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Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the country programmes of Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Mauritania and South Africa, and the six-month extension of the country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania.

It also contains information on the two-year extensions of the country programmes of Namibia and Sierra Leone.

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: (a) take note of the one-year country programme extensions of Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Mauritania and South Africa, and the six-month extension of the country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania, as indicated in table 1; and (b) approve the two-year extensions of the country programmes of Namibia and Sierra Leone, as indicated in table 2.



Table 1. 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
Cape Verde	2006-2010	2011	<p>A one-year extension of the programme will permit United Nations organizations in Cape Verde to align their contributions to one programme, which began in 2008 in the context of 'delivering as one'. It will permit the United Nations system to respond to the Government request that the programmes of the United Nations and other donors be aligned to the national growth and poverty reduction strategy paper, 2008-2011. It will also consolidate the United Nations system contribution to the country's transition process from the least developed country group. It will enable the United Nations to incorporate lessons learned from the first 'one programme' into the new programming phase, including measures to improve coordination among resident and non-resident United Nations organizations.</p>	<p>National elections are scheduled to take place at the beginning of 2011. The national growth and poverty reduction strategy paper covers the period 2008-2011. It is therefore important to ensure continuity during 2011, as the elected government takes office. A new growth and poverty reduction strategy will begin in 2012. The Government also seeks to ensure consistency in the development approach for the five-year period following the 2011 elections.</p>	<p>The one-year extension of the country programme will focus on the quality of services, by consolidating action in the area of reproductive health and rights. This includes follow-up of the implementation of the maternal mortality road map, combined with (a) the reduction of infant and perinatal mortality; (b) the finalization in 2010 of the reproductive health strategy for adolescents; (c) the implementation of the plan to combat gender-based violence; and (d) support for the creation of a pilot programme for breast and uterine cancer screening. The UNFPA programme will also complement the programme of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, with attention given to preventing mother-to-child transmission and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, especially among young people. In the area of adolescent and youth reproductive health in schools, the programme will pre-test a revised curriculum that integrates reproductive health and HIV/AIDS thematic areas, which will be implemented in 2011. The programme will also provide support to the analysis of the 2010 census data and to the Centre for Training and Research on Gender and Family.</p>

Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director (cont'd)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Chad	2006-2010	2011	<p>Following the revision of the second poverty reduction strategy of the Government, the United Nations system in Chad, in consultation with the Government, will extend the 2006-2010 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) by one year, through 2011. This will enable the UNDAF to be aligned with the next four-year plan of the Government, which is expected to be approved in early 2011. As a result, the country programmes of the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies are also being extended for one year, through 2011.</p>	<p>Following the country's second population census in May-June 2009, parliamentary and presidential elections have been scheduled to take place in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Chad, the Sudan and the international community have pursued political dialogue for the peacebuilding process. The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad has deployed approximately 60 per cent of its planned peacekeeping staff to secure the safety of United Nations staff and humanitarian workers.</p>	<p>The one-year country programme extension will focus on increasing national capacity to implement national plans and strategies, including: (a) the road map to reduce maternal and child mortality; and (b) the campaign to end violence against women and children.</p> <p>The reproductive health component of the programme will address the quality of reproductive health services and target adolescents and young people to prevent HIV/AIDS. The population and development component will support the analysis and dissemination of the 2009 census data. The gender equality component will advocate the adoption of family laws and support the development of a national gender policy. The programme will continue to provide reproductive health services and services to prevent gender-based violence and care for victims of such violence, for refugees from the Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as for internally displaced persons.</p>

Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director (cont'd)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Ghana	2006-2010	2011	Following a successful national election in late 2008 and the installation of a new Government in 2009, the finalization of the national development framework (the medium- and long-term development plan) initiated by the former Government was delayed. The national development framework was expected to serve as the basis for the preparation of the next common country assessment. As a result, the Government and the United Nations system in Ghana decided to extend the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) from December 2010 through December 2011.	In view of the change in Government in 2009, the one-year extension of the UNDAF will provide an opportunity for the United Nations system to support the new Government in: (a) finalizing the medium- and long-term development plan, increasing social investment, and providing high-quality services for the very poor; (b) promoting a focus on social justice and the protection of marginalized populations from the global economic crisis; and (c) encouraging increased social investments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by targeting the most vulnerable groups – women, youth and migrants.	The global financial crisis constrained various global funding mechanisms and negatively affected the release of funds for the implementation of programmed activities. The one-year extension of the country programme will provide an opportunity for further resource mobilization to re-programme and implement activities. During the one-year extension of the UNDAF through 2011, the Government and the United Nations system will complete all outstanding activities of the UNDAF to achieve all UNDAF outputs. The programme will also support the analysis and dissemination of the data from the 2010 population and housing census. This will ensure that the results of the 2010 population and housing census are available for the formulation of the new UNDAF, which will serve as the basis for the development of a new country programme.

Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director (cont'd)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Mauritania	2009-2010	2011	<p>Initially, the UNDAF 2009-2010 was conceived to align United Nations programming with the national programming cycle, within the framework of the 2011-2015 poverty reduction strategy paper. However, the poverty reduction strategy formulation process has been delayed and will only end in June 2010.</p> <p>A one-year extension of the country programme has minimum programme implications, given that the current programme was developed with a midterm vision (two years) to serve as the basis for the next programme. The extension will enable the United Nations country team to ensure alignment with the national development framework and guarantee complementarity with the programmes of other United Nations organizations.</p>	<p>Mauritania has faced a complex political situation since May 2008, culminating in the military coup of 6 August 2008. The constitutional crisis has constrained progress on major policy and strategic initiatives, making it difficult to conduct poverty reduction strategy review and formulation processes in a comprehensive manner.</p> <p>Since July 2009, the political situation returned to normal after the appointment of the newly elected president, as a consequence of transparent and free elections, which were supervised and recognized by the international community.</p>	<p>The goal of the programme is to reduce poverty, targeting the most vulnerable populations, by promoting reproductive health services and rights, gender equality and equity, and sustainable development. The programme will: (a) develop the national capacity to address national priorities in the areas of reproductive health, gender, migration, urbanization and humanitarian issues; (b) expand and strengthen strategic alliances; and (c) promote integrated action in areas affected by poverty, with special attention to former slaves, refugees and persons displaced by floods.</p> <p>The extension will focus on accelerating the reduction in maternal mortality, conducting the 2010 round of censuses, and enhancing gender achievements in the context of the 15-year reviews of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action.</p>

Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director (cont'd)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
South Africa	2007-2010	2011	A one-year extension of the country programme will permit all United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies to begin their new country programmes simultaneously. This is in accordance with the recent extension, to 2011, of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which the Government of South Africa approved in September 2009. The next country programme will likely have a three-year cycle (2012-2014), in order to align it with Vision 2014 of the Government and the Millennium Development Goals.	South Africa held its fourth general election in April 2009. This ushered in a new administration that recently finalized its medium-term strategic framework to 2014. The country programme extension will give the United Nations system, including UNFPA, the opportunity to align the next UNDAF and the next country programme with the Government medium-term strategic framework, Vision 2014, the Millennium Development Goals and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.	General elections and the subsequent administrative and political leadership changes in April 2009 delayed the implementation of the programme, since workplans were signed in May and June, following the elections. The country programme extension will provide support to: (a) the newly established Ministry of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, to strengthen its technical capacity for gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, and the prevention of and response to gender-based violence; (b) the health-sector review, as well as support to strengthen the capacity of health-care workers to deliver comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and HIV services; (c) population units and Statistics South Africa to strengthen their capacity to integrate population issues into development planning; and (d) institutions of higher learning to conduct training in population and development issues.

Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director (cont'd)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
United Republic of Tanzania	2007-2010	2011 (six months requested)	UNFPA is extending its sixth country programme for a period of six months, from January 2011 through June 2011. This will enable the next country programme (July 2011-2015) to be based on the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which has also been extended for six months and which will begin in July 2011. The UNDAF will be aligned with the new poverty reduction strategies for the mainland and for Zanzibar.	United Nations organizations in the United Republic of Tanzania are operating within the framework of the joint assistance strategy. Since 2007, the United Republic of Tanzania has been one of eight pilot countries implementing United Nations reform through the 'delivering as one' model. The extension of the country programme would permit the Government to finalize the new national strategies, and enable the United Nations system to prepare an UNDAF that responds to national priorities.	The extension of the country programme will focus on three programme components: (a) reproductive health and rights; (b) population and development; and (c) gender. Within the reproductive health and rights component, UNFPA will support the attainment of Millennium Development Goal Five (improving maternal health) by providing support to the Government through the United Nations joint programme for maternal and newborn death reduction, which UNFPA manages. UNFPA will also continue its support to the health sector-wide approach. In addition, UNFPA will continue to support the reproductive and child health agenda in Zanzibar, as well as the AIDS commissions in the mainland and in Zanzibar. Within the population and development component, UNFPA will provide support for a comprehensive pre-census phase to strengthen the capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics to conduct the census and develop a census resource mobilization strategy. Within the gender component, UNFPA will maintain a leadership role in the United Nations team. UNFPA will support: (a) the strengthening of capacity in gender-responsive budgeting; (b) the establishment of a gender funding basket; and (c) a comprehensive gender-based violence programme.

