



**Executive Board of the  
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**UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters**

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**

**Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region**

**Note by the Executive Director**

*Summary*

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the country programme for Eritrea.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for second one-year extensions 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 extension for Eritrea, as indicated in the attached table.



## One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original Programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations Harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Eritrea	2007-2011	2012	<p>The new cooperation policy of the Government identified three priority areas -- health, safe water supply and sanitation – to receive United Nations support in 2012. The United Nations country team has developed a concept note to align itself with the new policy. Based on the new policy and the concept note, UNFPA will support the Government in the health sector, focusing on sexual and reproductive health. The extension of the country programme will enable it to be harmonized and aligned with the new government policy (which covers the period of the proposed programme extension through the end of 2012), and to consolidate the gains made during the third country programme in preparation for a possible fourth country programme.</p>	<p>Eritrea holds periodic elections at local and regional levels. Elections at the national level have been postponed due to the current border problem.</p> <p>The country celebrates its twentieth year of independence in 2011. A series of symposiums are being held nationwide to assess and report on the progress made by each ministry and agency of the Government on the development of the country since independence.</p> <p>United Nations organizations, including UNFPA, have contributed to the results achieved in national development during the last 20 years. The extension of the third UNFPA country programme will reinforce progress in the social sector.</p>	<p>The extension of the programme will consolidate the gains made and accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality by strengthening and scaling up reproductive health services and rights. The extension will support the Ministry of Health in: (a) strengthening the health system and developing linkages between the components of the reproductive health programme (including family planning, emergency obstetric care, skilled attendance at birth, the referral system and the prevention of HIV/AIDS); (b) expanding maternity waiting homes; (c) strengthening the health information system; (d) strengthening the obstetric fistula programme in order to clear-up the backlog of cases and to scale up prevention, rehabilitation and social reintegration; and (e) scaling up efforts of the HIV/AIDS prevention programme by expanding behaviour-change interventions and promoting condom programming. The extension of the programme will also assist in documenting lessons learned and good practices.</p>