**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR BURUNDI (2024-2027)**

*Second regular session 2023*

| **Name of the delegations/ Member State** | **Comments by Member State on the UNDP draft CPD** | **CO response** | **Action/Revision made in the draft CPD** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Netherlands | * In principle we understand and endorse the focus of UNDP on economic transformation. However, as Burundi is highly dependent on agriculture for its economy, UNDP proposes to play a major role in the food and agricultural transformation. We fear a mission gap, as there are several UN organisations who are already dedicated to work in this area (particularly FAO and the WFP). It is essential that UNDP only works on areas that are complementary (i.e governance, public finance etc) | * We thank you for your comment. * According to UN, the term “food system” refers to the constellation of activities involved in producing, processing, transporting and consuming food. Food systems touch every aspect of human existence. Food systems failure leads to disorder threatens the education, health and economy, as well as human rights, peace and security. As in so many cases, those who are already poor or marginalized are the most vulnerable. * UNDP's contribution to the food system does not cover those aspects of production where FAO, WFP and other partners have a comparative advantage. Based on the above definition, UNDP will focus its support to food system through three areas: * Combating land degradation to ensure that it remains arable, * Promoting the blue, green and circular economy, as well as value chains, so as to contribute to the diversification and structural transformation of the national economy, * Creating of economic and employment opportunities to boost demand. Indeed, the supply side of the food system needs to cope with demand for which populations need to increase their revenue and purchasing power, therefore their consumption capacities to access the food market. To achieve this, UNDP will support innovative and entrepreneurial solutions in the food economy. * The CPD is aligned with the UNSDCF outcome 1 (Food Systems Transformation). Reference to the UNCT flagship joint programme on Food systems transformation, UNDP lead (UNCDF co-leads) on the outcome 3 “Transformation governance of Food Systems”. This includes: (a) Reforming policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks for sustainable and resilient food and agricultural commodity systems and strengthening their enforcement; (b) Improving market access for producers to shift to more sustainable practices; (c) Promoting sustainable and resilient livelihoods for all members of vulnerable rural households and small producers); (d) Supporting the safeguard, access, land dispute management, and sustainable management of land to increase soil productivity and improve resilience to various shocks for small-scale producers; (e) Strengthening national and subnational capacities and systems to foster sustainable food and agricultural commodity systems. UNDP will collaborate with WFP, FAO UN Women, WHO and UNCHR for complementarities; (f) Promoting private sector investments in energy sector for food and agricultural commodity processing units.   The above-mentioned UNDP interventions will complement:   * UNICEF leads (WHO co-leads) on Outcome 2 “Consumption, nutrition and health”; * FAO leads (IFAD co-leads) on Outcome 1 “Food Systems supply chains”. | N/A |
| * The same counts for work in the area of Human Capital. Although we are aware that UNDP is the principle recipient of GFATM funding in Burundi, that does not make them automatically best positioned to work on health system strengthening. Again, we strongly recommend UNDP to align and their work to that of WHO, to ensure complementarity. | * The comments are well noted with much appreciation. * As principal recipient of the GFATM in Burundi, and in its capacity co-sponsor of UNAIDS and in conformity with its overall mandate on governance and capacity building, UNDP is well positioned to coordinate and leverage health systems strengthening efforts, ensuring alignment to various national strategic plans (TB, HIV and Malaria) and leveraging the necessary technical assistance from relevant UN Agencies and other bilateral and multilateral partners. In the implementation of GFTAM funding, UNDP works closely with UN Agencies and relevant partners involved in delivering health support, particularly with WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF who are Country Coordination Mechanisms (CCM) members or alternate. Indeed, according to GFTAM approach, the complementarities with all actors are done at two levels: firstly, at CCM during the approval of all workplans and proposal considering activities supported by other partners (USAID, France, …); and secondly, during the implementation where UNDP Country team is working closely with all relevant actors including UN Agencies. * In addition, paragraph 15 of the CPD states that UNDP will collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and others to advocate for the rights of affected persons including priority populations, combatting human rights barriers and stigmatization. | N/A |
