

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR SERBIA (2021-2025)

Second regular session 2020

Comments by GERMANY	UNFPA country/regional office response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document is very well elaborated and addresses important issues. What might be more strengthened is inclusion of boys, young men in the core activities concerning family planning and preventive measures concerning medical counselling of both girls and boys 	<p>This comment is well received and much appreciated, as equal participation of boys/young men is key for improvement in the sexual and reproductive health of the population.</p> <p>As stated in para 18, the Programme will focus on youth (15-30 years old, as per national law on youth) including the young key populations (at the highest risk of HIV infection). Throughout the Programme, youth refers to both: young men/boys and young women/girls, while among young key populations in Serbia, boys/young men are the majority.</p> <p>In the area of sexual and reproductive health, UNFPA will continue working on two sides: (1) with health providers to ensure gender-transformative and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services acceptable for boys and girls equally, and (2) with civil society organizations to increase sexual and reproductive health literacy and to improve healthy behaviour among young men and women, including among the young key populations.</p> <p>To strengthen importance of addressing young men/boys' needs, the following amendments (underlined/bolded) to para 27 were made:</p> <p>... (b) availability of data on integrated sexual and reproductive health services received by vulnerable women and youth, <u>disaggregated by sex</u>; ... (e) strengthened health-seeking behaviour among vulnerable women and youth (<u>young women and men</u>), including for HIV prevention among the young key populations.</p>

	<p>In Para 28, the following amendments were made: ... (g) support revision of methodology to assess the quality of services and engage vulnerable people and youth (young women and men); (h) support development and adoption of clinical guidelines on gender-transformative and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services acceptable for boys and girls equally, and adoption of guidelines on integrated health services for most-at-risk adolescents and youth and protocols on rights-based family planning;</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 4, bullet point 20: UNFPA will ensure the human rights and well-being of people while supporting the implementation of the National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health, National Youth Strategy for 2015-2025, Gender Equality Strategy, and Strategy for Birth Encouraging. <i>- Please consider Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma men and women in the Republic of Serbia, 2016-2025 and associated Action Plans.</i> 	<p>Agreed and accepted, with the following text included into paragraph 20 on page 4: ... Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma men and women in the Republic of Serbia, 2016-2025 and associated action plans.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 4, bullet point 23: UNFPA will continue to collaborate with the established network of national partners, such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Cabinet of Minister in charge of Demography and Population Policy, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Parliament, the Statistical Office, academia, the media and civil society organizations representing women with disabilities, key populations, youth, survivors of gender-based violence and older people. 	<p>Agreed and accepted, with the following text included into paragraph 23 on page 5 and in RRF for Partner contributions for Output 1.1 Coordination Body for monitoring the implementation the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma men and women; local mechanisms for Roma inclusion</p>

<p>Page 9, output 1.1. / Partner contributions: Ministry of Health Institute of Public Health of Serbia and Network of Districts Institutes of Public Health, Cabinet of Minister in charge of demography and population policy, Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Parliament, Medical Faculties, United Nations agencies, civil society, National Roma Council, media, private sector.</p> <p><i>- Please consider partnering with the Coordination Body for monitoring the implementation the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma men and women; local mechanisms for Roma inclusion (health mediators, local coordinators for Roma issues, pedagogical assistants); Roma women CSOs and Roma youth CSOs.</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Page 5, bullet point 24: The programme will strengthen partnerships with local governments, the private sector, sports and media influencers to create more opportunities for changing behaviour for transforming the lives of vulnerable women and youth and increasing accountability of duty-bearers. UNFPA will leverage the existing support from Sweden for prevention of gender-based violence, and explore partnerships with the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and the European Union. It will address cross-boundary and regional issues that impact the country, such as migration, trafficking and gender-based violence, early marriages, youth, peace and security. <p><i>- Please consider exploring the opportunities for cooperation and coordination with the existing and planned interventions within the German Development Cooperation (e.g. GIZ is implementing projects related to Roma inclusion, youth employability, social services, migration, trafficking, etc).</i></p>	<p>UNFPA welcomes this comments, with the following amendment incorporated in para 24, page 5:</p> <p>UNFPA will leverage the existing support from Sweden for prevention of gender-based violence, and explore partnerships with the European Union, <u>German Corporation for International Cooperation</u>, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It will address cross-boundary and regional issues that impact the country, such as migration, trafficking and gender-based violence, early marriages, youth, peace and security.</p>

- Page 6, bullet 32-33: This is the focus of UNDP’s political work in Serbia (esp. via German co-financed “Accelerator Lab”).
- Please elaborate on cooperation mechanisms between both organisations and safeguards against overlaps.

Population and development has been one of the main areas of work of UNFPA. UNFPA helps countries identify and understand population trends, and supports the development and implementation of evidence-based and rights-based population policies as a response to issues such as decreasing in total numbers of population, low fertility and ageing.

The newly established UNDP Accelerator Lab, in agreement with the Government, committed to work on what is being referred to as ‘depopulation’. UNFPA and UNDP started cooperation in this area at the end of 2019, as mentioned in para 5 of CPD. UNFPA and UNDP have conducted the Data Challenge for innovative use of non-traditional data to understand some aspects of ‘depopulation’ and initiated Depopulation Studio with international experts in areas relevant for population trends. Currently, the two agencies are developing outlines of Portfolio on depopulation, as a comprehensive programme addressing the main determinants of population dynamics which will be presented to the new Government and development partners for further elaboration. Two agencies currently have three jointly engaged national consultants to support Portfolio, and plan to hire the shared post of Portfolio Manager for Population and Development in July 2020

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In addition, UNFPA and UNDP are jointly working on the Human Development Report dedicated to population dynamics in Serbia, which will be jointly launched and promoted, together with the Government of Serbia.

Joint consultants, the joint post of Portfolio Manager and daily communication between the two agencies ensures fruitful cooperation: smooth implementation of joint activities and great synergy and complementarity among individually implemented and agency-specific activities.

	<p>As para 32-33 relate to identified determinants of population dynamics and broad activities that will be implemented over the next five years, cooperation with UNDP in this area could be highlighted in paragraph 24 related to current and future partnerships, as follows:</p> <p>UNFPA will lead in convening the United Nations organizations and partners for the development and effective implementation of people-centred population policies and continue partnership with UNDP and the Government in mainstreaming demographic intelligence into decision-making at all levels, especially concerning vulnerable women and youth.</p>