



**Executive Board of the  
United Nations Development  
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 Colombia, Guatemala and Venezuela, as presented in table 1, and may wish to approve the third one-year extension for the country programme for Syrian Arab Republic and the third, three-month extension for South Africa, 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>Colombia</b>  | 2015-2019                        | 2020                                 | The Government of Colombia, which took office in August 2018, is committed to ensuring that all new country programme documents derive from the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2024. In consultation with the United Nations Resident Coordinator, it proposes a one-year extension of the country programmes to facilitate harmonization of all UN agency work at country level, in line with national priorities and the new UNSDCF.          |
| <b>Guatemala</b> | 2015-2019                        | 2020                                 | In light of the ongoing electoral process, with the new Government taking office in January 2020, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Government agreed on a one-year extension of country programme to align with the new national priorities and to advance a roadmap for the design and approval of the new UNSDCF 2020-2024.  |
| <b>Venezuela</b> | 2015-2019                        | 2020                                 | Due to the current situation in the country, the United Nations Resident Coordinator agreed with the Government to a one-year extension of the ongoing country programme. The extension will allow for a more thorough situation analysis, adjusted to current developments and emerging challenges, and to incorporate the new UNSDCF guidance. It will also facilitate the design of a new humanitarian assistance strategy to respond to the current situation in Venezuela. |

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>South Africa</b>         | 2013-2017<br><br>1 January 2018 - 31 March 2019<br>(first extension)<br><br>1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020<br>(second extension) | 1 April 2020 - 30 June 2020<br>(third extension) | Following general elections on 8 May 2019, the new Administration initiated a national process to define priority targets for the medium-term strategic framework (MTSF) 2019-2024, as part of the National Development Plan 2030. This national process has affected the timelines for finalization of the UNSDCF 2020-2025 as well as the new UNFPA country programme document.   | The Government of South Africa and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and have agreed to extend the ongoing programme for three months, until 30 June 2020, to allow for approval of the MTSF and the finalization of the UNSDCF.   | During the three-month extension period, UNFPA will continue to focus on the priorities and results identified within the current country programme cycle, including accelerating actions to end gender-based violence and sexual transmission of HIV, as well as using a multisectoral approach in advancing youth empowerment.   |
| <b>Syrian Arab Republic</b> | 2014-2016<br><br>2017<br>(first extension)<br><br>2018<br>(second extension)   | 2020<br>(third extension)                        | As a result of the eight-year crisis in Syria, the estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has reached 11.7 million, including 5 million in acute need, with women of reproductive age accounting for 25 per cent of those affected by the crisis while 6.2 million are internally displaced. Half the population is estimated to be in acute need of access to basic and social services and to income generating opportunities, and this has exacerbated gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and early and forced marriage. | Considering the country situation, the Government and the United Nations country team agreed to extend the current Strategic Framework for Cooperation between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations 2016-2019 through 2020. The extension will allow the development of a new country programme based on the new Strategic Framework, which will guide the overall United Nations approach in Syria, focusing on early recovery and development activities, in line with national priorities and the 2030 Agenda, and also guide the formulation of the new UNSDCF. | The extension will continue to focus on (a) improving access to high-quality reproductive health care; (b) scaling-up gender-based violence prevention and response; (c) supporting capacities to collect and use gender- and age-disaggregated data for tailoring response and recovery programming; (d) engage with young people to foster social cohesion and reconciliation; (e) support the rehabilitation of facilities providing health and social services; and (f) improve the well-being of the most vulnerable populations, especially people with disabilities and elderly people. |