



# Economic and Social Council

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**For decision**

## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

**Second regular session 2023**

5–8 September 2023

Item 4 (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 extensions of the country programmes for Bhutan and Madagascar, and the one-year extension of the country programme for Sierra Leone, all of which were approved by the Executive Director.

This note further informs the Executive Board of the reasons for the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for Guinea, following a one-year extension; the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for Brazil, following one-year, two-month and 10-month extensions; the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for the Gambia, following one-year, two-month and 10-month extensions; the proposed one-year extensions of the country programmes for Myanmar and Ukraine, following respective one-year extensions; the proposed one-year extension of the country programme for the Sudan, following two consecutive one-year extensions; the proposed two-year extension of the subregional programme for the Gulf Area; the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Burkina Faso, following two-year and one-year extensions; and the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan, following two-year, three-month, 11-month and 10-month extensions. The Executive Board is requested to approve these extensions.

##### *Draft decision*

###### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the two-month extensions of the country programmes for Bhutan and Madagascar, and the one-year extension of the country programme for Sierra Leone, all of which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1.

\* E/ICEF/2023/24.

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



2. *Approves* the two-month extension of the country programme for Guinea, following a one-year extension; the two-month extension of the country programme for Brazil, following one-year, two-month and 10-month extensions; the two-month extension of the country programme for the Gambia, following one-year, two-month and 10-month extensions; the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Myanmar and Ukraine, following respective one-year extensions; the one-year extension of the country programme for the Sudan, following two consecutive one-year extensions; the two-year extension of the subregional programme for the Gulf Area; the two-year extension of the country programme for Burkina Faso, following two-year and one-year extensions; and the two-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan, following two-year, three-month, 11-month and 10-month extensions, all of which are 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, including previous extensions</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Bhutan	2019–2023	January–February 2024 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This extension has been requested to ensure that country programme document (CPD) is aligned with and derived from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).</li> <li>– The extension has been agreed with the Government of Bhutan, requested by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and endorsed by the Regional Directors of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).</li> </ul>
Madagascar	10/2021–2023	January–February 2024 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Government of Madagascar and the United Nations country team are in the process of formulating the new UNSDCF, 2024–2028. This extension will allow the agency CPDs, including that of UNICEF, to be aligned with the new UNSDCF.</li> <li>– The Resident Coordinator has received concurrence from the Government on the proposed extension.</li> </ul>
Sierra Leone	2020–2023	January–December 2024 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This one-year extension of the CPD will enable the country office to fully participate in the UNSDCF development process, derive the CPD from the UNSDCF, and ensure a consultative and participative process for the finalization of the new CPD.</li> <li>– This extension was coordinated with UNDP, UNFPA and the Resident Coordinator’s Office to ensure that the new CPD will be fully aligned with and derived from the UNSDCF.</li> </ul>

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>
Afghanistan	2015–2023 (including two-year, three-month, 11-month and 10-month extensions)	January 2024–December 2025 (two-year extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This two-year extension is being requested due to the complex situation in the country. The extension will allow UNICEF Afghanistan to take stock of the current programmes and modalities of operation towards results to be achieved by the end of 2025, to ensure that the country programme is fully aligned with the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan and change outputs/outcomes, as necessary.</li> <li>– UNICEF is aligned with UNDP and UNFPA with regard to the two-year extension, and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan has endorsed the extension.</li> </ul>
Brazil	2017–2023 (including one-year, two-month and 10-month extensions)	January–February 2024 (two-month extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This two-month extension is being requested to ensure proper sequencing of the CPD and the UNSDCF.</li> <li>– UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA have agreed to submit their new CPDs to the respective first regular sessions of the Executive Boards in 2024.</li> </ul>
Burkina Faso	2018–2023 (including a two-year and a one-year extension)	January 2024–December 2025 (two-year extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This two-year extension is being requested to fully align the CPD with the Government’s Stabilization and Development Plan 2023–2025 and the United Nations Interim Action Plan for Sustainable Development 2023–2025.</li> <li>– This extension will support the efforts of the transitional government to build institutional and community resilience and provide an effective programmatic response to the multidimensional crises, vulnerabilities, fragilities and risks that the country has been experiencing for several years.</li> </ul>

<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>
Gambia	2017–2023 <i>(including one-year, two-month and 10-month extensions)</i>	January–February 2024 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This two-month extension is being requested due to the prolonged timelines of UNSDCF development and consequent requirement to properly sequence development of the CPD.</li> <li>– UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, in consultation with the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations country team, have agreed to submit their new CPDs at the first regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards in 2024.</li> </ul>
Guinea	2018–2023 <i>(including a one-year extension)</i>	January–February 2024 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This two-year extension is being requested to ensure alignment of the new CPD with the UNSDCF, 2024–2028, which was designed based on the national interim reference programme, 2022–2025.</li> <li>– UNICEF Guinea, jointly with UNDP and UNFPA, and in consultation with the Resident Coordinator’s Office, has agreed to a timeline that is in line with UNSDCF development and will ensure that the new CPD for Guinea is fully aligned with and derived from the UNSDCF.</li> </ul>
Gulf Area subregional programme	2019–2023	January 2024–December 2025 <i>(two-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This two-year extension is being requested for the UNICEF Gulf Area subregional programme document (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) to align with the UNSDCFs of the Gulf countries, where relevant, as well as to ensure alignment with new national development plans being developed in the respective countries.</li> </ul>
Myanmar	2018–2023 <i>(including a one-year extension)</i>	January – December 2024 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This one-year extension is being requested due to the ongoing situation and in view of the transitional cooperation framework currently under development as part of ‘UN country-level strategic planning for development in exceptional circumstances’.</li> <li>– In discussion with UNDP, UNFPA and Development Coordination Office Regional Directors and the Resident Coordinator’s Office, UNICEF opted to extend the programme by one year, which is in line</li> </ul>

<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>
			with UNDP and UNFPA, to ensure alignment of the CPD with the new transitional cooperation framework.
Sudan	2018–2023 <i>(including two consecutive one-year extensions)</i>	January – December 2024 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This one-year extension is being requested given the fragile and complex situation in the Sudan due to the recent conflict.</li> <li>– The duration of the extension is aligned with the extension of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and has been discussed in coordination with UNDP and UNFPA to ensure alignment. UNDP and UNFPA will submit their extension requests at the first regular session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board in 2024.</li> </ul>
Ukraine	2018–2023 <i>(including a one-year extension)</i>	January – December 2024 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This one-year extension is being requested due to the ongoing conflict. The extension will enable the country office to remain focused on the scale-up of its humanitarian response and the staffing and operational structured required for its delivery.</li> <li>– This request aligns with ongoing inter-agency discussions about similar planned one-year extensions of the CPDs for UNDP and UNFPA. The extensions will allow the new programmes to align with the proposed extension of the 2023 transition framework and the planned UNSDCF, 2025–2029.</li> </ul>