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United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 6 (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 Argentina, Eswatini, Georgia, Malaysia, Mexico and Somalia; the two-month extension of the country programme for South Africa, the second consecutive extension; and the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Lebanon, Libya, Panama, Tunisia and Uruguay, all of which were approved by the Executive Director.

This note further informs the Executive Board of the reasons for the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for Cuba, the second consecutive extension; the two-month extension of the Gulf Area subregional programme, the second consecutive extension; the two-month extension of the country programme for the Sudan, the fifth consecutive extension; the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, all the second consecutive extensions; the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burkina Faso and Myanmar, both the fourth consecutive extensions; the one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the fifth consecutive extension; the two-year extension of the area programme for Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine; and the two-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan, the sixth consecutive extension. The Executive Board is requested to approve these extensions.

* [E/ICEF/2025/27](#).

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



Draft decision

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the first two-month extensions of the country programmes for Argentina, Eswatini, Georgia, Malaysia, Mexico and Somalia; the two-month extension of the country programme for South Africa, the second consecutive extension; and the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Lebanon, Libya, Panama, Tunisia and Uruguay, all of which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1.

2. *Approves* the proposed two-month extension of the country programme for Cuba, the second consecutive extension; the two-month extension of the Gulf Area subregional programme, the second consecutive extension; the two-month extension of the country programme for the Sudan, the fifth consecutive extension; the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, all the second consecutive extensions; the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burkina Faso and Myanmar, both the fourth consecutive extensions; the one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the fifth consecutive extension; the two-year extension of the area programme for Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine; and the two-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan, the sixth consecutive extension, all of which are presented in table 2.

Table 1

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>
Argentina	08/2021–12/2025	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2026–2030 has not yet been finalized. – This two-month extension request was made to ensure alignment between the development of the new UNICEF country programme document (CPD) and UNSDCF, 2026–2030, which is expected to be ready for signature in the second half of 2025.
Eswatini	2021–2025	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– This two-month extension request was made to allow time to better reflect the evolving UNICEF corporate discussions around differentiated country programmes that are fit for the future, including for small, middle-income countries in Southern Africa. – The extension will allow the new country programme to be adequately aligned with the new UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029.
Georgia	2021–2025	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– The UNSDCF, 2026–2030 has not yet been finalized. – This two-month extension request was made to ensure alignment between the development of the new UNICEF CPD and UNSDCF, 2026–2030.
Malaysia	03/2022–12/2025	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– The new UNSDCF has not yet been finalized. – This two-month extension request was made to ensure alignment between the development of the new CPD and UNSDCF.

<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>
Mexico	2020–2025	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– In the absence of a finalized UNSDCF, the two-month extension of the UNICEF country programme is designed to synchronize with the CPD submissions of the Executive Committee agencies (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) that will be presented to the respective Executive Boards in 2026.
Lebanon	03/2023–12/2025	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension was requested to ensure alignment between the new UNICEF CPD and UNSDCF, which was extended until the end of 2026. – The extension is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies (UNDP and UNFPA) that are requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Libya	2023–2025	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension request was necessitated by the agreed one-year extension of the Libya UNSDCF. – The extension is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies (UNDP and UNFPA) that are requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Panama	2021–2025	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension of the UNICEF country programme for Panama was proposed to ensure its continuity and its support to the country's social reforms for children, by utilizing funding received from the Government of Panama as well as remaining other resources funding from existing donor commitments in the absence of regular resources funding.

<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>
Somalia	03/2021–12/2025	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– The UNSDCF, 2026–2030 has not yet been finalized. – This two-month extension request was made to ensure alignment between the development of the new UNICEF CPD and the new UNSDCF, which is currently being developed.
South Africa	07/2020–12/2025 (including a six-month extension)	January to February 2026 (two months)	– This two-month extension of the country programme for South Africa was requested to help to bridge the gap between the end of the current country programme and the approval of the new CPD, which will be presented for approval at the first regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board in 2026.
Tunisia	2021–2025	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension request was necessitated by the agreed one-year UNSDCF extension, with the next one to have a duration of 2027–2031. – The extension is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies (UNDP and UNFPA) that are requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Uruguay	2021–2025	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– The UNSDCF, 2026–2030 has not yet been finalized. – This one-year extension has been requested to align with the ongoing UNSDCF iteration processes, as well as to better ensure that the proposed new structure for UNICEF Uruguay fully aligns with national priorities.

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 approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Afghanistan	2015–2025 (including a two-year, three-month, 11-month, 10-month and two-year extensions)	January 2026 to December 2027 (two-year extension)	– The United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, July 2023–December 2025, has been extended for a further two years (January 2026–December 2027). It is thus proposed to also extend the UNICEF Afghanistan CPD for two years. – This extension request is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies (UNDP, UNFPA and WFP) requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Burkina Faso	2018–2025 (including a two-year, a one-year and a two-year extension)	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– The national development plan for Burkina Faso is currently under development, with a possible start date of January 2027, and the United Nations Interim Action Plan is also being extended. – This one-year extension will allow for alignment of the UNICEF CPD with the new national development plan and the United Nations Interim Action Plan.
Cuba	2020–2025 (including a one-year extension)	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– The UNSDCF, 2026–2030 has not yet been finalized. – This two-month extension request will allow for better alignment of the UNICEF CPD with the new UNSDCF. – This extension request has been agreed and is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.

<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>
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2017–2025 (including four consecutive one-year extensions)	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension has been requested due to an extension of the United Nations Strategic Framework for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, following an agreement between the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and the Government. – This extension request is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Gulf Area subregional programme	2019–2025 (including a two-year extension)	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– This two-month extension has been requested to allow the Government of the United Arab Emirates to conclude its decision on a separate country programme distinct from the current multi-country programme, as well as to allow sufficient time for the completion of the consultation and approval processes for the start of the first country programme for Qatar (currently part of the Gulf area subregional programme) to be submitted to the UNICEF Executive Board first regular session of 2026.
Mali	03/2020–12/2025 (including a one-year extension)	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This request for a one-year extension of the UNICEF CPD has been made to allow for better alignment with the new UNSDCF, 2027–2031. – This extension request has been agreed and is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Myanmar	2018–2025 (including three consecutive one-year extensions)	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension has been requested to align with the United Nations Transitional Cooperation Framework, which is also being extended for one year until the end of 2026. – This extension request has been agreed and is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.

<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>
Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine (area programme)	03/2023–12/2025	January 2026 to December 2027 (two-year extension)	– This two-year extension of the current area programme document has been requested for alignment with the Palestinian Authority’s National Programme for Reform and Development, including the Sectoral Strategic Plans 2025–2027 and UNSDCF, for which a two-year extension has been agreed. – This extension request is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Sudan	2018–2025 (including four one-year extensions)	January to February 2026 (two-month extension)	– This two-month extension has been made to align with the interim United Nations Sudan Interim Cooperation Framework, 2026–2028, which has not yet been finalized. – This extension request is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Syrian Arab Republic	07/2022–12/2025 (including a one-year extension)	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension request has been made to ensure alignment between the UNICEF CPD and the draft Transitional Action Plan, which will replace the United Nations Strategic Framework until the end of 2026. – This extension request is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.
Yemen	2023–2025 (including a one-year extension)	January to December 2026 (one-year extension)	– This one-year extension request has been made to ensure alignment between the UNICEF CPD and UNSDCF, which is also being extended for one year until the end of 2026. – This extension is aligned with the other Executive Committee agencies requesting an extension of their ongoing country programmes.