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UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

United Nations Population Fund

Country programme document for Panama

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance:	\$7.3 million: \$3.3 million from regular resources and \$4.0 million through co-financing modalities or other resources
Programme period:	Five years (2026-2030)
Cycle of assistance:	Fifth
Category:	Tier II
Alignment with the UNSDCF Cycle	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2026-2030

I. Programme rationale

1. Panama's strategic geographical location, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, has historically influenced its demographic composition, resulting in one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the region. Panama has a population of 4.2 million, of which 31.7 per cent identify as Afro-descendant and 17.2 per cent as Indigenous (2023 Census), distributed across ten provinces and six autonomous Indigenous territories. While Panama possesses a significant youth demographic (32.3 per cent are aged 10-29 years), the country is simultaneously experiencing a stage of demographic transition, with a median age projected to reach 38.2 years by 2050. This demographic trajectory exhibits significant ethnic disparities: Indigenous communities maintain a considerably younger population, whereas Afro-descendant communities are demonstrating a more accelerated aging trend than the national average (PSA, 2024). These divergent demographic pathways are projected to exert distinct pressures on Panama's health, protection and care systems, necessitating precisely targeted policy interventions to ensure equitable development.

2. Panama, classified as a high-income country, has leveraged its strategic geographic position and the Panama Canal to achieve sustained economic growth, averaging 6.2 per cent over the last 15 years – in stark contrast to the more moderate growth observed across Latin America. Its service-based economy, driven by logistics, construction and tourism, has stimulated job creation and a substantial reduction in income poverty, which fell from 42.1 per cent in 1991 to 21.7 per cent in 2023. Projections suggest continued economic growth, albeit at a decelerated rate of 2.9 per cent for 2024 and 4.0 per cent for 2025. However, this prosperity has not been equitably distributed, thereby solidifying Panama's position as one of the most unequal nations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Gini index stood at 0.49 in 2023, surpassed only by Colombia and Brazil in the region (World Bank, 2024). This gap is evident: the wealthiest 10 per cent of households command 35.5 per cent of the total national income, whereas the lowest 40 per cent access only 11.0 per cent.

3. Poverty and inequalities are predominantly concentrated within specific population groups and geographical areas, disproportionately impacting women, youth, Afro-descendants, Indigenous groups and persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, where poverty is three times higher than in urban centres (44.7 per cent versus 12.1 per cent, respectively, in 2023). The situation is particularly critical within the autonomous Indigenous territories (*comarcas*), where multidimensional poverty rates exceed 80 per cent in Guna Yala and Ngäbe Buglé. Furthermore, the poverty index for children and adolescents has demonstrably worsened, rising from 32.8 per cent in 2018 to 34.0 per cent in 2022. This evidence shows that economic growth has been accompanied by high inequality and growing distrust in institutions, which makes it necessary to prioritize their strengthening to improve the efficiency of resource use, advance towards results-based management and ensure greater transparency and accountability to citizens, as a foundation for strengthening governance and the sustainability of development in the country.

4. Panama's development challenges are exacerbated by the converging crises of irregular migration and climate change. Although recent figures show a decrease in irregular crossings through the Darién as a result of new control measures and international cooperation, the province remains one of the most dangerous migratory corridors in the world. Between 2023 and 2024, the number of people in transit dropped from 520,085 to 302,203 (National Migration System, 2023; 2024). This influx places considerable strain on host communities, primarily comprising Indigenous populations, rural inhabitants and Afro-descendants, residing in dispersed rural areas characterized by high levels of poverty and structural exclusion that affect social cohesion. Concurrently, the nation's pronounced vulnerability to extreme weather events poses significant threats to food security, public health, and critical infrastructure, including the Panama Canal, with rural and Indigenous territories exhibiting the lowest adaptive capacities.

5. Panama has demonstrated a robust commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating these objectives into national frameworks, such as the National Strategic Plan with a State Vision Panama 2030 and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. Nevertheless, despite these concerted efforts, progress remains insufficient. Five key SDGs are currently on a critical trajectory: SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 8 (decent work); SDG 10 (reduced inequalities); SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions); and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure). This gap between national goals and lived realities underscores Panama's unfinished development agenda: the persistent challenge of fully integrating its most marginalized populations.

