

**UNFPA**

Policy Title	Policy for Regular Resource Allocation and Distribution for Country Programmes
Previous title (if any)	Policy for Country Programme Regular Resource Allocation System (RAS) and Regular Resource Distribution System (RDS)
Policy objective	The objective of this policy is to ensure that UNFPA allocates and distributes its regular resources for country programmes, in compliance with the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, for maximum programming effectiveness and efficiency.
Target audience	All UNFPA personnel
Risk control matrix	Controls of the process are detailed in <a href="#">the Risk Control Matrix</a>
Checklist	N/A
Effective date	15 July 2022
Revision History	Issued: July 2014 Revision 1: May 2018 Revision 2: July 2022
Mandatory review date	January 2026
Policy owner unit	Policy and Strategy Division (PSD)
Approval	Link to <a href="#">signed approval template</a>

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## I. Purpose

This policy defines the roles, responsibilities, and procedures in implementing the Resource Allocation System (RAS) and Resource Distribution System (RDS), which were endorsed by the Executive Board in 2021, as part of [the Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) for allocating and distributing regular resources for country programmes. The policy is accompanied by [the Guidance Note on Regular Resource Allocation System \(RAS\) and Regular Resources Distribution System \(RDS\)](#), and the [Guidance Note on the Strategic Investment Facility](#).

## II. Policy

This policy establishes the following:

1. The UNFPA Executive Director (or under delegated authority to [the Resource Management Committee](#) (RMC)), the Director of the Policy and Strategy Division (PSD), and the Director of the Division for Management Services (DMS) must undertake due diligence to implement the Resource Allocation System (RAS) and the Resource Distribution System (RDS), as specified in [the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025](#) (DP/FPA/2021/8), in compliance with the methodologies and the minimum requirements endorsed by the Executive Board, including:
  - a. UNFPA classifies its country programmes into three tiers, based on whether a country has reached or exceeded thresholds of the need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, the maternal mortality ratio, and the gender inequality index.
  - b. The regular resources for country programmes are allocated using a “three-dimensions, two-adjustments and one-floor” approach.
    - The three dimensions are: distance from reaching the three transformative results, health inequality, and vulnerability.
    - The two adjustments are the total female population aged 10-24 years old, and gross national income per capita.
    - The uniform \$500,000 floor per country programme provides the minimum essential support for the normative role.
  - c. UNFPA ensures that, at minimum, 60 per cent of regular resources for country programmes are allocated to tier I countries during the four years of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025.
  - d. UNFPA has also increased the resources available for the two multi-country programmes in the Pacific and the Caribbean subregions.
2. DMS must estimate, and RMC must determine the overall regular resources available for country programmes for: i) the four years of the Strategic Plan period as specified in [the UNFPA Integrated Budget, 2022-2025](#) (DP/FPA/2021/9), ii) each year as part of the preparation of the Initial Regular Resources Distribution Plan, and iii) any

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additional resources when available during a year as part of the revision(s) of the Regular Resources Distribution Plan.

3. PSD must use the Executive Board approved RDS to prepare: i) the indicative planning figures for the four years of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, ii) the initial annual programme ceilings of 2023-2025<sup>1</sup>, and iii) the distribution of additional regular resources for country programme ceilings when available during the year, for individual countries. PSD must also ensure setting aside the regular resources for the decentralized country programme evaluations per the evaluation plan agreed with the Evaluation Office.
4. The Directors of Regional Offices must review and may make recommendations on adjustments when necessary to the proposed indicative planning figures for the four years of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, the annual programme ceilings, and any distribution of additional regular resources for country programme ceilings when applicable, of country programmes and multi-country programmes covered by their respective regional offices, based on thorough assessments of country programme requirements, planned country programme evaluations, and taking into consideration the following factors, as specified in the [UNFPA Business Model](#) (the annex III to [the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025](#)),
  - a. Continuity of the ongoing country programmes,
  - b. Availability of other resources and pooled resources,
  - c. Inequalities and disparities within countries,
  - d. Emergency, transition, or recovery situations in countries; and,
  - e. Country programme performance or implementation capacity.
5. The UNFPA Executive Director (or under delegated authority to RMC) must review and approve the RDS indicative planning figures for the four years of the Strategic Plan, the annual programme ceilings, and additional regular resources for country programme ceilings when applicable.
6. The Director of PSD and the Director of DMS must communicate the indicative planning figures for four years of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 to all UNFPA personnel. The Director of DMS must also communicate the initial annual programme ceilings, and subsequent adjustments, through the Initial Regular Resources Distribution Plan and its revisions.
7. The heads of all UNFPA country offices must use the RDS indicative planning figures for the four years of the Strategic Plan for formulating their respective new country programmes. They must manage their programme workplans within the annual programme ceilings provided by regular resources and complemented by other resources.
8. The Directors of regional offices must abide by the minimum requirements set by the Executive Board (as listed in II.1 of this policy) when making adjustments to country programme ceilings within their respective regions during the year. The process and

