**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR LEBANON (2023-2025)**

*First regular session 2023*

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| **Comments by delegation/Member State** | **Response/Update** |
| **European Union** |
| * We are happy to see that the new country programme simultaneously focuses on the crisis response and long-term development programming instead of proposing separate plans.
 | * We are happy to see the positive feedback and comment well taken.
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| * On partnerships, giving the Government the responsibility to address the country’s failing institutions and eroding social contract is much needed, as stated in the document. International community can only assist and support the government, however they themselves should be the force of change.
 | * This is correct. Our role is to support the government's reform initiatives. The process should be led and owned by the host country. Our CPD is intended to provide the required support.
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| * Importance of coordination with other UN agencies, iNGOs and overall response frameworks will be key to the success of this country plan. We see a lot of joint advocacy which needs to be undertaken.
 | * The CPD already incorporates partnerships with NGOs, CSOs, and UN agencies in a variety of areas, including advocacy efforts.
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| * Regarding the energy sector:
* Priority 1 Advocate for and support the country’s reform agenda

There are no particular mention of the energy sector reform. UNDP will manage quite a lot of funds in this sector. Even if their role in the reform process is limited it would be good to see at least a mention of their strategic orientation. * Priority 2. Support short to medium-term crisis response and crisis prevention

Point 28 (b) there is only a mention of renewable energy nothing about energy efficiency that should also accompany the green transition in Lebanon.  | * Added “advocacy for energy sector reform with a strong focus on climate-resilience and low-emission development strategies, including renewable energy” within Priority 1
* Clarified point 28(b) by rephrasing the solutions to be “sustainable energy solutions, including both solar and energy efficiency” to make it clear that both types of approaches are included
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| **The Netherlands** |
| * We compliment UNDP for the concise reflection on the current situation in Lebanon and its efforts to maintain a reform-focussed agenda.
 | * Comment well noted
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| * In line with the ask of the informal donor group in Lebanon, could UNDP indicate how it will collaborate in and with the other relevant frameworks in Lebanon besides the already mentioned Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, namely ERP and 3RF to enhance streamlining and simplifying of support to Lebanon.
 | * UNDP Lebanon has been participating in all the frameworks CF, LCRP and 3RF.
* UNDP together with other agencies chairs and co-chairs several working groups/pillars in 3RF including Anti-corruption and transparency, ROL, Economic/jobs and economic opportunities pillar.
* In terms of the ERP, UNDP ensures linkages based on needs, in addition to the support already provided to Syrian and Palestinian refugees, as well as Lebanese host communities, through the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). Efforts are also made to advise ERP partners so that humanitarian, time-bound assistance does not exacerbate inter- and intra-community tensions. Cross-framework coordination is ensured at the governance, inter-sectoral, and sectoral levels, including through joint national-level sector working groups.
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| * On agriculture, does UNDP work together with FAO? Could this be clarified?
 | * Yes, we have been working with FAO on agriculture and we will continue to coordinate and develop joint initiatives with FAO to compliment the comparative advantages
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| * Footnote 25 mentions a couple of donors. Is this only bilateral donors? Given the NL’s position as a strong core supporter of the work of UNDP.
 | * The footnote is only to mention some of the donors. Netherlands is also main partner of UNDP programmes in Lebanon. It is added in the footnote.
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| **Germany** |
| * ***General comment:*** The current aid and coordination structure in Lebanon is very complex. Together with other donors Germany strongly advocates the “ONE UN” vision in Lebanon. Many UN organizations present in Lebanon are not exclusively working in the areas of their respective core competencies. Through up-coming new crises around the world, we do not expect a decrease in donor engagement in Lebanon. Therefore, we see a strong need to use resources much more efficiently and effectively as well as to channel resources and consolidate the implementation structure. Capacity building with local partners
 | * Excellent observation. As part of the one UN approach, UNDP collaborates on numerous joint initiatives with other UN agencies, including UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, ILO, and UNWEOMEN. This will be reinforced during the next CPD cycle.
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| * [Priority 1 reform agenda]: Together with our international partners, we expect the Lebanese government to assume responsibility and implement the necessary political and economic reforms before any further significant financial support can be provided. Therefore, we welcome UNDP support for country’s reform agenda in the areas described.
