



**Executive Board of the
United Nations Development
Programme and of the
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UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Albania and Ukraine.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Albania and Ukraine.

One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Albania	2006–2010	2011	<p>In January 2007, following a request from the Government of Albania to the United Nations, Albania was selected as one of eight countries to pilot United Nations efforts to ‘deliver as one’. The ‘delivering as one United Nations’ programme builds on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2006–2010. The overarching strategy which guides the work of the United Nations system in Albania is the Albania national strategy for development and integration.</p> <p>To better assess the outcome of the ‘delivering as one United Nations’ programme, and to better harmonize United Nations planning with the national plan of Albania, the Government has requested a one-year extension of the current UNDAF. The new UNDAF will cover the period 2012–2016. The extension of the UNDAF necessitated the extension of the country programme for Albania.</p>	<p>The national strategy for development and integration covers the period 2007–2013. In April 2009, Albania became a member of NATO and applied for European Union candidate status.</p> <p>In June 2009, general elections resulted in a coalition government. The opposition did not recognize the results of the elections and boycotted parliament, causing delays in implementing national strategies and policies. Changes in the government prompted the need to re-establish working relationships with some of the national counterparts.</p> <p>United Nations organizations will continue to support the implementation of national reforms and the national strategy for development and integration.</p>	<p>In order to align its country programme with the UNDAF, UNFPA must extend the country programme by an additional year, to the end of 2011.</p> <p>The UNFPA country programme will continue to focus on: (a) reproductive health, targeting youth and healthy life skills, safe motherhood and family planning, with a focus on vulnerable populations; (b) population and development, including support to the population and housing census 2011 and building institutional capacity to collect and use population data; and (c) gender equality, including a joint programme on gender aligned with the national strategy for gender equality and domestic violence, 2007–2010.</p> <p>The current country programme provides an adequate framework to implement UNFPA projects given its alignment with government development priorities, as outlined in the national strategy for development and integration.</p>

One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director (continued)

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations Harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Ukraine	2006–2010	2011	<p>The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle covers the period 2006–2010, which is the same cycle for the country programmes of the Executive Committee agencies of the United Nations Development Group. The Government is formulating a new national development programme for the period through 2020. At the request of the Government, the United Nations in Ukraine has postponed the next UNDAF cycle for one year in order to harmonize it with the national development plan. This has necessitated a one-year extension of the country programme. The United Nations country team in Ukraine aligns its technical assistance with national development priorities, and harmonizes its programming processes with the UNDAF cycle.</p>	<p>Due to parliamentary crises and frequent changes of government during the period covered by the current UNDAF (2006–2010), the Government and the Parliament of Ukraine have not yet approved a long-term national development strategy or programme. Such a programme is under development. As a result, the Government and the United Nations country team agreed in 2009 to extend the UNDAF through 2011, and to begin the development of the new UNDAF upon approval of a long-term national development programme.</p>	<p>During 2011, UNFPA, through the country programme, will continue to undertake activities in its three thematic programme areas, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) reproductive health, with a focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and care, improving male health, and promoting safe behaviour among youth; (b) population and development, including support to population research and implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing; and (c) gender equality and equity, with attention given to male involvement. No structural changes to the country programme are required.