 1
Extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Original programme period</i> | <i>Period approved for extension</i> | <i>Reason for extension</i> |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Bangladesh | 2017-2020 | 2021 | The Government of Bangladesh has requested the United Nations country team (UNCT) to extend the current United Nations Development Cooperation Assistance Framework (UNDAF) by one year while developing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Accordingly, the UNFPA country programme has also been extended through 2021 so that it better aligns with new national priorities. |
| Guinea Bissau | 2018-2020 | 2021 | The Government of Guinea Bissau has requested the UNCT to extend the current UNDAF by one year while developing the UNSDCF. Accordingly, the UNFPA country programme has also been extended through 2021 so that it better aligns with new national priorities. |
| Maldives | 2017-2020 | 2021 | The Government of Maldives has requested the UNCT to extend the current UNDAF by one year while developing the UNSDCF. Accordingly, the UNFPA country programme has also been extended through 2021 so that it better aligns with new national priorities. |
| Tanzania | 1 July 2017-30 June 2020 | 1 July 2021-30 June 2022 | The Government of Tanzania requested the UNCT to extend the current UNDAF by one year while developing the UNSDCF. Accordingly, the UNFPA country programme has also been extended through 30 June 2022 so that it better aligns with new national priorities. |

Table 2
Country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

| Country | Original programme period | Period proposed for extension | Reason for extension | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | In-country development | United Nations harmonization | Implementation or other issues |
| Guatemala | 2015-2019 2020 (first extension) | 2021 (second extension) | The UNSDCF development process is being implemented in a context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and the national response to the health emergency. | The United Nations system in Guatemala has decided to align the next UNSDCF cycle with the national development planning cycle, to better respond to national priorities and to ensure mainstreaming of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the UNSDCF in national mechanisms. | Within the context of the COVID-19 health emergency, the country programme will ensure the continuity of essential sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence response services, guided by a human rights-based approach, working with government institutions and civil society organizations. |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 2016-2017 2018 (first extension) 2019 (second extension) 2020 (third extension) | 1 January – 30 June 2021 (fourth extension) | The nine-year crisis in Syria has left over half the population in acute need of access to basic health and social services, including services to address and end gender-based violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated those needs and further negatively impacted the overall socio-economic situation. | The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the UNCT agreed to extend the current Strategic Framework for Cooperation between the Government and the United Nations through 30 June 2021. The extension will allow for the finalization of the new Strategic Framework and alignment with the new country programme. | The country programme will continue to focus on improving access to high-quality reproductive health care; scaling-up gender-based violence prevention and response; supporting capacities to collect and use gender and age-disaggregated data for the response and recovery programming; engage with young people to foster social cohesion and reconciliation; and improve the well-being of the most vulnerable populations. |
| Venezuela | 2015-2019 2020 (first extension) | 2021 (second extension) | Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the national development plan has not yet been finalized, and the UNSDCF development process has been delayed. | The Government of Venezuela and the UNCT have agreed to extend the ongoing programme for one year to allow for finalization of the UNSDCF. | UNFPA will continue to focus on priorities and results identified within the current country programme cycle within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. |