

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Second regular session 2024

Comments by Germany	UNFPA country and regional office response to comments
German Embassy (HoC) has taken part in the coordination meeting of the elaboration of the draft CPD.	UNFPA appreciates the German Embassy's participation in the stakeholder consultations for the draft CPD and looks forward to continued collaboration in the implementation of the CPD.
We see potential synergies with our programme in the sector of health, (Strengthening of the capacity of Health Systems, GBV, harmful practices) especially with regard to output 1 (SRHR), output 2 and output 3. We would appreciate getting into dialogue with the UNFPA-team. Furthermore we see a close relation to a programme of Civil Peace Service (CPS/Ziviler Friedensdienst, ZFD), that is empowering local organisations working in the field of SGBV and harmful practices.	UNFPA Sierra Leone has participated in the German Embassy's prioritization consultations for gender and health systems strengthening. The Country Office will continue to proactively engage with the Embassy and with GIZ to outline and enhance synergies across our respective areas of work with a focus on the thematic areas of health systems strengthening, gender, GBV and harmful practices and to learn more about the Civil Peace Service programme.
With regard to sustainability, development cooperation in Sierra Leone is facing huge challenges. We see a weak point with regard to funding and sustainability in the health programme. Building up/upgrading a gender responsive health system will not be maintained by institutions/organisations of Sierra Leone at the long run. However, as the 5-year-programme of UNFPA is indicated as one part of a long term engagement, UNFPA shows awareness with regard to sustainability. Nevertheless we would like to suggest to focus more on strengthening ownership of the government.	In line with its commitment to strengthening national capacity for policy development and implementation and health systems strengthening, UNFPA will continue to promote national ownership, sustainability and financing, including through advocacy for increased domestic financing for RMNCAH, a dedicated national budget line for family planning and innovative health financing mechanisms in collaboration with international financial institutions (IFIs) and key development partners, including Germany.
Finally we would very much appreciate if UNFPA could define as a first step the interface/overlap that exist between the draft CPD and programmes of other donors and as a second step implement	Building on consultations with development partners during the CPD development process, the implementation plan for the CPD will outline and leverage the synergies between the CPD

<p>cooperation. In this regard the Spotlight Initiative is a very good example in linking efforts of different donors to improve maternal health, because regular coordination meetings with partners/donors are part of the rules of cooperation.</p>	<p>interventions, national priorities and the priorities of other key development partners. The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, which is expected to be launched in Sierra Leone in 2024, provides an important platform for ensuring effective coordination among development partners. The programme will be implemented by UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women, in collaboration with the government and civil society partners.</p>
<p>Comments by Ireland</p>	<p>UNFPA country and regional office response to comments</p>
<p>We appreciated the opportunity to participate in the inclusive consultation process that has led to this comprehensive and very strong draft CPD.</p>	<p>UNFPA appreciates the role that Ireland played in shaping the strategic focus of the CPD, through the feedback provided during national consultations.</p>
<p>The draft CPD responds to the needs in the country and is aligned with national priorities.</p>	<p>Comment well noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>We particularly appreciate the attention to transforming discriminatory and harmful gender and social norms as the foundation for sustainable change and the focus on marginalised adolescent girls.</p>	<p>Comment well noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>The draft CPD is necessarily ambitious given the needs and will require adequate and sustained human and financial resources throughout the programme term.</p>	<p>UNFPA Sierra Leone will enhance its strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation efforts to ensure adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of the CPD. The Country Office’s partnership with the Government of Ireland remains a critical element for the successful implementation of the CPD.</p>
<p>We welcome the commitment to working jointly with other UN organisations and look forward to seeing joints implementation programmes developed.</p>	<p>UNFPA will sustain its engagement with other UN agencies in implementing joint programmes and exploring new opportunities for joint programming. UNFPA will continue to support and leverage inter-agency coordination and coherence</p>

	for the achievement of national development priorities in the three transformative results.
The Government of Ireland should be included as a Partner under Output 2 and Output 4.	The Government of Ireland will be included as a partner under Output 2 and Output 4 of the final CPD.
Comments by United States of America	UNFPA country and regional office response to comments
<p>Overall: The CPD programme rationale and proposed priorities are consistent with the U.S. assessment of the country context and priorities for the next six years. There is a clear alignment with UNFPA’s proposed five interconnected outputs. The U.S. underscores the importance of partner coordination as important and valuable as proposed in the CPD Program management section.</p>	Building on its current leadership of various coordination mechanisms, including the Health Development Partners Group, UNFPA will continue to effectively contribute to enhanced coordination among development partners. UNFPA also looks forward to continuing to collaborate closely with USAID, CDC and other key programmes and initiatives in advancing health and wellbeing and empowering women and youth.
Regarding partnering with private sector in para/section 37, this was a notable area of interest which could be expanded for greater clarification.	UNFPA Sierra Leone will develop a detailed partnership strategy for the new CPD and looks forward to engaging development partners, including the USA, on its strategy to expand private-sector partnerships.