



**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 Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, South Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic, as presented in table 1, and may wish to approve the 15-month extension of the country programme for South Africa, the third, one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi and the third, two-year extension of the country programme for Yemen, 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>
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	2013-2017	2018	The Government and the United Nations country team (UNCT) agreed to extend the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for one year to ensure that the upcoming UNDAF is aligned with the National Strategic Development Plan 2017-2021, which has been developed but not yet approved due to delayed presidential, legislative and local elections.
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	2013-2017	2018	The Government and the UNCT agreed to extend the UNDAF for one year to allow both parties to elaborate further on the next cooperation framework, expected to start in 2019, and to align it with the new National Plan for Economic and Social Development, taking into account national priorities as aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Agenda 2063 for the socioeconomic transformation of the continent.
<b>Lesotho</b>	2013-2017	2018	The Government and the UNCT agreed to extend the UNDAF for one year to align it with national planning cycles and priorities related to the next National Strategic Development Plan. The current plan ends in 2017, and there have been significant delays in development of the next plan, while the country is facing an economic crisis and recurrent humanitarian emergencies as a result of El Nino-induced drought.
<b>Liberia</b>	2013-2017	2018	The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the UNCT agreed to extend the UNDAF for one year to allow for a closer collaboration in the spirit of delivering as one. This extension enables UNFPA to align its programme with a new UNDAF and the national priorities of the new administration that comes into office in 2018. In June 2016, UNMIL handed over security to the State, and is expected to exit in 2017. The political debate on reducing the tenures of the President and the legislature (from 6 years to 4 years), requires a referendum for constitutional amendment. Presidential and parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place in 2017.
<b>South Sudan</b>	2016-2017	2018	The Government plans a national peace dialogue, which will flow into the new South Sudan National Development Plan, 2019–2023. The UNCT decided to extend the United Nations Interim Cooperation Framework for one year to ensure alignment of any new UNDAF with national planning cycles and development priorities. The country continues to face frequent acute conflict or natural disaster, aggravating an already existing chronic humanitarian crisis, fuelled by protracted conflict and predictable flooding or drought. About one million South Sudanese are displaced within the country and more than 1.5 million are refugees in neighbouring countries, all in need of humanitarian assistance. Worsening economic conditions have weakened national capacity to provide basic services.
<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	2016-2017	2018	The UNCT and the Joint Steering Committee decided to extend the current country programmes of Executive Committee agencies for one year, following a midterm review of the United Nations Strategic Framework, conducted in March 2017. The review recommended to extend the Strategic Framework through 2018 and focusing on a broader inclusion of United Nations organizations and non-resident Agencies. The Government is currently drafting its national development plan, and has agreed to a one year extension of the Framework. The extension will allow for further discussion on strategically aligning the United Nations approach in the Syrian Arab Republic to clarify complementarity with the humanitarian plan, and will provide the Government time to articulate a new national development vision and humanitarian 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
<b>Burundi</b>	2010-2014 2015-2016 (first extension) 2017 (second extension)	2018 (third extension)	The current strategic framework for growth and poverty reduction has been extended for two years (2017-2018) due to significant delays in the development of the next strategic framework. The country is currently confronted with deteriorating socio-economic conditions due to recurrent emergencies.	The Government and the UNCT agreed to extend the UNDAF for one more year to ensure coordinated and collective support to national efforts in nationalizing the Sustainable Development Goals and to align the next UNDAF to national planning cycles and priorities.	UNFPA will continue to focus on: (a) scaling up quality family planning services to meet the needs of women, men, adolescents and youth; (b) improving maternal health through interventions that focus on preventing and treating obstetric fistula, and emergency obstetric care; (c) improving adolescent and youth reproductive health through sexuality education and youth-friendly services; (d) ensuring involvement of youth in social cohesion; (e) strengthening protection systems for promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, and addressing gender-based violence; and (f) advocating for incorporation of the demographic dividend into the national planning process.
<b>South Africa</b>	2013-2017	2018 (first extension) (15 months)	National elections, planned for 2019, and the strongly fluctuating local currency (Rand) might have implications on the development of the next United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework.	The Government and the UNCT agreed to extend the current United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework for 15 months to align the next programming cycle of the next framework with the fiscal year of the Government (1 April to 31 March) and with the Government Medium-term Strategic Framework 2019-2024.	UNFPA will continue to focus its assistance on: (a) improving quality of integrated sexual and reproductive health services in target districts; (b) supporting interventions to increase adolescents and young people's knowledge and skills towards adoption of protective sexual behaviours; (c) promoting gender equality, and strengthening national capacity to implement policies and programmes to prevent gender-based violence; and (d) promoting and supporting disaggregated population data for policies and programmes; and (e) advocating for incorporation of the demographic dividend into the national planning process.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Period proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reason for extension</i>		
			<i>In-country development</i>	<i>United Nations harmonization</i>	<i>Implementation or other issues</i>
<b>Yemen</b>	2012-2015 2016 (first extension) 2017 (second extension)	2018-2019 (third extension) (two years)	The country witnessed major political upheaval in the past two years, leaving Yemen with two governments: one de facto led by Houthis; and an exiled Government led by president Hadi. Moreover, the conflict between the North and the South has intensified, while the presence of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS has further deteriorated the security situation. The armed conflict has completely disrupted basic social service delivery and caused huge population displacements, leaving government institutions unable to respond to the increasing needs. Yemen is totally dependent on the humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations and other humanitarian actors.	The UNCT decided to extend the current UNDAF for another two years (2018-2019) due to the prevailing political environment and fragile security situation in Yemen.	UNFPA will focus on: (a) reducing maternal mortality, through enhanced access to and improved quality of emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and also access and demand for family planning services; (b) improving strategic positioning of adolescents and youth needs in national plans and programmes for the realization of the demographic dividend; (c) and development and operationalization of a partnership and resource mobilization plan.