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<sup>1</sup> The planning figures for 2022 also serve as the annual programme ceilings for 2022.

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template for requesting changes can be found in [the Guidance Note on Regular Resource Allocation System \(RAS\) and Regular Resources Distribution System \(RDS\)](#).

9. PSD and DMS must review all requests for adjustments to the country programme ceilings. If the request is cleared by PSD and DMS, DMS will execute the redistribution in the ERP system. Otherwise, PSD and DMS will engage the regional office to reassess.
10. As part of its regular annual reporting, DMS must prepare a report to the Executive Board on the expenditure of resources by RAS country programme tiers and the multi-country programmes.

### III. Procedure

The RAS/RDS will be implemented as follows.

#### *For the planning figures for the four years of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025:*

1. DMS prepares, and RMC determines overall regular resources available for country programmes as part of the development of the UNFPA Integrated Budget, 2022-2025.
2. PSD prepares RDS indicative planning figures and communicates them to the Directors of regional offices.
3. The Directors of Regional Offices review the indicative planning figures and make recommendations on adjustments.
4. PSD and DMS review and consolidate the recommended adjustments, and PSD submits final indicative planning figures to the Executive Director (or under delegated authority to RMC) for approval.
5. The Executive Director (or under delegated authority to RMC) approves the indicative planning figures. Once approved, the indicative planning figures become the planning figures.
6. The Director of PSD and the Director of DMS communicate the planning figures upon approval by the UNFPA Executive Director (or under delegated authority to RMC)<sup>2</sup>.
7. The Heads of Country Offices will ensure the use of the planning figures for the four years of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 for new country programmes.

#### *For the annual country programme ceilings and its revision(s):*

8. DMS estimates and RMC determines overall regular resources available for country programmes for the given year or any additional resources during the year.

