**Tabulated Response to Comments on the Draft CPD Zimbabwe (2016-2020)**

**31 July 2015**

| **Comments** | **Status** | **CO Remarks** |
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| **Ownership** | | |
| The UNDP Zimbabwe office has a good relationship with the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and they make every effort to ensure the governments focus areas are reflected in their programmes that embassy has participated in. After the election in July 2013, a new development plan/five year plan, Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim-Asset), was presented. The plan states the Government and ruling party’s goals for the period (2013-18). However, the plan is vague and not very operational. UN has tried to link the new ZUNDAF and plans for the individual UN-agencies close to ZIM-Asset . As far as the Embassy knows, ZUNDAF and the UNDP country program is mainly based on ZIM-Asset and on active discussions with the authorities. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | UNDP through its quality assurance process has ensured that its programme is relevant, sufficiently prioritised and implementable. |
| UN carried out a well-planned participatory process in assessing the current and developing the new ZUNDAF programme on which the UNDP country program in based.  On several occasions throughout the last year UN institutions, other multilateral institutions, central and local Government departments, NGOs and bi-lateral donors have been invited to discuss drafts of the new ZUNDAF. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| UN’s coordinator and UNDP have regular meetings with bilateral donors, however in the situation with restrictive measures, some donors express that UN is not taking enough into consideration the fact that many donors are not able to allow any funds to be channelled to Government institutions. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| In the current political situation in Zimbabwe, it is not easy for the UNDP Country office to carry out the expectation of the Board to have discussions with all stakeholders and at the same time ensure national ownership, but the Embassy finds that the Country office did consult with relevant actors in developing the Country Program. The Nordic Embassies meet with the UN coordinator and Head of UNDP quite often, formally and informally. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| **Relevance and Alignment** | | |
| The country programme does focus on relevant and pertinent areas in Zimbabwe.  We were particularly pleased to see climate change given such central place, as this area is partly neglected in the country due to focus on the political conflicts.  Resilience is also extremely important to prevent humanitarian crisis, and we are sure that a coordinated UN (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO) can have a vital contribution. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| Also the other pillars listed are extremely important. However there are many organizations/institutions working particularly in the area of governance and sustainable growth and livelihoods, e.g. has the World Bank recently established a fund (ZIM-REF) with much of the same focus. There is an absolute need to ensure a thorough mapping and assessment is carried out within UN organization, the banks, development partners, Government and civil society to ensure the activities are complimentary rather than duplicated efforts. Better coordination is necessary. | Reflected in the revised CPD in paragraph 16 and 17. | Comment noted, beyond the specifics in the CPD, this is an important element in the implementation of the programme. |
| Even though the components of the program are relevant and needed, we do find that the program may be too broad and covering too many areas. A prioritising process may be necessary.  Having said that, we are aware that an Election Need Assessment Mission visited the country recently and a possible program for support may be established late 2015/beginning of 2016.  In the donor community this has been discussed the last month, but we do not see any references to this in the documents, maybe because the process did not start before after the drafting of the Country program. However, this may be an important part of the UNDP program and the Embassy will highly recommend that the Election project should be carried out. | Reflected in the revised CPD in paragraph 14 and the RRF | UN’s Electoral Assistance Division led a Needs Assessment Mission to Zimbabwe in May 2015. As the outcome of the mission was still pending when the draft CPD was posted on the EB website, electoral assistance was not included. |
| One issue of concern with the governance programme is reference to the Global Political Agreement (GPA). Good and relevant as it was, GPA was only binding up to the election in 2013. The inclusive government ended 2 years ago, the current government may not have commitment to implement the issues, especially if they didn’t do so between 2009 -2013. | Reflected in the revised CPD in paragraph 4 and 11 | Comment noted |
| **National Capacity building** | | |
| The Programme may contribute to national capacity building, but again it is important that the activities are coordinated with other efforts particularly with the World Bank’s capacity building efforts within Public Financial Management. | Reflected in the revised CPD in paragraph 17. | Comment noted, beyond the specifics in the CPD, this is an important element in the implementation of the programme. |
| **Partnership/Harmonization/coordination** | | |
| A working group was established between the various UN organizations to come up with the country programme 2016-2020. This assisted in facilitating cooperation with all UN partners as well as their implementing partners and the GoZ. The working group was chaired by the UN Women deputy country representative. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| Several of the components in the UNDP program is based on cooperation between the different UN-agencies. The Embassy together with other bilateral donors have attended meetings where individual components/pillars like resilience have been presented by the agencies in common. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| The UNDP could improve coordination with members of civil society in Zimbabwe. Their prior programmes have had a very small CSO component, which has often been complained about by development partners and civil society. This is important in Zimbabwe to ensure that people’s views are represented, there is good oversight by CSOs of government and CSOs will better understand what government is doing. There has been a lot of misconception and mistrust between GoZ and civil society, UNDP may use their neutrality improve the relationship. | No need for further reference in the CPD | Civil Society has been reflected in the CPD and during the implementation of the CPD coordination with CSO will be enhanced |
| Not all bilateral donors wish to provide support to UNDP programs in Zimbabwe. There is a perception among some that UNDP is too humble and careful towards the Government and does not raise controversial issues when needed. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| **Results** | | |
| The Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) carried out in 2014 by UNICEF and ZIM-stat shows that UN has achieved some key results in the last four years. This is in particular visual in social sectors. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| Though it may be difficult in the areas UNDP is working, the bilateral donors, including Norway, have from time to time asked for better documentation of results. Clearer baselines, better formulated indicators. One of the problems/ bottlenecks is that the projects/programs are too broad and covering too much, which make it difficult to make measurable indicators. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | In line with the expectations of the UNDP Strategic Plan, the programme appraisal process in UNDP has significantly improved to enhance the quality and focus of the country programmes presented to the Executive Board. This includes enhanced scrutiny on the identification of priorities for UNDP intervention (and hence a programme with three results areas). In the implementation, there is a need to ensure that the programme remains focused in these three areas. |
| **Human Right and Gender Equality** | | |
| As mentioned above, HR is an area where the Embassy provides support to a UNDP project (UPR) and will continue to do so. In addition Norway, together with Denmark and EU through Danish Institute for Human Rights support the Human Rights Commission (only DK and EU mentioned in the UNDP program document, amounts may be provided if needed). UNDP also supports the HR Commission in a parallel program. It has been a challenge to coordinate the efforts as the approaches have been slightly different in the two programs, however coordination has improved recently. | No need for specific reference in the CPD | Comment noted |
| The human rights approach has been well integrated into the UNDP Zimbabwe programme but the gender aspect often seems to be tacked on at the end of a programme. With the growth of the UN Women office in Zimbabwe as well as a key role in creation of the new programme, it is hoped that a more systematic approach to gender equality in programmes may be taken. | Reflected in the revised CPD in paragraph 17 | Comment noted |