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Extensions of ongoing country programmes

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, this note informs the Executive Board of the first two-month extensions of the country programmes for Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Eswatini, Georgia, Malaysia, North Macedonia, Panama, Somalia and Uzbekistan; the five-month extension of the country programme for Argentina, following a previous two-month extension; and the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bangladesh, Cameroon, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Maldives, Mozambique and Oman, all of which were approved by the Executive Director.

This note further presents the reasons for the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for Tunisia, following a one-year extension; the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension and a three-month extension; the proposed six-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar, following a one-year extension; the proposed one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guatemala and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, both following previous one-year extensions; the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Burkina Faso; and the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Yemen, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a two-year extension and a one-year extension. The Executive Board is requested to approve these programme extensions.

Draft decision

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the first two-month extensions of the country programmes for Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Eswatini, Georgia, Malaysia, North Macedonia, Panama, Somalia and Uzbekistan; the five-month extension of the country programme for Argentina, following a previous two-month extension; and the first

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one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bangladesh, Cameroon, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Maldives, Mozambique and Oman, all of which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1;

2. *Approves* the two-month extension of the country programme for Tunisia, following a one-year extension; the two-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension and a three-month extension; the six-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar, following a one-year extension; the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guatemala and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, both following previous one-year extensions; the two-year extension of the country programme for Burkina Faso; and the two-year extension of the country programme for Yemen, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a two-year extension and a one-year extension, as presented in table 2.

Table 1

First extensions of one year (or less) of ongoing country programmes approved by the Executive Director

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Argentina	March 2016–2020 <i>(including one previous two-month extension)</i>	March to July 2021 <i>(five-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To allow the country office to develop and incorporate a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response and recovery plan in the new country programme, in close collaboration with the other United Nations agencies. – To align with the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The initial timeline approved by the United Nations country team (UNCT) for the formulation of the UNSDCF has been revised due to the COVID-19 situation.
Armenia	2016–2020	January to February 2021 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align the work of the United Nations system with the country's development path as affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. – To align the UNICEF country programme with the new UNSDCF and the country programme document (CPD) submissions of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the first regular session of the Executive Board in February 2021, as recommended by the UNCT. – To allow UNICEF to continue its cooperation with the Government of Armenia based on the current CPD (2016–2020), covering the gap between its completion and approval and the launch of the new country programme.
Azerbaijan	March 2016–2020	January to February 2021 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To allow the Government more time to undertake its formal review and endorsement of the new CPD, and to provide more time to the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator to finalize the UNSDCF, considering the unprecedented disruption to Government activities caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, which could not have been foreseen. – To ensure that the CPDs of UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP are aligned with the new UNSDCF at the time of submission to the Executive

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
			Boards due to delays in the issuance of guidelines that would enable the UNCT to fully develop the new UNSDCF.
			– To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Bangladesh	2017–2020	December 2021 (one-year extension)	<p>– To cater for the implementation of the United Nations reform alignment with the national development plan, which has been delayed by the COVID-19 crisis, as well as with the Government’s COVID-19 response and recovery plan.</p> <p>– To align with the extended United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) until 2021, and the development of the new UNSDCF, as agreed with the UNCT in coordination with the resident coordinator’s office.</p> <p>– To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.</p>
Cameroon	2018–2020	December 2021 (one-year extension)	<p>– There have been delays in the UNSDCF development process and its alignment to the national development strategy. These delays have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>– To align with the new UNSDCF, as agreed by the UNCT in consultation with the Resident Coordinator.</p> <p>– To allow for alignment with the CPD submissions by UNFPA and UNDP in 2021.</p> <p>– To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.</p>
China	2016–2020	January to February 2021 (two-month extension)	– The extension of the CPD has been requested by the Government of China, in consultation with the Resident Coordinator, to allow time for the Government and the Resident Coordinator to share more information on the recently signed UNSDCF with interested Member States.

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
El Salvador	2016–2020	December 2021 (one-year extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To accommodate delays due to changes in the Government and in the resident coordinator’s office, as well as prioritization of the COVID-19 response, which has affected the UNSDCF timeline and process. – To align with the new UNSDCF, as recommended by the UNCT. – To allow for alignment with the CPD submissions by UNFPA and UNDP in 2021. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Eswatini	2016–2020	January to February 2021 (two-month extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align the CPD with recent changes made to the United Nations Cooperation Framework planning process. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Georgia	2016–2020	January to February 2021 (two-month extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with national planning processes and ensure consistency with the other United Nations agencies submitting CPDs. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Guinea-Bissau	2016–2020	December 2021 (one-year extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Due to significant disruptions in the establishment of the Government, the UNCT has so far not been in a position to engage with the Government, with the exception of supporting the COVID-19 emergency response. – To align with the new UNSDCF outcomes and strategies, and the CPD submissions by UNFPA and UNDP in 2021, to enhance collaboration among the United Nations agencies. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Libya	2019–2020	December 2021 (<i>one-year extension</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with the approved one-year extension of the United Nations Strategic Framework 2019–2020, based on the UNCT and the Government of National Accord agreement. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Malaysia	2016–2020	January to February 2021 (<i>two-month extension</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Following the formation of the new Government in April 2020, the United Nations was requested to consider how the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic could be incorporated in the UNSDCF. – To comply with the spirit of United Nations reform and the UNCT commitment to ensure the sequencing between the completion and approval by the Government of the UNSDCF and the agency-specific CPDs for 2021–2025 that contribute to its results. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Maldives	2016–2020	December 2021 (<i>one-year extension</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The original UNSDCF development plan was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its unfolding devastating socioeconomic impact. – To align with the extension of the current UNDAF for one year, as agreed by the UNCT. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Mozambique	2017–2020	December 2021 (<i>one-year extension</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with the UNDAF cycle (i.e., a one-year extension was granted until 31 December 2021). – To ensure alignment between the next UNICEF country programme cycle and the national development plan of the Government of Mozambique.

