



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
1 February 2021

Original: English

For decision

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

First regular session 2021

9–12 February 2021

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 four-month extension of the country programmes for Armenia and Malaysia, following a two-month extension; and the first one-year extension of the country programmes of Croatia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

This note further informs the Executive Board of the reasons for the four-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension, a three-month extension and a two-month extension; and the one-year extension of the country programme for Tajikistan, following a one-year extension.

Draft decision

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the four-month extension of the country programmes for Armenia and Malaysia, following a two-month extension; and the first one-year extension of the country programmes for Croatia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia and the United Republic of Tanzania, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1;

2. *Approves* the four-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension, a three-month extension and a two-month extension; and the one-year extension of the country programme for Tajikistan, following a one-year extension; these are presented in table 2.

* E/ICEF/2021/1/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> |
|---|--|--|--|
| Armenia | 2016–February 2021 <i>(including a two-month extension)</i> | March–June 2021 <i>(four-month extension)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Government of Armenia and the United Nations country team are continuing consultations to finalize the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia for 2021–2025, in line with the relevant needs and priorities of the country. Following its conclusion, the text of the UNICEF country programme document (CPD) will need to be adjusted. – The extension will allow sufficient time for the UNICEF team to adapt programmatic cooperation between UNICEF and the Government of Armenia. – This extension for four months builds on the previous extension of two months (January–February 2021) , which was granted due to the time required for finalization of the UNSDCF processes. |
| Croatia | 2017–2021 | January–December 2022 <i>(one-year extension)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Government has agreed to a one-year extension of the country programme to allow sufficient time for the UNICEF team to establish cooperation with the representatives of the new Government, who were appointed after the country’s parliamentary election in July 2020, and to involve them in relevant discussions on issues related to the rights of children and adolescents in Croatia. – The one-year extension will also provide UNICEF with time to generate knowledge to support evidence-based country programme planning, especially with regard to the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. |
| Democratic People’s Republic of Korea | 2017–2021 | January–December 2022 <i>(one-year extension)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Government agreed to a one-year extension of the current United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF), given that the strong measures put in place to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in significant delays in implementation of activities of the UNSF and the UNICEF CPD. The current restrictions also have direct implications for the preparation of the new UNSDCF, including delays in the process. |

| <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"> – The one-year extension of the country programme is requested to allow correct sequencing and alignment of the new CPD and the new UNSDCF. |
| Islamic Republic of Iran | 2017–2021 | January–December 2022 <i>(one-year extension)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A one-year extension of the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) has been agreed by the Resident Coordinator/United Nations country team and the Government, to allow the new UNSDCF and agency country programmes to be developed in late 2021/early 2022, so that they are fully aligned with the new national development plan (the Seventh Five-Year Plan). This Plan is expected to be adopted by the new Government, to be elected in the upcoming Presidential election in 2021, and will build on lessons learned from the response to multiple ongoing crises. – The one-year extension of the country programme will ensure correct sequencing and alignment of the CPD and the new UNSDCF. |
| Malaysia | 2016–February 2021 <i>(including a two-month extension)</i> | March–June 2021 <i>(four-month extension)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The onset of the UNSDCF 2021–2025 has been postponed due to the need for further consultation within the Government and alignment with the national development plan. The UNSDCF will be reviewed concurrently with the agency country programme documents. The final approval of the UNSDCF is expected in early 2021. – The four-month extension of the country programme is requested to ensure correct sequencing and alignment of the UNSDCF and the CPD, which will be submitted to the Executive Board at its annual session in June 2021. |
| Mongolia | 2017–2021 | January–December 2022 <i>(one-year extension)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The United Nations country team and the Government agreed to consider incorporating the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the new UNSDCF with the endorsement of the one-year extension of the UNDAF, given that plans for development of the new UNSDCF and the UNICEF CPD were severely disrupted due to the pandemic. – The request to extend the country programme will ensure correct sequencing between completion and approval by the Government of the new UNSDCF and agency-specific CPDs that contribute to its results. |

| <i>UNICEF-supported country programme</i> | <i>Original programme period</i> | <i>Year/period approved for extension</i> | <i>Reasons for the extension</i> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| United Republic of Tanzania | July 2016– June 2021 | July 2021–June 2022 <i>(one-year extension)</i> | <p>– The United Nations country team and the Government have agreed that the United Nations Development Assistance Plan, July 2016–June 2021 (UNDAP II) should be extended for one year (until June 2022) so that the UNDAP III, which will start in July 2022, can fully align with government priorities contained in the new Five Year Development Plan III, expected to be endorsed by the Government and start in July 2021.</p> <p>– In line with the extension of the UNDAP II and to align the new UNICEF country programme with the Government’s Five Year Development Plan III, the one-year extension of the current country programme is requested.</p> |

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> |
|---|---|--|--|
| Syrian Arab Republic | March 2016–February 2021 (including two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension, a three-month extension and a two-month extension) | March 2021–June 2021 (<i>four-month extension</i>) | – The United Nations Strategic Framework has been extended by six months. The extension will enable the new country programme to align with the new UNSDCF (or equivalent) in mid-2021. |
| Tajikistan | 2016–2021 (including a one-year extension) | January–December 2022 (<i>one-year extension</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An additional one-year extension of the country programme is requested to align it with the one-year extension of the current UNDAF 2016–2021, which has been agreed with/by the Government. – The primary reasons for the extensions are linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. They include constraints in securing the active role of the Government in ownership of the new country programme (and UNSDCF), which may compromise the quality of the CPD; and the ongoing United Nations country team response to the public health emergency and the emerging socioeconomic priorities that have required repurposing of its current programmes and mobilizing additional resources. – The request for the one-year extension of the country programme will ensure correct sequencing and alignment with the new UNSDCF. |