Table 2. Two-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Namibia	2006-2010	2010-2012	<p>Following the evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Namibia, the United Nations country team decided to extend the UNDAF cycle in Namibia for two years, through 2012, to align it with the national development plan covering the period from 2007 to 2012. This would also provide an opportunity for the United Nations system in Namibia to address issues raised by the evaluation report, including the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation framework and to address gender equality issues and issues related to emergency preparedness and response. The UNDAF extension necessitates an extension of the country programme for two years.</p>	<p>The country held its fifth presidential and national assembly elections in November 2009. It will celebrate its twentieth independence anniversary in March 2010. Namibia enjoys relative political stability and has achieved macroeconomic stability; however, the latest poverty report indicates that up to 28 per cent of Namibians live on less than \$1 per day. The country has experienced the effects of the global economic crisis and has been affected by two consecutive floods that were deemed state of emergencies by the Government.</p>	<p>Key issues to be addressed in line with the national development framework include: (a) the HIV/AIDS response; (b) livelihoods and food security; and (c) the capacity to deliver essential services. The two-year extension of the programme will provide an opportunity to assist the Government in implementing its road map for accelerating maternal and neonatal health. The programme will continue to emphasize emergency obstetric care as key to reducing maternal deaths. The Government is finalizing its national strategic framework for addressing HIV/AIDS. UNFPA will support its implementation, with an increased focus on prevention. The cabinet has approved a gender policy that parliament is expected to review and endorse in 2010. The country programme will strengthen gender mainstreaming and the prevention of gender-based violence, especially in emergency situations. The population and development component of the programme will support the 2011 census, the revision of the population policy, the coordination of population programmes, and other forms of data collection and analysis. UNFPA will continue to support joint programmes with other United Nations organizations. Steps are also under way to strengthen joint monitoring and evaluation in conformity with the UNDAF evaluation recommendations.</p>

Table 2. Two-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought (cont'd)

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Sierra Leone	2008-2010	2011-2012	In order to support the development aspirations of Sierra Leone, as articulated in its second poverty reduction strategy paper, the Agenda for Change (2008-2012), the United Nations country team developed the United Nations Joint Vision (2009-2012), which is fully aligned with the Agenda for Change. The Joint Vision includes planning, implementation and coordination mechanisms that seek to enhance efforts to consolidate peace and promote sustainable development in Sierra Leone. The extension of the country programme through 2012 is therefore necessary to align it with the Joint Vision as well as with various national frameworks.	Presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007 resulted in a new Government. In line with the decentralization process, vacancies in paramount chieftaincy positions are being filled through elections. Local councils are empowered to take over government functions in areas such as health and education. The Government is consolidating peace through the implementation of its national development framework. If current developments in Guinea deteriorate, this could impact negatively on the current political and social stability in Sierra Leone.	The extension of the country programme will have three components: (a) reproductive health; (b) population and development; and (c) gender equality. The reproductive health component will support the national health strategic plan and the free health care initiative. The programme will build partners' capacity to better position family planning in the development agenda and provide emergency obstetric and newborn care; institutionalize audits and reviews of maternal deaths; strengthen the adolescent sexual and reproductive health programme; ensure the availability of skilled health personnel and infrastructure; scale up reproductive health commodity supplies; and strengthen HIV-prevention services. The population and development component will support the implementation of the national strategy for the development of statistics so that reliable data are available for planning and implementing the Agenda for Change. The programme will provide technical support to partners for data collection and management systems to develop a national database, prepare for the 2014 census and provide monthly intercensal and survey data. The gender equality component will support the national gender strategic plan by building national capacity in preventing and managing gender-based violence. The programme will mainstream gender, culture and human rights and support the establishment of an information management system in the Ministry of Gender.