

## UNFPA Management Response to Evaluation

<b>MANAGEMENT RESPONSE</b>	
<b>Country, Region or HQ division/unit that commissioned the evaluation</b>	Azerbaijan-EECA
<b>Evaluation Title</b>	UNFPA Country Programme: Azerbaijan
<b>Year of the evaluation</b>	2015
<b>Type and/or focus area of evaluation</b>	CountryProgEval
<b>MR submission date</b>	April 27, 2015
<b>Approved By</b>	
<b>Evaluation Manager</b>	Bahija Aliyeva,NPO,Azerbaijan
<b>General Management Response</b>	UNFPA Azerbaijan CO management has reviewed and accepted all CPE recommendations. The detailed information on the follow-up strategies and actions to ensure full implementation of all recommendations is provided in the management response.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>Recomendation 1</b>	The next country programme should place an increased focus on advocacy especially with regards to a number of important laws touching reproductive health and domestic violence and place increased emphasis on rural and vulnerable populations.
<b>Management Response</b>	Accepted

Comments				The respective recommendation of the CPE has guided the development of the fourth country programme that shifts the focus to upstream work to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and gender equality through series of interrelated outcomes and outputs prioritising inter alia advocacy and policy dialogue for improved legal framework on reproductive health and domestic violence as well as increased emphasis on rural and vulnerable populations.		
	No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
					Status	Comments
	1.1	Development of the Fourth CP 2016-2020	October 02,2015	Country Director, Assistant Representative, Programme Analysts, M&E focal point	April 24,2015	
Recommendation 2				UNFPA should leverage its expertise and shrinking budget to 1) increase its cost-sharing with Govt. (Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Sport and Youth and other Government partners) ; 2) increase joint initiatives with other UN agencies and other donors.		
Management Response				Accepted		

Comments			Informed by the respective CPE recommendation, the Fourth Country Programme is articulately stating that the resource mobilisation strategies will be geared towards leveraging resources from other UN agencies, international donors and bilateral agencies, the private sector and the Government of Azerbaijan, with due account to the respective UNFPA policies on grants and cost-sharing. The number of joint projects will UN agencies will continue, particularly in the framework of the UNCT Gender Team Group and UNCT Task Force on Human Rights in the spirit of the UN delivering as one.			
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	2.1	Development of a Resource Mobilisation Strategy geared towards leveraging resources from other UN agencies, international donors and bilateral agencies, the private sector and the Government of Azerbaijan.	July 01,2016	Country Director, Assistant Representative, Programme Analysts	April 24,2015 April 24,2015	

<b>Recomendation 3</b>	In order to strengthen the national ownership and buy-in, UNFPA should involve primary and potential stakeholders (e.g. key decision-making interlocutors within the government, including the Presidential Administration) at every step of country programming. UNFPA needs a clear action plan of sustainability for Country Programme IV with hand-over plan to government which would ideally include clear Government budget allocation and action plan.
<b>Management Response</b>	Accepted
<b>Comments</b>	The Fourth Country Programme represents a product of constructive consultations held with all Government partners, primary and potential stakeholders, key beneficiaries, etc. To fully address this recommendation, UNFPA will strive at maintaining effective partnerships already established as well as identify new ones based on their capacity to deliver high-quality programmes. To strengthen national ownership and accountability as well as periodically adjust implementation arrangements, if necessary, UNFPA will place major emphasis on joint monitoring and annual programme review with the government and other partner agencies.

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3.1	To address this recommendation, UNFPA will develop a clear action plan of sustainability for Fourth Country Programme with hand-over plan to government with key milestones reflecting Government ownership. To the extent possible, the plan would include clear Government budget allocation too.	December 31, 2016	Country Director, Assistant Representative, Programme Analysts, Programme Assistant.	April 24, 2015 April 24, 2015	
<b>Recommendation 4</b>			UNFPA should continue building capacity by 1) supporting Ministry of Labour staff in Population and Development through internships with other government agencies, study tours or workshops on demography; 2) support academic institutions with introducing courses on population studies. One option would be to establish a faculty/chair to further advance population studies and foster national specialists in Azerbaijan.		
<b>Management Response</b>			Accepted		