| * On the contrary, we would like to encourage UNDP in Burundi to increase its visibility as UN partner in the area of good governance and public finance management, including collaboration with other multilaterals and private sector. Also, it is not clear to us what role UNDP can / should play to help improving the integration of Burundi in the region. | * The comments are well noted with much appreciation. UNDP intends to reinforce its focus on the area of good governance and public finance and build on lessons learnt from the previous country programme. In fact, UNDP will support the strengthening of the government functions of Planning, Programming, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation. Also, UNDP will reinforce public administration at all levels (national and local) to ensure equitable access to quality public services and promote accountability leveraging digital solutions. * UNDP will continue to use coordination mechanisms such as Public Finances and Economic Management Technical Group, Policy Advisory Group (PAG), Partners Coordination Platform (PCP), as well as Partner Working Group on Justice and Rule of Law (to be re-dynamized) to inform development partners on its interventions in the area. Furthermore, UNDP will increase its collaboration bilaterally with donors who are funding public finances management and governance. * Regarding UNDP’s role to improving the integration of Burundi in the region, UNDP will support relevant line Ministries to align national strategies with regional and continental organizations’ (EAC, ECCAS, COMESA, ZEB, and AfCFTA) strategies. * UNDP will also work with private sector, academia and CSOs to advocate and raise awareness on investment opportunities offer by economic integration. | N/A |
|  | * Finally, we have seen a budget that for a large part (<230 mln!) was still ‘aspirational’ and not covered by firm commitments. Along which lines UNDP is going to set priorities in Burundi? | * The USD 230 million includes firm commitment of: USD 69 million from GEF/GCF funding, for which UNDP made arrangement to support Government in developing relevant projects; approximately USD 125 million from GFTAM under the Grant cycle 7 is planned for Burundi through the current implementation arrangement (UNDP PR for TB/HIV, Malaria); and an additional USD 12 million for Covid-19 response mechanism. * Burundi will organize local and legislative elections in 2025, and presidential elections in 2027 presenting an opportunity for UNDP to mobilize additional resources to support in organizing free and fair elections. * UNDP will continue in its effort to further mobilize resources and has developed a partnership and communication action plan to reinforce advocacy through a narrative that favours the positioning of HDP nexus, and other critical areas of UNDP value proposition; diversify and expand its source of funding beyond GFTAM. The UNDP Resident Representative recently conducted an advocacy mission to Uganda and Rwanda to meet with non-resident donors, with the objective of developing a solid pipeline under the pillar related to nature, environment, and climate. The new country programme roll-out will be designed and conducted using a co-creation approach with all stakeholders including donors. The portfolio approach will reinforce programme quality, coherence, and competitiveness. In addition, UNDP will contribute to UNCT effort in the implementation of joint resource mobilisation strategy. | N/A |
| Belgium | * Belgium welcomes the CPD 2024-2027, its priorities, expected outcomes, as well as its alignment with the NDP priorities and the UNSDCF 2023-2027. We also welcome that the new CPD has been endorsed by the Resident Coordinator as requested by the Management and Accountability Framework. Nevertheless, we are concerned by the lack of uniformity in data collection, development of the theory of change as well as CPD’s results and resources frameworks as working instruments for strengthening mutual coordination. We also note that lessons learned from and results of the ongoing CPD are not included in the document although they are of paramount importance to ensure that the new CPD meets the needs and respond to shortcomings and challenges. We think in particular about the shortcomings observed in the implementation by UNDP of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria’s programme. | * We thank you for your comment * UNDP has been a key player in the development of the UNSCDF 2023-2024, and has been actively participating, together with other United Nations agencies in the formulation of the UNSCDF theory of change. UNDP theory of change is fully embedded into the UNSCDF theory of change based on is comparative advantage, mandate and programmatic offer. * Within the UNSDCF 2023-2027, all United Nations agencies are adopting and contributing to common outcomes for which targets and indicators were jointly defined and will be monitored through the established UNSDCF results groups and the joint UNCT/Government steering committee. The uniformity in data collection is rooted in this common framework that has offered the opportunity for UN Agencies to develop a joint programme for supporting the National Statistical System