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
North Macedonia	2016–2020	January to February 2021 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Following early elections in April 2020 and an interim period for formation of the Government, the timeline for the development of the UNSDCF has been adjusted. – To align with the new UNSDCF, including participation by UNICEF in a joint validation exercise. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Oman	2017–2020	December 2021 <i>(one year)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To consider the COVID-19 outbreak response that affected the normal operations of the Government and the UNICEF Oman Country Office, and that has wide-ranging socioeconomic implications, including for women and children. – To allow proper implementation and completion of interventions set out in the current CPD and permit the country office to achieve the desired outcomes for Omani children prior to launching a new programme cycle.
Panama	2016–2020	January to February 2021 <i>(two months)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The initial timeline for the formulation of the UNSDCF has been delayed due to the COVID-19 situation and the ongoing in-country United Nations reform process, and is awaiting completion of organization of the resident coordinator's office. – To align with the duration of the new UNSDCF. – To allow for alignment with CPD submissions by UNFPA and UNDP to the first regular session of the Executive Board in February 2021. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Somalia	2018–2020	January to February 2021 <i>(two months)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Following the new government planning cycle 2020–2024 and its renewed priorities, the UNCT is in the process of developing the new UNSDCF, which is expected to come into effect in January 2021 (with possible adjustments to the timeline due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic). – To fully align with the new UNSDCF and the national development plan. – To allow for alignment with the CPDs of the individual agencies, in accordance with the UNCT agreement. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Uzbekistan	2016–2020	January to February 2021 <i>(two months)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Delays in completion of the UNSDCF due to government delays and continued capacity constraints in the UNCT and the resident coordinator’s office in terms of dedicated resources. – To align with the new UNSDCF. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.

Table 2

Extensions of ongoing country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is requested

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period, including previous extensions</i>	<i>Year/period proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Burkina Faso	2018–2020	December 2022 <i>(two years)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Country-specific circumstances: Sudden onset emergencies have affected the Government’s programme and policy schedule. – To provide support to the Government to deliver a timely and effective response to the ongoing humanitarian crises affecting children, including the COVID-19 pandemic. – To align with the two-year extension of the revised UNDAF. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Guatemala	2015–2019 <i>(including a previous one-year extension for 2020)</i>	December 2021 <i>(one year)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The new Government, which assumed office in January 2020, identified the need for more time to ensure alignment of the UNSDCF with emerging government priorities. – Recent developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic posed further delays to the ability of the UNCT to advance negotiations with the Government. – To align with the new UNSDCF by providing enough time to design a relevant, fit-for-context CPD. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Madagascar	March 2015–2019 <i>(including a previous one-year extension for 2020)</i>	January to June 2021 <i>(six months)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with the planned extension of the current UNDAF due to the COVID-19 response, as agreed by the UNCT in order to prepare the new UNSDCF. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period, including previous extensions</i>	<i>Year/period proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Syrian Arab Republic	March 2016–2017 <i>(including two previous one-year extensions for 2018 and 2019; a nine-month extension; and a three-month extension for 2020)</i>	January to February 2021 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with the United Nations Cooperation Framework planning process and the CPD submissions by UNFPA and UNDP in 2021. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Tunisia	2015–2019 <i>(including a previous one-year extension for 2020)</i>	January to February 2021 <i>(two months)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with the revised timeline for the development of the UNSDCF and agencies' CPDs, to allow for adequate stakeholder consultation following the recent appointment of the new Government in Tunisia. – To allow for alignment with the UNFPA and UNDP CPD submissions to the Executive Board session of February 2021, to ensure government ownership and proper alignment of the CPDs with the UNSDCF, in line with United Nations reform. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2015–2019 <i>(including a previous one-year extension for 2020)</i>	December 2021 <i>(one year)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with the extended UNDAF. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.

<i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i>	<i>Original programme period, including previous extensions</i>	<i>Year/period proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Yemen	2012–2015 <i>(including two previous one-year extensions for 2016 and 2017; a two-year extension for 2019; and a one-year extension for 2020)</i>	December 2022 <i>(two years)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To align with a possible new UNSDCF in the future. – To continue the work of UNICEF under the current country programme, covering the gap between its completion and approval of the new CPD.