



**Executive Board of the
United Nations Development
Programme, the United Nations
Population Fund and the United
Nations Office for Project Services**

Distr.: General
27 August 2013

Original: English

Second regular session 2013

9 to 13 September 2013, New York

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extension of country programme in the Arab States region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the first one-year extension of the UNFPA country programme for the State of Palestine.^a

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves six-month extensions and first one-year extensions of country programmes, while requests for extensions for a second or third year, as well as two-year and two and a half year extensions, are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

^a On 29 November 2012, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 67/19. Pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of that resolution, the General Assembly decided to "...accord to Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations...". On 12 December 2012, Palestine informed the Secretary-General that the designation "State of Palestine" should be used in all official documents, although this does not preclude the use of the term "occupied Palestinian territory".



Table. One-year country programme extension approved by the Executive Director

Country programme	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Occupied Palestinian Territory	2011-2013	2014	<p>The one-year extension will allow for the harmonization of UNFPA programme cycle with that of the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) and provide for the same start-up date for both agency programmes.</p> <p>Due to programme commonalities between UNICEF and UNFPA related to maternal health, adolescent health, neonatal care, as well as a number of common programmatic partners, such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, and the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, starting both country programmes together would also allow for enhanced joint programming and greater collaboration in the spirit of "Delivering as One". This would ensure effectiveness and efficiency of UNFPA and UNICEF programmes and maximize the utilization of available resources in support of the Palestinian population.</p>	<p>The political split between Gaza and the West Bank continues.</p> <p>UNFPA, similar to all the other United Nations agencies, was unable to sign project agreements with the de facto government in Gaza, thus limiting the scope of programmatic initiatives and negating the possibility of nationally executed projects, which are the main form of UNFPA interventions. However, the UNFPA programme in Gaza continued to be implemented by civil society institutions.</p>	<p>The one-year extension of the programme will allow adequate time for sound programme planning, including preparations of the country programme action plan (CPAP) and the establishment of baseline data for a new country programme starting January 2015.</p> <p>The UNFPA country office will continue the implementation of activities in the current programme and sustaining the results that it has achieved.</p>