



**Executive Board of the  
United Nations Development  
Programme, the United Nations  
Population Fund and the United  
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**UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters**

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**

**Extensions of country programmes**

*Summary*

The present note contains information on the extensions of the country programmes for Colombia, Iraq, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. First-time extensions of country programmes up to one year are approved by the Executive Director, and presented to the Executive Board for information. All other requests for extensions of country programmes are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Iraq and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as presented in table 1.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the nine-month extension of the country programme for Colombia and the two-year extension of the UNFPA country programme for Myanmar, as presented in table 2.

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Table 1.  
Extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

| Country                          | Original programme period | Period approved for extension | Reason for extension  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Iraq                             | 2011-2014                 | 2015                          | A new United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) for 2015-2019 has been approved by the national authorities. Due to the ongoing humanitarian situation, the United Nations country team (UNCT), in agreement with the Government, has decided to extend the ongoing country programmes by one year to address the emerging humanitarian and emergency priorities.  |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 2012-2015                 | 2016                          | The current five-year national development plan runs through the end of 2015. While preparations for the National Socio-economic Development Plan, 2016–2020, have begun, the process is slow, and national priorities will not be fully formulated until 2015. Therefore, in order to align the new UNDAF with the national priorities, the UNCT decided to extend the ongoing country programmes by one year. |

Table 2.  
Country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

| Country  | Original programme period                   | Period proposed for extension                         | Reason for extension   |  |   |
|----------|---|---|--|--|---|
|          |   |   | In-country development   | United Nations harmonization   | Implementation or other issues  |
| Colombia | 2008-2012<br>2013-2014<br>(first extension) | 2015<br>(1 January – 1 October)<br>(second extension) | A six-month extension of the current UNDAF will allow the UNCT to take into account the priorities and policies of the new development plan, to be finalized during the first half of 2015.  | The UNCT and the Government have agreed to extend the current UNDAF for six months, through 30 June 2015.  | UNFPA will extend its country programme for nine months in order to align it with the government planning process.  |
| Myanmar  | 2012-2015                                   | 2016-2017   | Myanmar has been undergoing socioeconomic and political reform since 2011, when the transition to democracy, an open market and a new sociopolitical environment was initiated. The presidential election, planned for late 2015, and the formation of a new government in 2016 are expected to reshape the country's strategic direction and national priorities. | In light of the upcoming elections in 2015 and in consideration of possible constitutional amendments and a national ceasefire accord, the UNCT has decided to delay formulation of the UNDAF for two years. A two-year extension will allow alignment with national priorities and harmonization with other United Nations agencies, in particular UNDP and UNICEF. | An examination of the sociopolitical environment is required to better identify and engage new stakeholders. Extending the ongoing country programme for two years will allow sufficient time to develop the next country programme in consultation with all stakeholders, based on the emerging national priorities. |