6. This is particularly evident in the context of the three transformative results. While the unmet need for family planning stands at 24.2 per cent nationally, it escalates to 35.8 per cent for Indigenous women (37 per cent in the Indigenous regions of Ngäbe-Buglé and 32 per cent in Guna Yala) and an alarming 54.9 per cent for Indigenous adolescents – exceeding double the national average. Although the adolescent fertility rate has decreased for both age groups – from 84.0 births to 51.32 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years, and from 3.4 to 2.1 for young girls aged 10-14 years – between 2015 and 2022, it remains higher than the regional and global averages. UNFPA has provided key support to the National Council for Adolescent Mothers (CONAMA), a crucial intersectoral body, and has assisted in the development of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy (2021-2024). At the same time UNFPA has supported the Ministry of Health in expanding and diversifying contraceptive options nationwide, specifically by enhancing access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) for adolescents and young people. The ENNASER survey indicates that more adolescents are choosing injectable contraceptives. Between 2009 and 2014/2015, their use increased from 3.3 per cent to 16.4 per cent, while fewer adolescents used birth control pills (down from 18.6 per cent to 9.2 per cent). Furthermore, a 2024 Ministry of Health report on services provided at its facilities indicates that 63 per cent of adolescent girls prefer injectables and 23 per cent opt for implants. These methods have gained popularity due to their ease of use and long-acting nature.

7. Maternal mortality underscores profound disparities in healthcare access. While the average maternal mortality ratio was 62.5 per 100,000 live births in 2023 (a decrease from the pandemic peak of 81.5 per 100,000 live births in 2020), the rate in Indigenous comarcas is three to four times higher. The three primary direct causes of maternal deaths are largely preventable and point to gaps in the quality of care in obstetric emergency services: haemorrhage (37 per cent); hypertensive disorders (30 per cent); and sepsis (19 per cent). Maternal deaths in Panama are associated with four key delays: socio-cultural barriers, including prevailing beliefs and attitudes; misinformation; restricted geographical accessibility; and low quality of maternal health services. How these delays impact women differ significantly by location. In urban areas, where most deaths occur in major hospitals, access to timely and high-quality care plays a crucial role. In rural and indigenous areas, this is compounded by limited-service coverage and geographical accessibility, as women struggle to physically reach healthcare facilities in time. Limited access to prenatal care is also crucial for identifying high-risk pregnancies and providing timely counselling on post-obstetric family planning. According to data from the National Health Survey of Panama (ENSPA-2019), 14.5 per cent of the total pregnant women surveyed reported no prenatal check-ups, and only 51.2 per cent reported receiving the minimum number of check-ups appropriate for their gestational age. In indigenous areas, only approximately 30 per cent of pregnant women reported receiving the minimum number of check-ups commensurate with their gestational age.

8. Panama has advanced gender equality through new legislation (the Public Policy for Equal Opportunities 2024-2034 and Law 478 of 2025 regarding cybercrime measures, which includes digital violence), institutions and mechanisms. Despite legislative advancements, violence against women remains pervasive. The femicide rate stands at 1.1 per 100,000 women, with young women aged 18-29 years constituting one-third of victims (2022). Furthermore, reported crimes against sexual violence increased from 163.2 to 183.9 per 100,000 inhabitants between 2019 and 2023, and over 84,500 domestic violence complaints have been filed within the last five years, indicating a pervasive crisis that is frequently underreported. Although child marriage has been legally prohibited since 2015, early unions remain prevalent and socially accepted due to the persistence of discriminatory gender and social norms. The latest available data from 2013 indicate that 26 per cent of women aged 20-24 years had married or entered into a union before the age of 18. Early unions are frequently associated with adolescent pregnancy. According to 2022 Vital Statistics, 9 out of 10 adolescent mothers in Panama have children with older partners, with the majority (73 per cent) exhibiting an age difference exceeding five years. Panama needs to strengthen interinstitutional coordination to provide a multisectoral response to gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices, addressing the linkages between sexual violence, early unions, adolescent pregnancies and the growing dimension of technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

