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United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

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 two-month extension of the country programme for Paraguay, and the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guatemala, Madagascar and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, all approved by the Executive Director.

This note further presents the reasons for the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for Cuba, following a previous one-year extension; the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, following two one-year extensions; and the proposed nine-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two previous one-year extensions. The Executive Board is requested to approve these programme extensions.

Draft decision

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the two-month extension of the country programme for Paraguay, and the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guatemala, Madagascar and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1;

2. *Approves* the two-month extensions of the country programmes for Cuba, following a previous one-year extension, and for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, following two one-year extensions; and the nine-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two previous one-year extensions, as presented in table 2.

* [E/ICEF/2019/21/Rev.1](#)

Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.



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>
Guatemala	2015–2019	December 2020 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A one-year extension will enable UNICEF to develop its new country programme document (CPD) in full alignment with the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) guidance. – The new UNSDCF, to be developed after a period of familiarization and consultation with government and civil society partners following the release of the new UNSDCF guidance, will align with the National Development Plan, which spans 2014–2032.
Madagascar	March 2015–December 2019	December 2020 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A one-year extension will enable UNICEF to align the CPD with the extension of the present United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) until the end of 2020, which has been requested by the Government of Madagascar to more closely align the UNDAF with the country's National Development Plan (<i>Émergence 2030</i>). – The new UNSDCF can be developed with the full participation of the newly formed Government and based on the evidence provided by new data sources, including the multiple indicator cluster surveys. – Except for marginal alignment of results, strategies, enablers and resources to the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, the priorities, assumptions and strategies that underpin the current country programme remain unchanged.
Paraguay	2015–2019	February 2020 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A two-month extension will enable UNICEF to develop its new CPD in full alignment with the new UNSDCF guidance for Paraguay, which is expected to be finalized towards the end of 2019. – Except for marginal alignment of results, strategies, enablers and resources to the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, the priorities, assumptions and strategies that underpin the current country programme remain unchanged.
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	2015–2019	December 2020 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A one-year extension will enable UNICEF to design a relevant, fit-for-context CPD and to make a deliberate, meaningful transition to alignment with the logic and content of the new UNSDCF. This will contribute to the overall aid effectiveness of United Nations development cooperation in an evolving country context.

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>
Cuba	2014–2019 <i>(including one previous one-year extension)</i>	February 2020 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A two-month extension will enable UNICEF to develop its new CPD in full alignment with the new UNSDCF guidance and the new UNSDCF for Cuba, which is expected to be finalized towards the end of 2019. – Except for marginal alignment of results, strategies, enablers and resources to the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, the priorities, assumptions and strategies that underpin the current country programme remain unchanged.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2013–2019 <i>(including two previous one-year extensions)</i>	February 2020 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A two-month extension will enable UNICEF to join the United Nations country team in further consultations with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), in line with United Nations reform guidance on the new UNSDCF and to fine-tune the CPD in line with the final version of the UNSDCF. – Postponement of the submission of the CPD will ensure that presentation of the CPD by UNICEF is aligned with UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, which will all prepare new CPDs in 2020.
Syrian Arab Republic	March 2016–2019 <i>(including two previous one-year extensions)</i>	September 2020 <i>(nine-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group has agreed to extend the current United Nations Strategic Framework for a six-month period, until June 2020, to enable the development of a new two-year interim United Nations Strategic Framework. – A nine-month extension of the current CPD will enable UNICEF to align the new CPD with the interim Strategic Framework.