**Tabulated Response to Comments on the Draft CPD Niger (2019-2021)**

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| **Comment by Denmark** | **Changes to CPD** | **CO Remarks** |
| The draft country programme highlights some shortfalls raised by the evaluation of UNDP’s 2014-2018 country programme which include resources constraints, gaps in number of programme staff and availability of highly skilled national expertise. Yet, the proposed country programme seems very comprehensive. Pillar 1 “Accelerated transformation for sustainable development” includes three main areas of interventions, while Pillar 2 “Governance, peace and security” includes six main areas of interventions. While UNDP may have specialized expertise and a comparative advantage in a number of these areas at a global level (but also less in some areas), given the limited resources of the country office it would appear necessary to identify a more limited number of areas in which UNDP will be able to deliver more substantial results. The identification of priority areas should also take into account interventions supported by other development partners in Niger (including other UN agencies e.g. SGBV and legal and policy reforms for women's empowerment which UNFPA and to a lesser extent UN Women also provide support to) | N/A | * During the operationalization of the CPD, the UNDP Country Office will conduct an extensive review of its internal programmatic workforce and operational capacity which will include identification of necessary capacities to support optimal quality delivery of interventions. This will be in line with ongoing reforms within UNDP at both corporate and regional levels and will include and incorporate the needed flexibility to capture and deploy capacities to support programme implementation. * UNDP Niger has submitted a resource mobilization table that is realistic of the programmatic needs and the resource mobilization forecast of the office to support implementation of the CPD. * UNDP Niger is also developing a strong resource mobilization strategy that will support the implementation of the CPD, which includes the already provided contribution from Denmark. * UNDP’s involvement in SGBV is minimal and is implemented through a joint programme with other UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-WOMEN) through the spotlight initiative financed through the MPTF by the EU. |
| From a Danish perspective, it is particularly important that UNDP in Niger is able to enhance its capacity in the field of peacebuilding, crisis prevention and state building as UNDP has a unique mandate in this area which cannot easily be replaced by other partners. This also includes an increased focus on contributing to bridging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. | N/A | * Programmatic areas identified in the CPD are in line with UNDP comparative advantage within the UNDAF and has a strong focus on governance, peace and security. UNDP interventions will be reinforced in the areas of resilience linked to peace and security, stabilization and state building and support provided by Denmark is in line with the priorities set in the CPD. * Bridging the gap between humanitarian and development interventions is a central priority of the UNDAF. The CPD being strictly aligned to the UNDAF outcome, the humanitarian and development nexus is among the priority of UNDP for this cycle. As well, UNDP is part of the national discussions and bodies on the humanitarian and development nexus. |
| Denmark is currently implementing its bilateral support to the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP) through UNDP (Dec 2018 -Dec 2022) and the choice of UNDP as a delegated partner was notably based on the assumption that UNDP would be able to provide state-of-the art knowledge in these areas. The administration costs and direct project costs allocated to UNDP are substantial (11,5 million DKK i.e. almost a third of the total budget for the engagement) and the Danish embassy expects that this will contribute to access to relevant analysis, best practices and human resources in the implementation of the Danish engagement to the benefit of national and local partners. Based our experiences from the first year of implementation, we are concerned that UNDP’s country team is highly overstretched and that this is having a direct effect on the quality of its delivery, which has so far not lived up to our expectations. The Danish bilateral programme is financing 40% of the team leader position for pillar 2, who has been designated by UNDP as the person in charge of managing the Danish support to HACP. In view of all the areas included in this pillar (both in the current and the future programme), these two responsibilities do not seem compatible unless this pillar is significantly reduced and/or additional highly skilled expertise is provided to the country team. | N/A | * After the meeting with the Denmark mission in October 2018, the UNDP Niger has been working on ensuring that the identified issues of staff capacity, among others, are resolved and appropriate measures have been put in place. The Niger office is working at bringing in a dedicated person to support the implementation of the project. The peace and security unit of UNDP will also undergo revue of its structure to ensure optimal capacity is available within UNDP to support implementation of all related interventions. |
| Another area in which it would be relevant to enhance UNDP’s capacity in Niger is support to the election processes. Niger is expected to hold its next presidential and legislative elections in 2021 (and probably also local elections which have been continuously postponed for the last couple of years). As the political climate has become very polarized and tense in Niger, it will be extremely important to ensure a constructive and coordinated dialogue between development partners, government and opposition. From a Danish perspective, it would be highly relevant for UNDP to play a central coordinating role in this process. This will, however, also require a more focused commitment in this area, including mobilization of highly skilled international as well as national expertise. | N/A | * The CPD has a specific output on supporting the electoral process in Niger through a dedicated electoral support project. UNDP Resident Representative is already engaged in discussions with key political actors/parties for the political dialogue. UNDP is currently mobilizing resources from PBSO to support the conduct of peaceful elections and increase women’s’ and youth participation. |