9. A fundamental impediment to addressing Panama's entrenched inequities is the statistical invisibility of its most marginalized populations. As acknowledged in the country's Third National Voluntary Report on the SDGs, data disaggregation remains an unresolved challenge. To formulate effective, evidence-based and targeted policies, Panama must generate more timely data, disaggregated by ethnicity/race, gender, age, geographical location, migration and disability. The 2023 Population and Housing Census, supported by UNFPA, represents a pivotal opportunity to establish a robust data architecture. A significant achievement was the inclusion of an ethnic self-identification question, which revealed that Afro-descendants constitute 31.7 per cent of the total population, a substantial increase from the 9 per cent reported in 2010. These crucial data are already fostering the development of targeted policies for this vulnerable community. By harnessing this new information, Panama can construct a

robust sampling framework for essential national surveys. The subsequent step involves developing a fully interoperable “data ecosystem” that integrates census findings with administrative records to provide a dynamic, real-time understanding of the nation’s demographics. Strengthening this “demographic intelligence” is paramount not only for addressing current disparities but also for anticipating and preparing for the impacts of demographic change and other megatrends.

10. In this context, Panama’s development trajectory is increasingly shaped by the convergence of key megatrends, including population aging, human mobility, climate change and digital transformation. These trends interact with pre-existing structural inequalities, reinforcing vulnerabilities and creating new ones. For example, rapid ageing among Afro-descendant populations increases the demand for long-term care and social protection systems, while climate-related disruptions disproportionately affect rural Indigenous communities with limited adaptive capacity. At the same time, digitalization presents both opportunities and challenges for inclusion, requiring investments in digital literacy and infrastructure to ensure equitable access to services and information. Addressing these complex, interlinked dynamics requires an integrated policy approach and anticipatory investment in demographic resilience, to ensure that no one is left behind in the face of accelerating change.

11. In direct response to these challenges, the UNFPA country programme for 2026-2030 is strategically aligned with the strategic priorities of Panama’s United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2026-2030 concerning equitable social services and inclusive governance. UNFPA will leverage its comparative advantages, including technical expertise to influence high-level public policies; its capacity in data generation and disaggregation (census and specialized surveys); and its specialized knowledge in adolescence and youth, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of gender-based violence, human rights, and intersectionality.

12. The new country programme is founded upon a synthesis of key achievements from the current cycle and critical lessons learned. The previous programme established UNFPA as a vital actor through its accomplishments, such as the cultural adaptation of services, the generation of crucial evidence regarding the costs of adolescent pregnancy (MILENA/MEMI), and the establishment of strategic partnerships. Several significant lessons emerged from the evaluation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025, the regional evaluation on ‘leaving no one behind’ (LNOB) (including the Panama case study), and from the programme’s implementation. These include: (a) the importance of utilizing the most current demographic data for anticipating demographic and social trends, thereby enhancing evidence-based decision-making, responsiveness, targeting and impact of public policies; (b) the critical role of LNOB-based responses in addressing the needs of historically marginalized populations, fostering their inclusion, ensuring equitable access to essential services and strengthening institutional response capacities; (c) the strategic importance of proactive interagency leadership for resource mobilization, particularly in contexts of limited funding; and (d) the pivotal role of multisectoral and strategic partnerships and communications with diverse actors and state institutions in driving visibility, social commitment and long-term sustainability. These lessons form the cornerstone of the new programme’s design, positioning it for enhanced impact.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

13. The proposed programme has been developed following extensive consultations with national authorities as well as academic institutions and civil society organizations, including those for the furthest left-behind. The formulation of the country programme is underpinned by a participatory process conducted within the framework of the Common Country Analysis 2024 and the UNSDCF 2026-2030, which facilitated a joint analysis of the country context and priorities with the engagement of key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society and multilateral organizations.