<b>Comments</b>	<p>In the course of implementation of the Fourth Country Programme special attention will be paid to strengthening the national institutional capacities of the relevant staff of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population as well as the State Statistical Committee through organization of internships and study tours on demography. To address the shortage of the specialists in the field of population and demography, UNFPA will foster advocacy and policy dialogue for improved understanding of inter-linkages between population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and rights and sustainable development, including in the context of Post-2015 Development Agenda, through development and institutionalization of the curriculum on population and demography.</p>
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				Status	Comments
4.1	UNFPA will support the staff of the Ministry of Labour and Social protection of the Population and the State Statistical Committee by creating opportunities for their participation in internships and study tours on demography.	December 31,2019	Country Director, assistant Representative, Programme Analyst	April 24,2015	
4.2	The inter-ministerial Steering Committee will be established to coordinate the development and institutionalization of the curriculum on population and demography.	November 30,2018	Country Director, Assistant Representative, Programme Analyst	April 24,2015	
<b>Recommendation 5</b>			UNFPA should support more evidence-based research that reveals population dynamics among youth, elderly and other marginalized groups that can inform decision-making. Demographic studies & publications should be available online.		
<b>Management Response</b>			Accepted		

Comments				To address this recommendation UNFPA will continue prioritising generation of knowledge through in-depth analysis of population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, youth, the elderly, internally displaced persons, migrants, rural women and other marginalised groups for evidence and right-based policy formulation and implementation.		
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	5.1	UNFPA will advocate for and support conduction of series of qualitative and quantitative surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights with particular focus on the vulnerable populations.	June 30,2020	Country Director, assistant Representative, Programme Analyst	April 24,2015	
					April 24,2015	
	5.2	UNFPA will continue its advocacy for the development of new age and sex-disaggregated indicators as well as their incorporation into the publicly accessible national statistical databank to guide the development of policies on population dynamics.	June 30,2020	Country Director, Assistant Representative, Programme Analyst	April 24,2015	

<b>Recomendation 6</b>	Mainstream gender equality into Reproductive Health as a basic reproductive health as per the Azerbaijani Reproductive Health Strategy and explore the gender dimensions of Reproductive Health including the role of women & men in Reproductive Health (interpersonal communication and joint decision-making, Male doctor to man communication, contraception, vasectomy).
<b>Management Response</b>	Accepted
<b>Comments</b>	The implementation of this recommendation has already commenced as of the last year of the Third Country Programme. To foster the incorporation of the perspectives on gender equality into reproductive health, rapid assessment of implementation of UN treaty body recommendations on SRHR has been undertaken and the draft report is to be finalised by the end of 2015. The research takes a close look at the gender dimensions of Reproductive Health including the role of women and men in reproductive health. The findings of this and other planned studies are expected to further guide development of synergies between gender equality and reproductive health in the course of implementation of the Fourth Country Programme.

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6.1	Conduction of the rapid assessment on implementation of the recommendations of treaty bodies on SRHR.	November 30,2015	Country Director, Assistant Representative, Programme analyst	April 24,2015	
6.2	Conduction of the IMAGES survey that will try to explore the gendered roles in decision-making processes including the sexual and reproductive choices, interpersonal communication, etc.	July 31,2016	Assistant Representative, Programme Analysts	April 24,2015	
<b>Recommendation 7</b>			Advocate for the approval & implementation of the Azerbaijani Reproductive Health Strategy in practical terms (preparation of an action plan, protocol to guide doctors and mid-wives, simple communication materials). In line with Government priorities, encourage multi-stakeholder consultations with Government, WHO and other key stakeholders to review current Strategy on Reproductive Health & develop next 5-year strategy.		
<b>Management Response</b>			Accepted		

<b>Comments</b>		To address this recommendation, UNFPA will provide technical support to the Ministry of Health with the development of the protocols and guidelines on family planning. In addition, as indicated in the new Country programme UNFPA will advocate with state and non-state actors to improve the institutional framework for sexual and reproductive health and rights including the development of the new cycle of the Reproductive Health Strategy.			
No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
				Status	Comments
7.1	UNFPA will advocate for the establishment of the inter-ministerial working group to coordinate the development of the new cycle of the Reproductive Health Strategy.	June 30,2016	Assistant Representative, Programme Assistant	April 24,2015	
7.2	As indicated in the new cycle of the Country Programme UNFPA will intensify its advocacy efforts for the improved institutional framework on SRHR including the development of new protocols and guidelines on reproductive health and family planning.	June 08,2022	Assistant Representative, Programme Analysts, Programme Assistant	April 24,2015	

