

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR LIBYA

Second regular session 2023

Comments by Germany	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>We welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft country program document for Libya. It is an ambitious program but for the most part well thought out and playing to the strengths of UNFPA.</p>	<p>UNFPA would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to the German delegation for its thorough review and relevant comments and suggestions on the new UNFPA CPD that was developed based on the Common Country Analysis (CCA 2021) and informed by the evaluation of the first country programme (conducted in 2022). It contributes to the implementation of the new UNSDCF (2022-2025), the Libyan national priorities, and the UNFPA Strategic Plan (2022-2025).</p>
<p>Germany through GIZ is supporting the health sector, both at the national level (systems strengthening) and local level (basic health). We strongly encourage UNFPA to consult and coordinate with GIZ. The Embassy will be happy to provide contact.</p>	<p>UNFPA appreciates GIZ and Germany for their technical and financial contribution to the health system strengthening in Libya. UNFPA is in close contact with GIZ regarding the project “Strengthening the Health System and Pandemic Response (SHSPR) In Libya” funded by BMZ. The UNFPA Libya Country Office and GIZ are currently in the process of negotiating a partnership and a role for UNFPA in the implementation of this project taking stock of the successful implementation of the new national midwifery and specialized nursing curricula and education and retention strategy in Libya.</p>
<p>There has been a decision in March 2023 (before the draft was issued) by the Government which effectively renders all CSO (including NGO and INGO) illegal. This is a very major risk for the successful implementation of the project and might even necessitate the formulation of a “Plan B”, if UNFPA cannot recur to NGOs for project implementation. This needs to be recognized in the next draft.</p>	<p>Indeed, the operational context in Libya continues to be very complex and unpredictable. The status of the NGOs and INGOs in Libya is one additional risk besides other bureaucratic and administrative challenges that the UNCT and the Resident Coordinator Office are continuously monitoring (in line with IASC guidance on such challenges) and discussing with the different authorities in Libya.</p> <p>UNFPA has already taken action to reduce the risks related to the current situation of CSOs in Libya. These measures include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct implementation of activities, diversification of partnerships and coordination with different UNFPA and UN constituencies to facilitate access to beneficiaries. - The use of risk-informed, agile and adaptive programme design and management to allow UNFPA to adapt its implementation modalities to the current and future unpredictable risks and challenges.
<p>We would like to encourage UNFPA to focus on their core mandate and leave issues such as (i) “improving youth participation and civic engagement”, (ii) “contributing to climate-responsive energy, water and food security planning”, (iii) support the national programme on youth, peace and security, especially the envisaged reintegration of young ex-combatants through life skills and vocational training” to the relevant specialized UN agencies. We do not see the reason why UNFPA would become active in these fields unless it is better explained.</p>	<p>‘Youth, Peace and Security’ has been an important focus area for UNFPA, in line with the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025. In Libya, UNFPA and the Peacebuilding Support Office have conducted a global progress study on Youth, Peace and Security to collect ground-level inputs and insights on what could help the international community operationalize UN Security Council resolution 2250. With UNFPA’s support, the progress study mentioned above was conducted in Libya and led to the implementation of a multi-agency Youth, Peace and Security project in the city of Sirt.</p> <p>Improving youth participation and civic engagement is at the core of UNFPA’s work globally and in Libya too. Moreover, UNFPA has been the lead agency and leading the UN inter-agency Youth Working Group since its formation in 2016. UNFPA has been requested by the Libyan Authorities to help with the drafting of the National Youth Strategy in 2017 and again in 2023.</p> <p>On climate change, Libya experiences critical water stress and ranks sixth in the world in terms of water scarcity. The UN system agreed to gather resources and help the Libyan authorities in drafting a national climate-responsive energy, water and food security plan. UNFPA is contributing to this plan, within its mandate and areas of comparative advantage, by ensuring that women, especially heads of households, do not suffer the socio-economic drawbacks of climate changes (i.e. displacement, drought causing food insecurity and malnutrition), that they have access to essential reproductive health and protection services and hygiene products. Given the high priority of promoting peace, increasing youth civic engagement and addressing issues of climate change in Libya (confirmed by the authorities and through the UNSDCF), and given UNFPA’s comparative</p>

	<p>advantage in leveraging the power of youth and women in Libya, UNFPA has focused on these key areas of interventions in the new CPD.</p>
<p>A lot of the work seems to focus at the municipality/local level. Therefore, the program should be coordinated with the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) to ensure that UNFPA’s contribution is well coordinated with the relevant Ministry. There is also a MoLG led donor coordination group which UNFPA should consider joining.</p>	<p>UNFPA coordinates closely with the MoLG on several municipal and local level initiatives (i.e. on the use of a human security approach in local governance and on gender-sensitive local governance as well as the inclusion of GBV prevention and response in municipal social services). UNFPA is working to strengthen further this coordination with the involvement of technical lines ministries such as the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>UNFPA also appreciates the advice of the Germans Delegation to join the MoLG’s led donor coordination group and would appreciate the German embassy’s support to attend this group.</p>
<p>Questions: Why does UNFPA need to build trust with donors? (2) The draft mentions consultation and coordination with the Government – GNU only or also with the East? (3) One of the activities is “implement the rapid response mechanisms and the minimum initial package for sexual and reproductive health in emergencies in conflict-affected areas”-what areas are these?</p>	<p>(1) The evaluation of the first country programme recommended by the UNFPA plan for project activities “realistically, estimating the time and resources needed efficiently,” because it found that long delays in the completion of project activities requiring extension of grants repeatedly could strain donor confidence and relations. This recommendation was driven by the complexity of the operational environment in which the first country programme had to operate.</p> <p>More broadly, UNFPA is prioritising its engagement with donors and, in this regard, looks forward to ongoing close collaboration with Germany. Based on the experience and lessons learned during the implementation of the first country programme, UNFPA will design its future projects using historical financial data from its previous activities, and setting realistic targets based on its experience. UNFPA will adopt agile programming approaches that take into consideration the continuously changing context in the country, and will work closely with other UN agencies and international communities to reduce and prevent administrative and coordination bottlenecks.</p> <p>(2) The development of the new country programme was an inclusive process that involved the different government authorities (at central and local levels in the East, West and Southern Libya). While the draft CPD was reviewed by</p>

the GNU ministries and technical entities, the content and inputs that informed the development of the CPD were based on several bilateral meetings and consultations with government authorities, municipal councils, CSOs, private sector companies, field assessments and a thorough desk review.

UNFPA maintains continuous communication with the authorities in the East and the South through its sub-offices and focal points in these areas.

(3) The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) is the main response modality of the Inter-agency Contingency Plan for Libya. It's an inter-agency mechanism implemented jointly by IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP, and is meant to provide life-saving assistance to newly displaced populations following conflicts or natural disasters. In the context of Libya, these could be any areas that suffer armed conflicts leading to a displacement of population. The same mechanism could be used to provide assistance to the Sudanese population displaced to south-eastern Libya. As such, the RRM and MISF are considered very relevant in the context of instability in Libya (and in neighbouring countries). Through the new country programme, UNFPA will maintain its readiness and the readiness of the RRM consortium to provide rapid assistance to affected populations wherever they may be and to help the Libyan authorities to increase their emergency preparedness and response.