* We would like to highlight that the Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is also a structure to support reforms in Lebanon. The implementation of the 3RF has been partially stagnating due to the current political stalemate. But we would like to see an intensive revival of 3RF as platform for donor coordination and bundling of commitment.
* There are different donors planning to support the National Anti-Corruption Commission. In this context concerted efforts and donor coordination are also needed.
 | * Our new CPD was developed in collaboration with a broader range of stakeholders in the country, including the Cabinet of Ministers. UNDP, in collaboration with international partners and the UNCT, will advocate for the government and other relevant state institutions to take on and expedite the necessary reform.
* UNDP co-chairs several Working Groups in the 3RF, including Anti-Corruption and Transparency, Rule of Law/Justice, Economic and Job Opportunities, and Environment. In the second phase 3RF, UNDP will play a key role in coordinating with several organizations, and this will be reinforced in the new CPD cycle.
* Valid point. On Anti-Corruption and Transparency (ACT), a Coordination Group has already been established by UNDP, WB, and EU to exchange information, update, and coordinate the work with counterparts and the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS, and to follow up on the 3RF. This group has been in existence since 2019 and), with representation from the German Embassy in Lebanon and GIZ. UNDP will play an active role in the coordination of the ACT work in the new CPD cycle.
* UNDP has developed a capacity assessment plan for the Anti-Corruption Commission based on UNDP ACT assessment methodology. Once completed, we would be delighted to share it with the Anti-Corruption Coordination Group and other interested parties.
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| * [Priority 2 crisis response and crisis prevention]:
* We would like to emphasize that close and timely donor coordination is necessary as, to our knowledge, various donors and UN-organizations are already active on community level and also planning to strengthen MSMEs, local and regional supply chains as well as start-ups (including Germany).
* We welcome the support of renewable energy especially the solar sector. However, the goal should not be to just install solar panels, but also to promote high value material, correct installation, to establish a recycling cycle especially for batteries and in general to promote a sustainable development of the sector. There are standards needed to employ the solar energy in an effective and sustainable manner.
* We fully support the goal of building peace and enhancing stability and good governance in host communities. There are several approaches for social cohesion and peacebuilding, but more lessons learnt and best practise, which projects have been implemented successfully, should be shared among donors.
 | * This is also valid point. Under the UNSCF the UN is coordinating the support to SMEs. UNDP is also actively engaged on the 3RF coordination on the pillar related to jobs and economic opportunities. This will be further strengthened in the new CPD cycle for more coordination with stakeholders.
* We appreciate Germany's input on this critical issue. UNDP Lebanon has taken some critical steps regarding solar panels. To ensure good quality material, the process of installing solar relies on high equipment specifications. The installation of solar panels is accompanied by capacity building for suppliers and installers to ensure the long-term viability of the solar installations. At the same time, UNDP is working on the issue of battery recycling and/or disposal as part of its solid waste management program of action, which will include solar system batteries.
* Comment well taken
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| * [Priority 3 green and inclusive development]:
* Germany agrees with priority 3. As already mentioned, close and timely donor coordination is necessary as various donors and UN-organizations are already active on community level and also planning to strengthen MSMEs, local and regional supply chains as well as start-ups linked to green and inclusive development approaches.
 | * Comment well taken
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| * Monitoring and output evaluation are very important, but sometimes do not go far enough. In order to obtain an overview of the long-term achievement of programs and, further, to be able to identify needs for adjustments in future programmes, German development cooperation prefers an impact measurement approach.
* We welcome data collection and data sharing among UN-Organization, GoL as well as donors. Evidence-based policymaking, project development and monitoring as well as impact measurement in Lebanon have been challenging the last years. Therefore, data pooling and sharing is of high interest also for German development cooperation.
 | * Comment well taken
* Comment well taken. All our programme is evidenced based and conflict sensitive approaches. UNDP Lebanon will be working more on data pooling and sharing with all stakeholders and international partners.
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| * [COSTED EVALUATION PLAN]: No objection.
 | * Well noted and many thanks for this.
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