

Rwanda Country Programme Document 2018-2023

Comments from the German and Belgian Missions
30 March 2018

Comments	Feedback	Way forward
<p>GER highly welcomes that UNDP intends to enhance its focus of its activities. We would recommend UNDP to assess the country context respectively the political economy more clearly and to state all relevant risks (e.g. risk of co-optation by GoR). Monitoring relies overly on Government-Data, in particular for Governance a stronger role of CS in M&E would widen the picture.</p>	<p><i>The comment is well noted and will be considered.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that both the CPD and the UNDAP benefited from a comprehensive Common Country Analysis and extensive discussions on the political economy of the country including with Development partners in Rwanda. While the analysis could not be presented in the CPD, the content of the programme outlined responds to that analysis. For example, the CPD presents UNDP's intention to facilitate a deeper involvement of partners in policy dialogues and project design, and to ensure greater focus on credible evidence-based information to influence policy discussions. A major plank of the programme addresses the inclusion of CSOs, media and private sector in the various interventions to promote inclusive development but also to diversify the sources of data. Following on the recommendations of the 2017 annual Development Partners meeting with the Government, UNDP is also supporting a CSO capacity assessment exercise intended to provide all stakeholders with a thorough analysis of the</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The formulation of the next generation of projects/programmes will be guided by the common country analysis including the political economy analysis, and will involve appropriate risk mitigation strategies.</i> • <i>UNDP will engage/consult with a wide range of partners, including International development partners in the design of these programmes, to ensure that new programmes and risk mitigation strategies are informed by multiple perspectives.</i>

	<p><i>strengths and weaknesses of CSOs and the support needed to bolster their participation in national and local development processes. Below are elements of the RRF and narrative that illustrate these points:</i></p> <p>Indicator 4.1.3: <i>Vibrancy of CSOs in policy formulation</i></p> <p>Output 4.2. <i>Media institutions have reinforced technical capacity to increase access to quality information and promote citizen active participation in public processes.</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 30 and 31 mention:</i></p> <p><i>“UNDP will partner with research institutions to conduct independent research on equitable citizen participation in democratic processes to inform policy dialogue and decision making on critical public policy issues”.</i></p> <p><i>“UNDP will promote research and policy dialogue on issues pertinent to democratic governance with the aim of helping to broaden political space and deepen the engagement of CSOs in public processes.”</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are links/possible synergies between the new UNDP programme and GER portfolio: Economic Development, Governance/Decentralization, Environment (FONERWA). • UNDP intends to develop a local government CB strategy. This is also an area where other DPs intervene (GER, 	<p>The comments are noted and very much appreciated. The Country Office will actively engage with the Embassy of Germany and the Embassy of Belgium/ENABEL as well as other development partners to explore opportunities for collaboration and to harness synergies in these areas. The Country Office is currently mapping potential partners and will arrange consultative meetings in the coming weeks and months. The Country Office has now joined the Private Sector</p>	<p>UNDP Rwanda CO will contact the identified development partners by May 2018 for consultation and collaboration in the areas of common interest.</p> <p>The National Employment Programme (NEP) is indeed an important area for UNDP upstream policy and advisory support. Under its planned youth empowerment programme, UNDP will</p>

<p>BEL) and we would like to stress the need for donor coordination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We very much appreciate the focus of the new UNDP programme on employment and entrepreneurship. We would urge though to coordinate closer with other DPs in the sector (e.g. in employment: WB, SWE, GER) and to actively participate in the Sector Working Group Private Sector Development as well as the Subsector Working Group “Productivity and Employment”. In addition, stronger align its foreseen activities with the National Employment Programme (NEP) and assist to develop NEP II (beyond FY 2018/2019) to a more efficient and improved employment programme which has the potential to cater for the results that UNDP wants to achieve (youth entrepreneurship, financial support for start-ups, targeting women businesses, etc.). • The planned activities on youth employment and technical education create possibilities for future collaboration with the Belgian governmental cooperation via ENABEL. 	<p>Working Group, and will review the suggestion for participation in the Sub-sector working group. In addition, the ILO is currently supporting the NEP and under the new UNDAP UNDP will aim to enhance its collaboration with the ILO and other agencies in this area of work.</p>	<p>consult with relevant stakeholders to identify strategic entry points for possible intervention.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Violence against women and girls programme should be an “<u>Anti</u>-violence programme”, especially since it will be scaled up (p. 7). 	<p>Noted and accepted.</p>	<p>The language in the CPD has been modified.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilateral donors sometimes question UNDP's work on democratization, NGOs and freedom of the media because of its lack of critical attitude vis à vis the Government; in this regard is surprising the importance for the UPR on human rights, since requests from bilateral donors on collaboration with UNDP on this topic did not materialize in the past 	<p>UNDP takes note of this comment and will intensify efforts to reach out to partners and collaborate on these issues. UNDP has focused on building relationships of trust with government and other stakeholders and promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues on issues of democratic governance and human rights. This approach has enabled the Country Office to support national partners in identifying areas of gap and build capacities to address them. With respect to Human Rights, UNDP is fully engaged in the promotion of human rights playing a key role in the 2015 UPR review as well as the implementation of recommendations (particularly those related to media and CSO empowerment). UNDP has organized several consultations with donors and, occasionally, key State and non-State institutions. In partnership with the OHCHR, UNDP is also strengthening capacity of CSOs to engage on human rights. The CO would welcome the opportunity for re-engagement with partners for joint advocacy and collaboration in further promoting human rights and democratic governance in Rwanda.</p>	<p>As part of its planned outreach and consultative process to inform the design of the next cycle of programmes, UNDP will engage with development partners to have open discussions on the issues, and explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership.</p>
<p>Comments on the UNDAP</p>		<p>The comments are most welcome and have been shared with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The RCO has indicated that the comments will be used to help finalize the document.</p>