**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR JORDAN (2023-2027)**

*Second regular session 2022*

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| **Comments by USA** | UNDP Response |
| While the first objective (prosperous and productive people) references inclusive economic growth and employment, it does not touch on public sector management reform. | The formulation of the narrative under portfolio one ‘Prosperous and Productive People’ is human centred and demand driven, focuses on people as agents of change. The CPD also consistently mentions the complementarities across the three priority portfolios, thereby focusing on public sector management reform more explicitly under portfolio 3 on ‘Holistic and Transformative Systems and Capacities’.  In addition, the logic model of the results framework includes outputs on how the UNDP will support the public sector reform towards achieving the goal of a more ‘Prosperous and Productive People’ for Jordan (*see paragraph 23, 24 and 28; also see outputs 1.1 & 3.1).* |
| The second objective (green and safe future pathways for climate action), which includes water as a subset of climate change adaptation, makes no mention of the National Conveyance Project, desalination, or water authority fiscal sustainability. | The UNDP’s focus is on Sustainable Development Programmes with a focus on people, procedures, institutions, systems and capacities and less about infrastructure. “Infrastructure” referred to in the CPD is intended to the small- medium in size and certainly not at a scale of the national conveyor e.g house hold level water harvesting, decentralised waste water treatment plants, solid waste transfer stations, ..etc, which we are planning to implement as part of the new CPD through the Green Climate fund support.    In the water management sector in Jordan, certain international development partners already have a leading role. UNDP sees its valued added more in contributing to support in the design of related policy instruments, technical advice to government’s coordination efforts and management capacities to oversee these projects. Reference is made to our development services offer and technical advisory support within the Programme Document *(*s*ee paragraph 45 & 47; also see output 3.2 – indicator 3.2.1).*  Furthermore, UNDP (the added value) is trying to have intervention in water sector in areas where there are some gaps that are not tackled by other development partners, such as drought management. |
| The third objective (holistic and transformative systems/policies and capacities across all sectors) sets incremental goals on political participation and anti-corruption but has nothing likely to push the GOJ faster on political reform than current GOJ/RHC strategies. | The outcomes of these reform strategies are already being transformed into legal instruments and UNDP is and will continue to work with the GoJ to ensure these are operationalised as soon as possible, specifically with democratic institutions such as the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Parliament to further develop their capacities and provide them with the systems and international experience and expertise in elections.  UNDP will also empower women youth and PWDs to participate in political life, at both the local and the national level elections. The UNDP is also undertaking several action research projects focusing on better understanding socio economic root causes for voter behaviour in geographical areas that are registering fewer voters.  UNDP’s role here is multipronged, focusing on evidence through action research, increasing participation and strengthening systems including digital transformation solutions to make the instruments more applicable and accepted within institutions *(see paragraph 38, 40, 41; also see output 3.4).* |
| The document includes many references to self-reliance, increasing livelihood opportunities and empowering marginalized communities, however there is scant mention of education, particularly foundational skills for marginalized communities. | The document specifies building self-reliance through enhancing digital skills and financial inclusion. The use of the term future of work is also a conscious effort to effectively encompass a more holistic view of education that focuses on soft / life skills and technical/ job specific training *(see paragraph 22 & 24; also see output 1.3 - indicator 1.3.4)* |
| Recommend checking the accuracy of the female unemployment rate. Understand it is 30.7 percent, based on the notion that many woman in Jordan are no longer actively seeking work. | The reference to unemployment in the CPD is specific to youth and young women (age group 15-24) as per the below national data source *(see below document page 2, bullet 4).*  <http://dos.gov.jo/dos_home_e/main/archive/Unemp/2021/Q4_2021.pdf> |
| The document makes no mention or reference of the Royal Visioning exercise, which was recently completed by the Royal Court. | Under para 6, the CPD makes reference to the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System focused on the political participation of women and youth.  As for the New Economic Vision, the document makes reference to the economic modernization vision *(see paragraph 14).*  <https://www.jordanvision.jo/img/vision.pdf> |