in Burundi. This will also contribute to sustaining the national development plan data system as well as facilitate strategic dialogue between the Government and development partners on development cooperation effectiveness. Refer to CPD paragraph 29. * Building on the recommendations from specific projects evaluations as well as the independent country programme evaluation conducted in 2022, the proposed programme has considered lessons learned and best practices from the previous programme cycle. Kindly refer to paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of the CPD 2024-2027. * As stated in paragraph 15, UNDP will focus on national capacity development to facilitate the transition to a full national implementation of the GFTAM Grants. In this regard, UNDP will reinforce partnerships with the GFTAM to support the uninterrupted provision of drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS and affected by malaria and tuberculosis and strengthen the capacity of national and community health structures to prevent and respond to epidemics. In line with the division of labour within the UN joint programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP will reinforce advocacy for inclusiveness and the rights of affected persons including priority populations. | N/A |
| * Belgium welcomes that a summary of the different CPDs (UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF) was presented to donors on 30/05 at the initiative of the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator. Prior to this consultation, bilateral informal exchanges had already taken place with UNDP at the request of the mission. We exhorts UNDP to engage in a more proactive dialogue with Belgium according to its status of core partner. To this aim, we consider that relevant bilateral partners must be included in strategic dialogues in the field on complementarity, results and impact prior to annual and mid-term reviews to ensure stakeholder ownership of measuring progress towards the achievement of results. Could you further elaborate on the function and composition of the joint Steering Committee to be established and how it could contribute to assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the new CPD? | * The ongoing strategic dialogue between UNDP, the Belgian Embassy and Enabel on country development challenges, has led to the development of a programme on biodiversity for which a joint coordination mechanism with the Government as well as a joint office Enabel/UNDP are envisaged. During the development of the current CPD as well as the formulation of the Belgian cooperation framework in Burundi, effective bilateral consultations took place between UNDP and Belgium. This bilateral dialogue will be expanded in the existing development partners’ strategic and policy dialogue frameworks such as the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) and the Partners Coordination Platform (PCP). UNDP will ensure to involve partners including Belgium during the roll out of the new country programme. During the implementation of the new programme, Belgium as well as other relevant partners will be involved in the governance and accountability mechanisms in place such as joint field visits, mid-term and annual reviews as agreed during the development of the CPD 2024-2027. * As stated in paragraph 26, a joint Steering committee will be established with the participation of relevant line Ministries, representatives from the civil society, beneficiaries, private sector as well as relevant partners including Belgium. Specific terms of reference deriving from UNDP corporate POPP will be developed in coordination with the Ministry in charge of Cooperation and validated during the first meeting of the committee. | N/A |
| * In the same vein, important potential exists both thematically and geographically for a coherent programmatic approach with other actors, including with the Belgian implementation agency, Enabel, and the EU multi-year program. Critical issues such as land property, good governance, local capacity building and civil society participation have significant potential to enable other players to increase the impact and effectiveness of their actions. Could you further elaborate on how UNDP intend to concretely ensure the expected complementarity based on respective comparative advantages with our representation in Burundi, the EU delegation as well as the country office of Enabel? | * We thank you for your comment and we totally agree that there is a huge potential for collaboration between UNDP, Belgium/Enabel and the EU. As agreed during recent consultations with the EU and Belgian missions in Burundi, specific programmatic issues and approach will be explored when EU multi-year programme and Belgium/Enabel cooperation programme will be finalised. In addition, coordination with EU, Belgium/Enabel and other actors will be reinforced through the existing coordination mechanisms on critical issues such as good governance, justice/rule of law, natural resources management including land, and civil society participation, etc. Also, UNDP leads an informal consultation with development partners on elections and civil society engagement. | N/A |
