



## Economic and Social Council

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### United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

**Annual session 2013**

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Item 7 (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 one-year extensions of country programmes, approved by the Executive Director, for Afghanistan, Angola, Timor-Leste, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the area programme for Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine, and the six-month extension of the country programme for Kenya.

The note further 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.

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\* E/ICEF/2013/10.



*Draft decision*

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan, Angola, Timor-Leste, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and for the area programme for Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine, and the six-month extension of the country programme for Kenya, all of which were approved by the Executive Director, as indicated in table 1;

2. *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 2.

Table 1  
**One-year and six-month extensions of ongoing country/area programmes approved by the Executive Director**

<i>UNICEF-assisted country/area programme</i>	<i>Original programme period</i>	<i>Year proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for extension</i>
Afghanistan	2010-2013	2014	The one-year extension will allow the next UNICEF-assisted country programme and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to align with the Government planning cycle due to begin in January 2015.
Angola	2009-2013	2014	The one-year extension will allow UNICEF and the other United Nations agencies in Angola to carry out a strategic analysis of challenges and new opportunities for the next country programme in a country undergoing significant transition.
Kenya	2009-2013	2014 (6 months: 1 January to 30 June)	The six-month extension of the UNDAF and UNICEF-assisted country programme will align the next United Nations programme cycle and workplans with the fiscal year of the Government of Kenya, July to June. The extension also allows for possible delays in finalizing the Government's Medium-Term Plan for 2013-2017, given that the results of the March 2013 elections and the formation of a devolved governance structure are likely to influence finalization of the plan.
Timor-Leste	2009-2013	2014	The one-year extension will enable harmonization with the UNDAF. This was extended by one year, in the context of the departure of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste and 2012 national elections.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2009-2013	2014	The one-year extension will allow the United Nations country team sufficient time for the preparation of the new UNDAF and UNICEF's development of a new country programme in alignment with the new national development plan which is being finalized and expected to be approved by the National Assembly in 2013.
Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine	2011-2013	2014	The extension is requested because Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan are all dealing with an ongoing subregional humanitarian response. It also allows for the completion of the national planning process in the State of Palestine and the substantive alignment of the area programme with the national plan and the new UNDAF.

Table 2  
**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.

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Reason for extension		
			In-country development	United Nations harmonization	Implementation or other issues
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.