14. The programme is strategically aligned with the Government Strategic Plan, 2025-2029 and its corresponding sectoral policies; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the UNSDCF 2026-2030; the ICPD Programme of Action, the Montevideo Consensus and the voluntary national ICPD commitments; and the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

15. Against the backdrop of the profound socio-economic and territorial inequalities outlined, the programme’s vision for Panama is to *foster a more equitable and inclusive society*, where women, adolescents and young girls, particularly those from the most excluded populations and territories, can fully exercise their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and have access to opportunities, free from discrimination based on income, gender, age, ethnicity or disability, among other factors. This vision is well-aligned with the human capital and social inclusion pillars of the Government Strategic Plan, 2025-2029 and National Strategic Plan with a State Vision Panama 2030. It acknowledges that for Panama to achieve sustained economic growth and productivity, the

benefits must reach everyone. By focusing on the most excluded, UNFPA will contribute to unlocking an untapped human potential, making a tangible contribution to social and economic progress and honouring the national commitments of the Pact for the Future.

16. To realize this vision, the programme will focus on addressing Panama's deep socio-economic inequalities as its main entry point, using the LNOB strategy and human rights, gender, and intercultural approaches to accelerate the programme. UNFPA will leverage its normative role to make these disparities visible and advocate that public policies address the needs of most excluded populations. Within the context of Panama's rapid demographic transition, the programme will strategically focus on adolescent girls and young women, recognizing that a young, educated, empowered and productive workforce with equal opportunities is crucial for Panama's prosperous future and sustainable development. Investing in their rights and opportunities is the most cost-effective intervention to break intergenerational cycles of poverty and achieve the three transformative results and thus build a more equitable and inclusive society.

17. By focusing on the specific needs of those furthest left behind, UNFPA can contribute to addressing the root causes of vulnerability and build resilience and lasting development. This approach hinges on strengthening the national data ecosystem to generate "demographic intelligence," which exposes equity gaps and informs policies that anticipate crises. By combining this data-driven strategy with its normative role in fostering LNOB-focused policies on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention and in promoting human rights, UNFPA will empower communities to build resilience and social cohesion, enabling them to better withstand and recover from shocks.

18. In accordance with the United Nations reform efforts and lessons learned from the current programme cycle, UNFPA will reinforce the coordination with other United Nations organizations, thereby enhancing programmatic synergies and coherence based on territorial or population group criteria. UNFPA will seek joint initiatives with other agencies, notably UNDP, UNICEF, UN-Women and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in the areas of maternal health, gender equality and women's empowerment, gender-based violence, and adolescent and youth empowerment. Furthermore, UNFPA will continue to strengthen partnerships with government institutions, academic bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), multilateral development banks and the private sector.

A. Output 1. Strengthened data ecosystem for the generation of disaggregated data that visualizes equity gaps for evidence-based and targeted policies, plans and programmes, anticipating demographic change and other key megatrends.

19. This output is central to the LNOB strategy and contributes directly to the four UNFPA strategic plan outcomes and UNSDCF outcome 3 (governance that fosters social cohesion), while anchoring the foundations for demographic resilience and long-term sustainability of public policy. Building on the momentum of the 2023 Population and Housing Census and the growing national demand for data-driven decision-making and planning, UNFPA will contribute to positioning demographic intelligence as a cornerstone for evidence-based LNOB policies as well as anticipatory governance. UNFPA aims to contribute to turning Panama into a "laboratory for public policies", which, by linking demographic analysis with tools for cost-effectiveness, return on investment and prospective planning, can be a regional example of how demographic intelligence can be used to expose inequalities, inform evidence-driven and targeted policies and strengthen social cohesion. The theory of change is that if the national statistical system is strengthened to generate timely and accessible demographic intelligence, based on the production and analysis of specialized, disaggregated data on population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and GBV, then policymakers will be equipped to design and implement targeted, evidence-based policies to accelerate progress on family planning, adolescent pregnancy prevention, maternal health, and elimination of gender-based violence and early unions, as well as anticipate demographic change and key megatrends. Ultimately, these interventions will contribute to fostering evidence-based governance, improve efficiencies in public spending and guide socially cohesive, territorially sensitive and fiscally sustainable development.