| * The CPD’s budget amounts to 297 297 000 MUSD. 66 MUSD comes from general resources and 231 MUSD are still to be mobilized from other resources, including domestic ones. Particularly in the current international budgetary context, this raises questions about the realistic nature of the budgetary exercise and the existence of a vision for a possible adjustment of the programmes in case of funding gaps or budget reallocation needs. This also raises the question on how the ambition in terms of resource mobilization will be achieved without increasing the competition between the UN agencies in Burundi. Could you explain how UNDP intend to address these challenges? How diversification of strategic alliances and funding sources can expand opportunities to fund innovative solutions as mentioned in the CPD? | * The USD 230 million includes firm commitment of: USD 69 million from GEF/GCF funding, for which UNDP made arrangement to support Government in developing relevant projects; approximately USD 125 million from GFTAM under the Grant cycle 7 is planned for Burundi through the current implementation arrangement (UNDP PR for TB/HIV, Malaria); and an additional USD 12 million for Covid-19 response mechanism. * Burundi will organize local and legislative elections in 2025, and presidential elections in 2027 presenting an opportunity for UNDP to mobilize additional resources to support in organizing free and fair elections. * UNDP will continue in its effort to further mobilize resources and has developed a partnership and communication action plan to: reinforce advocacy through a narrative that favours the positioning of HDP nexus, and other critical areas of UNDP value proposition; diversify and expande its source of funding beyond GFTAM. The UNDP Resident Representative recently conducted an advocacy mission to Uganda and Rwanda to meet with non-resident donors, with the objective of developing a solid pipeline under the pillar related to nature, environment, and climate. The new country programme roll-out will be designed and conducted using a co-creation approach with all stakeholders including donors. The portfolio approach will reinforce programme quality, coherence, and competitiveness. In addition, UNDP will contribute to UNCT effort in the implementation of joint resource mobilisation strategy. | N/A |
| * Belgium is concerned by the risk of overlapping and internal competition related to gender equality as an objective around which there is a lot of uncertainty in terms of division of roles within the UN system. How was that aspect of the CPD coordinated with other relevant UN entities, notably UN Women? | * UNDP co-leads with UN Women the Programme Management Team of UNCT. This team has the responsibility of ensuring programme coherence, complementarities and synergies between UN Agencies’ specific programmes within the framework of the UNSDCF. A technical working Group on gender and human rights co-led by UN Women and UNFPA has been established to ensure alignment, division of labour and effective gender mainstreaming and coordination among UN Agencies. Furthermore, a sub-cluster on SGBV co-led by UNFPA and IRC has been established to ensure coordination on this specific thematic. * In paragraph 16 of the programme, UNDP specifies its contribution as well as potential partnership with other actors, UN Agencies including UN Women who has developed a country gender profile that will be used by UNDP to monitor progress on gender equality during the implementation of the programme. | N/A |
| * Belgium welcomes the recognition that the CPD’s implementation may face multidimensional risks and takes note of various actions and strategies aiming at mitigating these risks. Could further explain: 1) how the early warning system and the conflict sensitivity analyses will be established and how they will contribute to adjusting the programme scope if necessary, 2) how the steering committee will regularly monitor and analyze mitigating measures using the risk monitoring matrix as an early warning, risk management and decision-making tool? | The comments are well noted with much appreciation.   1. The early warning system, the programme criticality, and the conflict sensitivity analysis will follow the UNDP and the UN System corporate standards, framework and methodology for which specific terms of reference exist. It will contribute to anticipate on necessary adjustments (including on the programme scope) that may be required to adapt and adjust during the programme implementation. 2. UNDP will actively managed risks to ensure that risks are regularly monitored, and new risk identified and captured all year long. Prior to the steering committee meetings a risk analysis will be conducted by UNDP teams and an updated risks matrix will be prepared with mitigation measures. The implementation of mitigation measures for critical risks will also be monitored. The analysis and the matrix will be examined by the steering committee who will approve relevant measures that will anticipate on potential risks. | N/A |
| Ireland | * We welcome the focus on DRR and land degradation & access. We note efforts to strengthen cross-border coordination within the UN system. | The comments are well noted with much appreciation. | N/A |