



**Executive Board of the  
United Nations Development  
Programme, the United Nations  
Population Fund and the United  
Nations Office for Project Services**

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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 approve the third, three-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar and the fifth, six-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, as presented in table 1.

Table 1  
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
<b>Madagascar</b>	2015-2019 2020 (first extension) 1 January – 30 June 2021 (second)	1 July – 30 September 2021 (third extension)	Due to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Development Plan (Madagascar Emergency Plan) has not yet been finalized. This has also delayed the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).	The Government of Madagascar and the United Nations country team (UNCT) agreed to finalize the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) by June 2021. Accordingly, the UNFPA country programme is to be extended for three months to enable completion of the UNSDCF and appropriate sequencing— in alignment with UNDP and UNICEF.	During the three-month extension period, UNFPA will continue to focus on the priorities and results identified within the current country programme cycle.
<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	2016-2017 2018 (first extension) 2019 (second) 2020 (third) 1 January – 30 June 2021 (fourth)	1 July – 31 December 2021 (fifth extension)	—	In consultation with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Damascus, the regional and country offices of UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP are proposing to extend the presentation of their respective CPDs for the Syrian Arab Republic until the end of 2021 to allow time for further consultations at the country level, including with the Government and development partners, as they finalize the Strategic Framework.	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.