20. Key strategic interventions: through advocacy and policy dialogue, technical assistance, knowledge management, coordination and partnerships, UNFPA will contribute to: (a) strengthening the national statistical system through the Social Public Policy Roundtable to foster the National Committee on Population and Development, as a permanent, multi-stakeholder platform to institutionalize the use of demographic intelligence in budget planning, strategic prioritization and monitoring of the SDGs, the Montevideo Consensus and other key international commitments, and other relevant public policies related to three transformative results; (b) leveraging

strategic partnerships and convening dialogues with diverse stakeholders to position Panama as a “laboratory of data for public policies”, by driving the use of demographic foresight and innovative and prospective methodologies that can inform evidence-based, targeted public policies and more effective, equitable and future-oriented allocation of public resources; (c) strengthen the capacities of the Social Cabinet, including the National Institute of Statistics, to leverage data from the 2023 Population and Housing Census and essential thematic surveys, such as the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey (ENASSER) (and other surveys adolescents and youth, disability, gender-based violence), and National Observatories, enabling the generation of thematic reports on population megatrends, such as mobility and climate change; (d) strengthen the capacities of national ministries and institutions to improve administrative records through the generation of data disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, disability and migration status, among other relevant criteria, supporting their integration with diverse data sources, including censuses and surveys, contributing to the creation of an enhanced comprehensive data ecosystem.

B. Output 2. Strengthened national capacities to design evidence-based and multisectoral public policies solutions that use an LNOB approach to accelerate the achievement of the three transformative results.

21. UNFPA will drive multisectoral strategies to achieve the three transformative results as well as contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 2 (equitable access to quality sustainable basic social services) and 3 (governance that fosters social cohesion). The programme’s theory of change posits that if UNFPA strengthens national capacities for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of integrating public policies that strategically address adolescent pregnancy and promote family planning, then progress towards the three transformative results will accelerate, as this is one of the most effective strategies to prevent maternal deaths and reduce young women’s exposure to cycles of violence. This will be achieved by supporting the updating and costing of integrated public policies and plans to address unintended adolescent pregnancy, and by using an intersectional approach and evidence generation to inform these processes. By promoting analyses on their cost-benefit and return-on-investment, UNFPA will strengthen the case for investment from development banks, the private sector and other non-traditional financing partners, ensuring a more efficient and equitable resource allocation. Ultimately, these efforts will contribute directly to improved governance and social cohesion by addressing inequalities and the determinants of exclusion and discrimination.

22. Key interventions: through advocacy and policy dialogue, technical assistance, knowledge management and coordination and partnerships UNFPA will contribute to: (a) advocating and providing technical advice on the design and implementation of integrated public policies and plans to address unintended adolescent pregnancy, with a focus on the prevention of second pregnancies and its linkages with early unions, sexual violence and maternal mortality, using a comprehensive approach to adolescent well-being and LNOB, human rights, gender and intercultural approaches; (b) generating, using and disseminating socio-economic evidence on the return of investment (i.e. MILENA) of policies aimed to guide more efficient and effective government resource allocations as well as foster increased financing for the three transformative results from the private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs) and other development partners; and (c) forge public-private partnerships to develop innovative financing (blended finance and cooperation models with a strategic orientation) and communication strategies using compelling data and research, aimed at exposing and transforming the deep-seated social and gender norms that perpetuate adolescent pregnancy, gender-based violence and early unions, while also fostering positive masculinities.

III. Programme and risk management

23. The Government of Panama and UNFPA will jointly manage and monitor the country programme, adhering to UNFPA guidelines and procedures, and employing a results-based management approach with corresponding accountability frameworks. UNFPA will meticulously select implementing partners based on their demonstrated capacity to deliver high-quality programmes and continuously monitor partner performance to facilitate necessary adjustments.

