



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
12 July 2013

Original: English

For action

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Second regular session 2013

3-6 September 2013

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Extensions of ongoing country programmes

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, this note presents the reasons for the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Côte d'Ivoire, the extension of the country programme for South Sudan for two and a half years, the second consecutive one-year extensions for Guinea-Bissau and Mali, and the one-year extension following a two-year extension for Paraguay. Also presented are the third consecutive one-year extensions for Madagascar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. The Executive Board is requested to approve these programme extensions.

Draft decision

The Executive Board

Approves the two-year extension for Côte d'Ivoire, the extension of two and a half years for South Sudan, the second one-year extensions for Guinea-Bissau and Mali, the one-year extension following a two-year extension for Paraguay, and the third one-year extensions for Madagascar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, as presented in table 1.

* E/ICEF/2013/19.



Table 1
Extensions of country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is requested

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Reason for extension		
			In-country development	United Nations harmonization	Implementation or other issues
Côte d'Ivoire	2009-2013	2014-2015 two-year extension	In consultation with the Government and the regional United Nations Development Group (UNDG) team, the United Nations agencies have extended the UNDAF to 2015, to synchronize it with the national development plan for 2012-2015.	The two-year extension will align the country programme with the extended UNDAF and the National Development Plan.	The extension will permit UNICEF and other United Nations agencies and the Government to focus on implementation during the crucial post-crisis period and to deliver peace dividends to the population.
Guinea-Bissau	2008-2013	2014 second consecutive one-year extension	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), in consultation with the regional UNDG team and the Government, have agreed to extend their country programmes for an additional year to support the expected extension of the transition period with a more inclusive approach.	The second one-year extension is in line with the 2013-2017 UNDAF and the second national poverty reduction strategy paper, 2011-2015.	UNICEF will use the opportunity to renew its agenda for child rights with a stronger equity focus in line with the recently concluded Review of Equity and Child Rights in Guinea-Bissau and the goals of Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed.
Madagascar	2008-2013	2014 third consecutive one-year extension	The United Nations agencies have extended the current UNDAF, to synchronize its timing with the new national development plan.	The extension of the country programme will ensure that UNICEF is in line with WFP, UNDP and UNFPA, who are also requesting a third one-year extension of their country programmes.	The UNICEF-assisted country programme will maintain the equity focus and support the Government in monitoring trends in the vulnerability of children and their families.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Years proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reason for extension</i>		
			<i>In-country development</i>	<i>United Nations harmonization</i>	<i>Implementation or other issues</i>
Mali	2008-2013	2014 second consecutive one-year extension	The United Nations agencies and the Government have signed a common transition framework, 2013-2014. The framework will guide the contribution of the United Nations to the development and humanitarian agenda.	The one-year extension will align the country programme with the Common Framework in support of the Transition.	The country programme will engage more strongly in scaling up nutrition and filling the gaps in child protection and education, where progress is stagnating and new concerns are emerging.
Paraguay	2007-2013	2014 one-year extension following a two-year extension	The United Nations agencies have extended the UNDAF to synchronize the timing of the new UNDAF with the new national development plan.	The extension will align the country programme and other United Nations agencies programmes and projects with the next national planning cycle.	The country programme will continue with the existing programme focus and strategy.
South Sudan	2012-2013	1 January 2014 to 30 June 2016 extension of two and a half years	The United Nations agencies have extended the UNDAF for an additional two and a half years to synchronize with the new Government national development cycle.	The extension will align the next country programme with government planning processes and with the national development plan, which has been extended to 30 June 2016.	The country programme will continue its focus on building the foundation for rapid acceleration of sustainable service delivery systems for children through a rights-based approach.
Syrian Arab Republic	2007-2013	2014 third consecutive one-year extension	The extension will allow UNICEF and counterparts additional time to prepare a new country programme	The one-year extension is requested in light of the ongoing instability in the country, and to support ongoing and much-needed humanitarian work.	The present circumstances in the country have necessitated an immediate humanitarian response, which has constrained the development of a new country programme.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Years proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reason for extension</i>		
			<i>In-country development</i>	<i>United Nations harmonization</i>	<i>Implementation or other issues</i>
Tunisia	2007-2013	2014 third consecutive one-year extension	The United Nations agencies have extended the United Nations transition strategy to synchronize with the next national programme plan and UNDAF.	The extension will provide time for finalization of the 2015-2019 national development plan and the new UNDAF, the basis for the new country programme.	The UNICEF-assisted country programme 2007-2011, extended to 2013, will continue to serve as the programmatic framework for 2014, with no major changes in its components.