

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: Limited  
15 April 2021

Original: English

**For decision****United Nations Children's Fund**

Executive Board

**Annual session 2021**

1–4 June 2021

Item 7 (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 three-month extension of the country programme for Armenia, following a two-month extension and a four-month extension; and the six-month extension of the country programme for Malaysia, following a two-month extension and a four-month extension.

This note further informs the Executive Board of the reasons for the proposed three-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar, following a one-year extension and a six-month extension; and the eight-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension, a three-month extension, a two-month extension and a four-month extension. The Executive Board is requested to approve these extensions.

*Draft decision**The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the three-month extension of the country programme for Armenia, following a two-month extension and a four-month extension; and the six-month extension of the country programme for Malaysia, following a two-month extension and a four-month extension, both of which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1.

\* E/ICEF/2021/9.

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

2. *Approves* the three-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar, following a one-year extension and a six-month extension; and the eight-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension, a three-month extension, a two-month extension and a four-month extension, as presented in table 2.

Table 1  
**First 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</i>	<i>Year/period approved for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Armenia	2016–June 2021 <i>(including a two-month extension and a four-month extension)</i>	July–September 2021 <i>(three-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Government of Armenia had requested the adjustment of specific language in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the UNICEF country programme document (CPD). However, the revised documents were not endorsed in time for the annual session of the UNICEF Executive Board in June 2021, hence a further extension is now requested.</li> <li>– The extension is for three months. A previous extension was for two months, and was followed by a four-month extension, approved to allow for finalization of the UNSDCF processes.</li> </ul>
Malaysia	2016–June 2021 <i>(including two previous extensions of two months and four months)</i>	July–December 2021 <i>(six-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The extension will ensure sequencing between the completion and approval by the Government of Malaysia of the UNSDCF and the agency-specific CPDs for 2022–2025 that contribute to its results.</li> <li>– The Government’s Economic Planning Unit notified the United Nations Resident Coordinator that the UNSDCF for 2022–2025 is undergoing rounds of consultation with government ministries, and will be concluded, together with the country programme action plans (CPAPs) from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF, around mid-2021. The concurrent approval of the UNSDCF and the CPAP will require better sequencing between both documents.</li> <li>– This extension is for six months. It follows a two-month extension, which was followed by a four-month extension approved to allow for finalization of the UNSDCF processes. Similar extensions are planned by UNDP and UNFPA. All three agencies are concurrently applying for their respective CPAP extensions until 31 December 2021.</li> </ul>

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 proposed for extension</i>	<i>Reasons for the extension</i>
Madagascar	March 2015– June 2021 <i>(including a one-year extension and a six-month extension)</i>	July– September 2021 <i>(three-month extension)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Following consultations, the Government of Madagascar and the United Nations country team (UNCT) reached agreement on the UNSDCF road map for Madagascar, 2021–2023, in line with the relevant needs and priorities of the country.</li> <li>– The extension of the country programme will allow the UNICEF team sufficient time to draft relevant provisions and formulations, in line with the new UNSDCF between the UNCT and the Government of Madagascar.</li> <li>– This third extension follows a one-year extension, which was followed by a six-month extension approved due to the time required for finalization of the UNSDCF processes.</li> </ul>
Syrian Arab Republic	March 2016– June 2021 <i>(including two previous one-year extensions; a nine-month extension; a three-month extension; a two-month extension; and a four-month extension)</i>	July 2021– February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In consultation with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Damascus, the regional and country offices of UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP are proposing to extend the presentation of their respective CPDs for the Syrian Arab Republic until the end of 2021 to allow time for further consultations at the country level, including with the Government and development partners, as they finalize the Strategic Framework.</li> <li>– In addition, UNICEF is asking for a “technical extension” of two months, until the end of February 2022, to put the organization on par with UNDP and UNFPA and to enable submission of the new CPD to the first regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board in 2022.</li> </ul>