24. To implement the programme vision, the country office will undergo a significant strategic reorientation, fully aligning with the spirit of the UN 2.0, the UN80 Initiative and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR). The office will transition to an advisory-focused model without international representation, as part of a country cluster with the UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) in Panama. In line

with this typology, the country office will deepen its strategic shift towards high-level normative work, placing a new emphasis on policy dialogue, data-driven advocacy, and a strengthened convening role, while reducing direct implementation at the territorial level. This operating model is based on the subsidiarity principle, with support provided by LACRO or UNFPA headquarters, based on the most cost-effective solutions. Cross-country collaboration and shared technical resources will also support this model.

25. This strategic shift is supported by a robust plan to align the internal capacities of the office to the expected programme outcomes. Office capacities in population and development, partnerships and strategic communications will be significantly strengthened. A structured capacity development plan will equip staff with critical skills in prospective analysis, strategic financing and policy dialogue, ensuring the country office team can anticipate demographic trends, engage diverse partners and effectively operationalize the new programme.

26. An integrated partnership and resource mobilization strategy is central to this new approach. UNFPA will forge new alliances while strengthening collaborations with the United Nations system, academia, research centres, professional associations and government partners. Furthermore, it will expand partnerships with non-traditional government institutions, including: the Ministry of Labor, the Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the National Decentralization Authority, the Social Security Fund, the National Secretariat for Disability, as well as local governments and academic and research centres. A key focus of this strategy is to leverage Panama's robust private sector and IFIs – like the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) – to expand and diversify the office funding base and increase financing for the three transformative results. Building on the proven success of mobilizing over \$4 million in the previous cycle, a strategic communication campaign will be launched to catalyse large-scale investments, including those from the private sector. This campaign will demonstrate that achieving the three transformative results is not only an ethical imperative but a fundamental strategy for promoting inclusive, sustainable development. The comprehensive strategy for expanding public-private partnerships under the Integrated Partnership Resource Mobilization framework prioritizes blended finance, which will position UNFPA in a catalytic role.

27. The programme will actively promote South-South and triangular cooperation, leveraging Panama's position as a regional hub to share successful experiences and build regional capacities. A key example of this is the technical exchange facilitated by the country office on its Population and Housing Census with the national statistics offices of Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru, and. This initiative enabled the transfer of best practices in census methodology, technology and logistics, directly strengthening statistical capacities across the region and improving future census operations. Through the proposed creation of a "laboratory of data for public policies," UNFPA will foster multi-stakeholder pilot projects that use data-driven solutions to address community needs.

28. The programme's success depends on effectively managing the following key risks and mitigation strategies: (a) institutional and financial limitations, such as high staff turnover, and fiscal constraints, which may be exacerbated by internal and external crises, including climate events and other emergencies, which could restrict the scope and sustainability of interventions; (b) broader governance challenges, including the state's institutional capacity to fulfil human rights obligations, limited citizen participation and the need for comprehensive modernization within state institutions.

29. To mitigate these challenges, UNFPA will adopt the following risk mitigation strategies: (a) strengthen partnerships and financing. UNFPA will build resilient institutional partnerships and use demographic intelligence to advocate for investment. This includes diversifying resource mobilization through robust collaboration with the government, the private sector, IFIs and other United Nations agencies; (b) conduct continuous risk assessment and response. In collaboration with the United Nations country team (UNCT), UNFPA will conduct regular risk assessments and emergency preparedness planning. This maintains the flexibility to reprogramme funds, in consultation with the Government, ensuring a timely and effective response during crises.

30. This country programme document outlines UNFPA contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. The accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the UNFPA programme and operations policies and procedures, and the internal control framework.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

31. UNFPA and the Government of Panama, under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Vice Ministry of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, will jointly monitor the country programme. This monitoring will adhere to the procedures agreed upon in the UNSDCF, UNFPA procedures, guidelines and policies, results-based management standards and principles, and the jointly agreed evaluation and monitoring plan.