Recomendation 8			Domestic violence training needs to be directed to antenatal care and include mid-wives and doctors; developing a module on domestic violence for last year medical students and midwives.			
Management Response			Accepted			
Comments			To address this CPE recommendation UNFPA has already started advocacy for strengthening health system response to gender based violence in general and domestic violence in particular.			
	No.	Key Action(s)	Deadline	Responsible unit(s)	Semiannual implementation status updates (reports will be generated on June 30 and December 31)	
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	8.1	The resource manual on strengthening health system response to GBV developed by EECARO and WAVE will be used to guide the development of the guidelines and protocols that integrate gender-based violence prevention, protection and response . Technical support will be provided to the Ministry of Health for the institutionalization of these guidelines and protocols.	June 06,2017	Assistant Representative, Programme Assistant	April 24,2015 April 24,2015	

<b>Recomendation 9</b>	<p>UNFPA should continue strong advocacy &amp; lobbying for Family Planning and maternal health including the inclusion of contraceptives including the Pill, IUD and condoms on the essential drug list of the Ministry of Health which would improve affordability and accessibility. UNFPA should also provide Reproductive Health communication materials &amp; training for mid-wives, young girls &amp; boys (i.e. responsible sex &amp; contraception, interpersonal communication), UNFPA target groups, pharmacies and doctors and expand options for contraception involving men (condoms, vasectomies). There is also a need to expand options for contraceptives among men with the use of condoms or the option of undergoing vasectomies. Youth felt that there was a need to receive communication materials on Reproductive Health that speak to responsible sex and contraception and interpersonal communications. In discussions with Reproductive Health staffs, they recommended more communication materials geared towards mid-wives and training for mid-wives that could build on the training already received. Communication materials also need to be targeting UNFPA target groups, pharmacies and doctors as well.</p>
<b>Management Response</b>	Partially Accepted

<b>Comments</b>	<p>UNFPA has already started addressing this recommendation by intensified advocacy efforts for Family Planning and maternal health through inter alia producing evidence on implementation of SRHR recommendations of treaty bodies and advocacy events for the improved legal and policy framework on reproductive health and family planning. This approach forms the backbone for the forthcoming strategic interventions. However, recommendation per se is partially accepted given certain reservations concerning male involvement to SRH issues, particularly with vasectomies, which was a lesson learned from the Fund's activities in China and continues to be based on a voluntary choice approaches.</p>
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9.1	UNFPA's advocacy efforts have led to the need to improve reproductive health services and family planning being articulately stated in the latest CEDAW Concluding Observations (2015). The inclusion of modern contraceptives into the EDL of the Ministry of Health is emphasised among the major recommendations to the Government of Azerbaijan. UNFPA will lead intensive advocacy efforts to support the Government with the implementation of this recommendation.	June 03,2019	Assistant representative, Programme Analyst, programme Assistant	April 24,2015	
				April 24,2015	
				April 24,2015	
9.2	UNFPA will intensify its advocacy efforts for the adoption of the Law on Reproductive Health and Family Planning.	June 10,2019	Assistant Representative, Programme Analysts, Programme Assistant	April 24,2015	

	9.3	UNFPA will advocate for the development of teacher-training materials on life skills to promote the integration of age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education into national education curricula.	November 30,2017	Assistant Representative, Programme Assistant	April 24,2015	
<b>Recommendation 10</b>			UNFPA needs to improve the coordination and continuity with Ministry of Youth and Sports and establish an Annual Work Plan with Ministry of Youth and Sports in upcoming Country Programme and connect youth activities with the planned 30 regional Youth Centres and ensure participation of youth in projects concerning youth.			
<b>Management Response</b>			Accepted			
<b>Comments</b>			Guided by this recommendation as well as the respective provisions of the Strategic Plan, UNFPA's Fourth Country Programme has a series of strategic interventions specifically designed to address particular vulnerabilities of youth regarding the protection and promotion of their sexual and reproductive health and rights.			

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10.1	UNFPA will engage in policy dialogue for improved sexual and reproductive health services for the adolescents and youth including integration of the rights and needs of adolescents and youth into national institutional frameworks to promote equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services.	May 31,2018	Assistant Representative, Programme Analyst, Programme Assistant	April 24,2015	
10.2	UNFPA will advocate for improved adolescents and youth peer education programming to promote sexuality education in out-of-school settings.	July 01,2018	Assistant Representative, Programme Analysts, Programme Assistant	April 24,2015	