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| **Draft country programme document for Burundi (2019-2023) UNDP****Belgian comments and questions**  |
| **General comment:** | **CO Comments** |
| wherever in the document alignment is sought (e.g. §35 regarding M&E frameworks) or solicited from other actors (e.g. §20, for local governments’ planning processes) with Burundi’s National Development Plan, it needs to be borne in mind that the latter – rather a “President’s Plan” for lack of wider stakeholder consultation – has shown strong inherent weaknesses, inter alia in terms of analysis, reliability of certain statistical data and terms of forecasting realism. | UNDP has analyzed the National Development Plan (NDP) and agrees that it has mentioned weakness. Despite this weakness development partners have agreed to align their Programme with the NDP (there are some entry points) while trying to address some of the weakness in its implementation. This is also the case for both UNDP CPD and UNDAF for 2019-2023. It is mandatory that CPD aligns with the National Priorities. To identify the entry points, UNDP held a 3-day stakeholder consultation workshop to undertake the context analysis and develop intervention logic. As a result, data gathered and analyzed from this process showed alignment with some general priority areas specified in the National Development Plan (NDP) and UNDAF.  |
| **Specific observations are in order nonetheless** |  |
| Priority 1 : Which UNDP context analysis allows the optimism in terms of impact (beyond the mere capacity building assistance component) of the economic activities described in §17 ?  | UNDP currently has partnerships with Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rural Micro-Credit Fund and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). For instance, on Micro-credit – financial inclusion of 1,300 pax inclusion). Based on its experience and lessons from these partnerships, UNDP sees more opportunities to scale-up economics activities (artisan, microfinance, local government economic opportunities survey). |
| Priority 2 : Sub-priorities (b) and (c) in §18 appear correct, but sub-priority (a) – support to the National Management School (ENA), *Centre de Formation Professionnelle de la Justice* and *Centre National de Formation des Acteurs Locaux* could benefit from a more thorough risk analysis, as it seems to a certain degree disconnected from Burundi’s current realities; In §19, a Belgian role in terms of support to decentralization is mentioned, but it is not obvious to us which intervention is referred to. If the Belgian Food Security Fund is the one referenced, it deserves to be highlighted that its operations will not be continued past 2018;  | UNDP has partnerships with ENA, *Centre de Formation Professionnelle de la Justice and Centre National de Formation des Acteurs Locaux.* Priority 2 is intended to improve public service delivery to local population. However, the quality of service delivery (justice, administration, police…) is low because of weak capacities of national and local institutions.UNDP will leverage on partnerships with the above-mentioned institutions to improve capacities of national and local institutions responsible for the service delivery to the population.Also, UNDP has facilitated South-South cooperation between ENA Burundi and ENAM Cameroon, *Centre de Formation Professionnelle de la Justice* Burundi and *Centre de Formation Professionnelle de la Justice* Cote d’Ivoire. In addition, UNDP is exploring a partnership between ENA-France and ENA Burundi. This risk analysis will be used to improve UNDP operations/interventions.UNDP is supporting the evaluation process of the former decentralization policy and design of the current policy. Partners mentioned in §19 were consulted and UNDP intends to establish partnerships with them. |
| Priority 3 : Please expand on the sustainability dimension of support to the establishment of mini-grids (etc.) in §23; UNDP proposes itself as a bridge-builder between bilateral donors and the government in §24: is that its role ? | **§23**. UNDP will develop public-private partnership to ensure reliable operation of the mini-grid system over its expected lifetime with minimal interruption. A pay-as-you-go system will be established to provide affordable tariffs for consumers while ensuring financial viability over the long term with adequate revenue to cover operational expenses, liabilities, and profit. UNDP will define social sustainability standard to include the level of community involvement and ensure that the mini-grid system is adapted to the local context.**§24**. In partnership with Belgian cooperation, UNDP had played an important role on the partners’ aid coordination. For instance, UNDP implemented the projet CNCA – Conseil National de Coordination de l’Aide). With the new CPD, UNDP will support the UN, through RC, in the implementation of the new Donor / UN Coordination Platform in Burundi  |
| §28 – national execution: we perceive a possible contradiction between this point and the context analysis. Will the programme be directly implemented by UNDP, or only in exceptional circumstances?  | To promote national capacity building and ownership of development results, UNDP will use national implementation modality. To this effect, UNDP will do a micro-assessment of national capacities to identify strengths and weaknesses, including risks. Depending on the result of this assessment, a decision on the implementation modality will be made. For instance, currently most of UNDP projects are directly implemented (based on the above- mentioned assessment).  |
| §32 – risk analysis: Political crisis risk seems not to be included or analyzed, unless it would be more generally subsumed under (e) (“weak institutional capacity”) of course. | Given the sensitivity of risk related to political crisis in Burundi, this risk is considered in weak institutional capacity. Bearing in mind that the CPD has to be endorsed by the Government. Hence, the need to strike a balance in the CPD! However, the current Program will support peacebuilding actions to prevent or mitigate conflict at community level. |