32. The country office, in collaboration with its partners, will develop a comprehensive country programme evaluation and monitoring plan. This plan will encompass field-monitoring visits; periodic reviews with implementing partners to track progress towards achieving results; risk assessment and the implementation of appropriate corrective actions; thematic and programmatic evaluations; periodic financial performance reviews; and annual progress reports and meetings, including activities for knowledge generation and the identification of good practices.

33. Similarly, UNFPA will actively participate in the inter-agency groups of the United Nations system, which aim to ensure the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of joint programmes. This participation will facilitate a systematic exchange of knowledge and experiences among the various agencies, enabling the harmonization of methodologies, the identification of best practices and optimization of data utilization for informed decision-making.

34. The UNFPA costed evaluation plan 2026-2030 is designed to identify any gaps concerning the expected results of its programme. To this end, it contemplates various strategic evaluations, including an end-of-cycle country programme evaluation and an evaluation of adolescent-friendly health services. At a broader level, UNFPA will contribute to the final evaluation of the UNSDCF 2026-2030, which will analyse UNFPA's contribution to the SDGs. Collectively, these evaluations are structured to promote organizational learning by identifying best practices and lessons learned, while simultaneously strengthening accountability. To promote broader impact and knowledge sharing, UNFPA will also generate public knowledge products from key evaluations, with dissemination planned at national and regional levels. These efforts will contribute to positioning Panama as a regional reference in evidence-based policymaking and fostering South-South learning.

35. Furthermore, UNFPA will contribute to strengthening national monitoring and reporting capacities for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Montevideo Consensus and the ICPD Programme of Action.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR PANAMA (2026-2030)

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Government Strategic Plan 2025-2029, Pillar 3: Efficient governance and institutional strengthening.				
UNSDCF OUTCOME(S): 3. By 2030, Panama will have strengthened decentralized, governance, with more effective institutions, accessible to the population, interconnected, and with robust information systems, that guarantee equitable access to public services, including justice, and that contribute to social cohesion and prevent and reduce violence and conflict, achieving safe, peaceful, and resilient societies and territories at the national and local levels, where all people, especially women and vulnerable groups, fully enjoy their rights.				
RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME(S): 1. By 2029, the reduction in the unmet need for family planning has accelerated. 2. By 2029, the reduction of preventable maternal deaths has accelerated. 3. By 2029, the reduction in gender-based violence and harmful practices has accelerated. 4. By 2029, adaptation to demographic change has strengthened the resilience of societies for current and future generations, while upholding individual rights and choices				
UNSDCF outcome indicators, baselines, targets	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partner contributions	Indicative resources
<p><u>UNSDCF Outcome indicator(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Statistical Performance Index (IDE), Pillars 2 (data services) and 4 (data sources) <i>Baseline: 66 and 69 (2023); Target: N/A (2030)</i> <p><u>Related UNFPA Strategic Plan Outcome indicator(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country has a dedicated section on demographic change and its implications in national and/or sectoral development strategies <i>Baseline: No; Target: Yes</i> Unmet need for family planning (a) 15-49 years; (b) 15-19 years; (c) Ngäbe-Buglé comarca; (d) Emberá-Wounaan comarca; (e) Guna Yala comarca <i>(a): Baseline: 24.2%; Target: 15%</i> <i>(b): Baseline: 54.9%; Target: 45%</i> <i>(c): Baseline: 57.3%; Target: 50%</i> <i>(d): Baseline: 46.8%; Target: 40%</i> <i>(e): Baseline: 59.5%; Target: 50%</i> Percentage of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence <i>Baseline: 4.6% (2015); Target: N/A (2030)</i> 	<p>Output 1. Strengthened data ecosystem for the generation of disaggregated data that visualizes equity gaps for evidence-based and targeted policies, plans and programmes, anticipating demographic change and other key megatrends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated socio-demographic indicator system for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Montevideo Consensus, and other relevant public policies related to the three transformative results, established with UNFPA support <i>Baseline: No (2025); Target: Yes (2030)</i> Number of population data outputs, produced with UNFPA support, by exploiting the results of the 2023 Population and Housing Census, DHS and other thematic surveys <i>Baseline: 2 (2025); Target: 8 (2030)</i> Number of national institutions supported by UNFPA that strengthened their capacities to produce disaggregated data by sex, age, ethnicity/race, disability and other relevant variables, through administrative records <i>Baseline: 1 (2025); Target: 5 (2030)</i> Number of strategic partnerships fostered by UNFPA that generate and utilize demographic intelligence and anticipatory analysis to inform evidence-based, forward-looking public policies, plans and programmes related to the three transformative results <i>Baseline: 3 (2025); Target: 6 (2030)</i> 	<p>National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC); MINSA (Ministry of Health); MIDES (Ministry of Social Development); MEF (Ministry of Economy and Finance); Technical Secretariat of the Social Cabinet; National Committee on Population and Development (COPODE); National Council for the Care of Adolescent Mothers (CONAMA); National Council on Disability (CONADIS); Panamanian Chamber of Social Development (CAPADESO); other institutions; mechanisms and actors from civil society and the private sector.</p>	<p>\$3.8 million (\$1.8 million from regular resources and \$2.0 million from other resources)</p>

