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For decision

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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8–11 February 2022

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 first two-month extensions of the country programmes for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic; and the 10-month extension of the country programme for Morocco, following a two-month extension, all of which were approved by the Executive Director.

This note further informs the Executive Board of the reasons for the proposed 11-month extension of the country programme for Afghanistan, following a two-year extension and a three-month extension; the proposed one-year extension of the country programme for Algeria, following a one-year extension and a two-month extension; and the proposed six-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two previous one-year extensions; a nine-month extension; a three-month extension; a two-month extension; a four-month extension; and an eight-month extension. The Executive Board is requested to approve these extensions.

Draft decision

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the first two-month extensions of the country programmes for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic; and the 10-month extension of the country programme for Morocco, following a two-month extension.

2. *Approves* the 11-month extension of the country programme for Afghanistan, following a two-year extension and a three-month extension; the one-year extension of the country programme for Algeria, following a one-year extension and a two-month extension; and the six-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two previous one-year extensions; a nine-

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** [E/ICEF/2022/1](#).

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



month extension; a three-month extension; a two-month extension; a four-month extension; and an eight-month extension.

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>
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2018–2022	January–February 2023 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	– This extension was requested to ensure proper alignment of the country programme with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027 and the national Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021–2025. The UNSDCF is expected to be signed by October 2022, while the Socio-Economic Development Plan is expected to be issued in late 2021.
Costa Rica	2018–2022	January–February 2023 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	– This extension was requested due to exceptional circumstances faced by the UNICEF country office. Since the UNSDCF results framework has been delayed until June 2022 and the UNICEF country programme document (CPD) is to be in full alignment with the UNSDCF, the country office has had to delay its CPD formulation process, with the expectation that the draft CPD will be submitted to the Executive Board in February 2023.
Dominican Republic	2018–2022	January–February 2023 <i>(two-month extension)</i>	– This extension was requested to ensure harmonization among United Nations agencies in relation to the alignment and sequencing of the CPDs and the UNSDCF, 2023–2027. – In a letter dated 27 September 2021, the United Nations Resident Coordinator requested that the three United Nations agencies (UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund) use a revised timeframe for their respective CPD approval processes.
Morocco	2017–February 2022	March–December 2022	– This extension was requested to ensure that the country programme is aligned with, and derived from, the UNSDCF for Morocco. – On 30 June 2021, the United Nations Resident Coordinator formally requested the endorsement of a one-year extension of the Morocco

<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>
	<i>(including a two-month extension)</i>	<i>(10-month extension)</i>	<p>United Nations Development Assistance Framework through 2022. The request was made due to the challenges faced in the implementation of the road map for developing the UNSDCF, most notably constraints in completing key consultations amid the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.</p> <p>– The request for a one-year extension of the UNDAF was endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates.</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>
Afghanistan	2015–March 2022 <i>(including a two-year extension followed by a three-month extension)</i>	April 2022–February 2023 <i>(11-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This extension is being requested due to several factors: the situation in the country, the fact that there is no internationally recognized government or governing structure in place, and the Level 3 emergency for Afghanistan declared by UNICEF on 8 September 2021. – The United Nations country team agreed to request an extension of the current country programmes until the end of December 2022, and the Resident Coordinator subsequently issued a letter to this effect to the Director of the Regional Development Coordination Office. The current final draft of the UNSDCF, which was to have been signed in August 2021, will need to undergo further negotiations and/or amendments under the current regime. Therefore, in the interim, the United Nations country team has agreed to develop a Transitional Engagement Framework, which will initially be valid until December 2022.
Algeria	2016–February 2022 <i>(including a one-year extension followed by a two-month extension)</i>	March 2022–February 2023 <i>(one-year extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This extension of the Algeria country programme is being requested for a period of 12 months to allow for adequate consultations with Government authorities and other stakeholders on the UNSDCF for Algeria.
Syrian Arab Republic	March 2016–February 2022 <i>(including two previous one-year extensions; a nine-month extension; a</i>	March – August 2022 <i>(six-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This request for an extension of the ongoing country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic for six months is made in light of the ongoing discussions around the draft United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic as well as the Member States.

<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>
	<i>three-month extension; a two-month extension; a four-month extension and an eight-month extension)</i>		– The six-month extension will allow full alignment of the new CPD with the new UNSF being finalized, before the new CPD is submitted to Executive Board at its annual session in June 2022.