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Government Strategic Plan 2025-2029 Pillar 2: Opportunities for all with relevant education and quality basic services.				
UNSDCF OUTCOME: 2. By 2030, more people, especially those in vulnerable situations, will have access to quality, sustainable basic social services, with cultural and territorial relevance, and with a gender focus, which contribute to closing structural gaps and guaranteeing the full exercise of their rights. 3. By 2030, Panama will have strengthened, decentralized governance, with more effective institutions, accessible to the population, interconnected, and with robust information systems, that guarantee equitable access to public services, including justice, and that contribute to social cohesion and prevent and reduce violence and conflict, achieving safe, peaceful, and resilient societies and territories at the national and local levels, where all people, especially women and vulnerable groups, fully enjoy their rights.				
RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME(S): 1. By 2029, the reduction in the unmet need for family planning has accelerated. 2. By 2029, the reduction of preventable maternal deaths has accelerated. 3. By 2029, the reduction in gender-based violence and harmful practices has accelerated.				
UNSDCF outcome indicators, baselines, targets	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partner contributions	Indicative resources
<p><u>UNSDCF Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maternal mortality ratio <i>Baseline: 62.5 (2023); Target: 30 (2030)</i> Adolescent fertility rate (aged 15-19 years) <i>Baseline: 45.7 per 1,000 (2023); Target: 35 per 1,000 (2030)</i> <p><u>Related UNFPA Strategic Plan Outcome indicator(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years <i>Baseline: 45.7 per 1,000 (2023); Target: 35 per 1,000 (2030)</i> Percentage of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence <i>Baseline: 4.6% (2015); Target: N/A (2030)</i> 	Output 2. Strengthened national capacities to design evidence-based and multisectoral public policies solutions that use an LNOB approach to accelerate the achievement of the three transformative results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An intersectoral national strategy for adolescent pregnancy reduction has been updated with a costed action plan and focused on preventing second pregnancies, particularly among the furthest left behind, with UNFPA support <i>Baseline: No (2025); Target: Yes (2030)</i> Number of national and subnational institutions that use the socio-economic evidence generated with UNFPA support (i.e. MILENA) to increase government resource allocations on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, with a special focus on prevention and reduction of adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality <i>Baseline: 0 (2025); Target: 3 (2030)</i> Number of financing and communication strategies developed through public-private partnerships that use data to reduce the prevalence of adolescent pregnancies, gender-based violence, and early unions, particularly among the furthest left behind <i>Baseline: 0 (2025); Target: 3 (2030)</i> 	Public health sector entities (Social Security Fund/Ministry of Health) National Secretariat for Childhood Adolescence; and Family (SENNIAF); Ministry of Social Development (MIDES); local governments National Council for Adolescent Mothers; National Secretariat for Disability (SENADIS); National Secretariat for Policies and Development for Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP).	\$3.0 million (\$1.0 million from regular resources and \$2.0 million from other resources)
Programme coordination assistance				0.5 million