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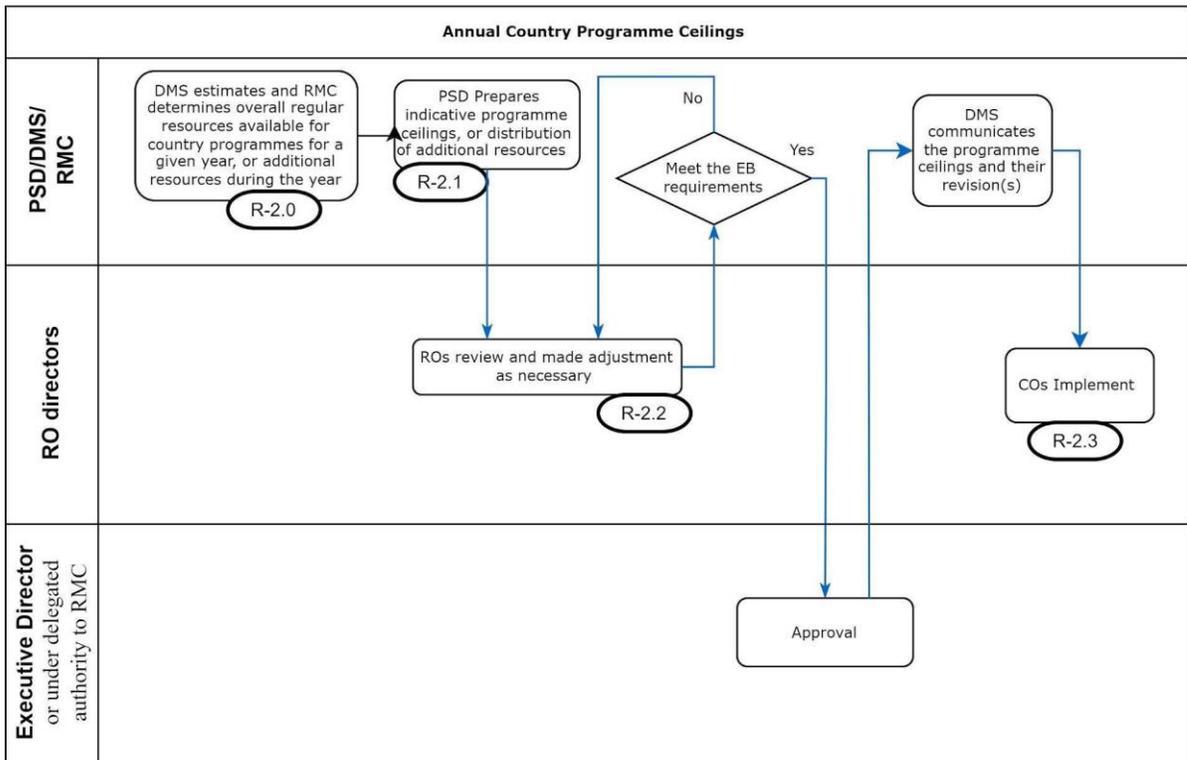
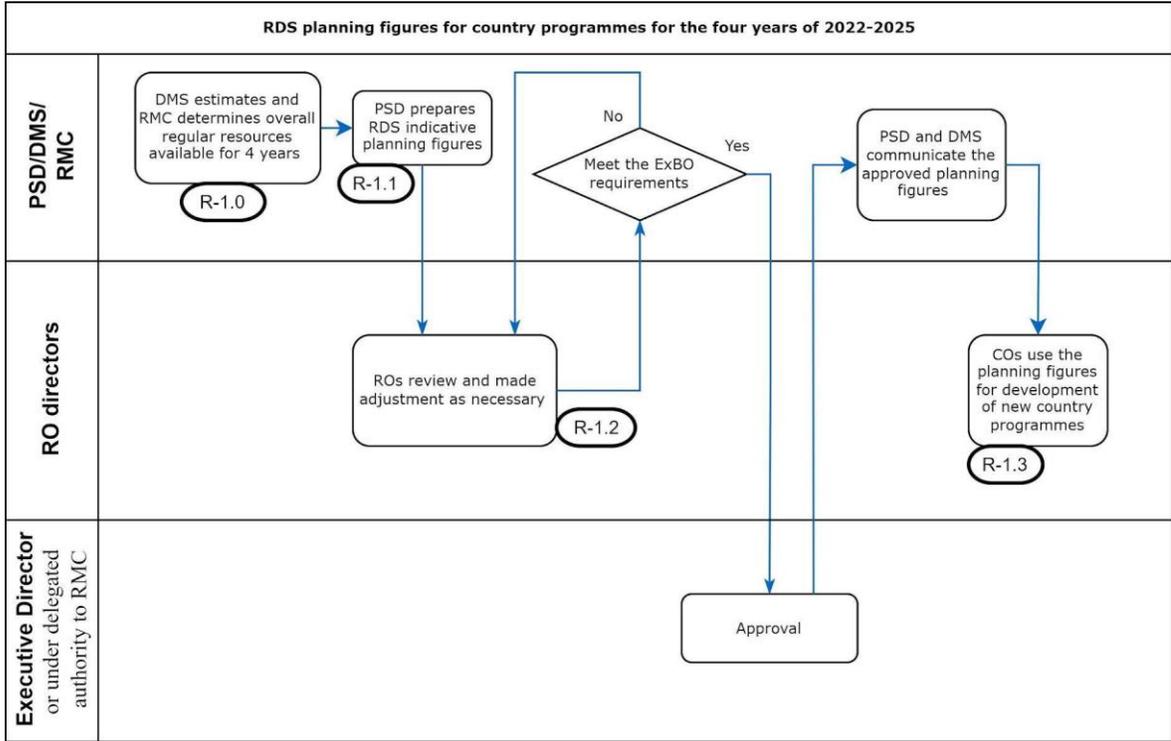
<sup>2</sup> The 2022 planning figures are also used as the 2022 programme ceilings, which are also communicated through the Initial Regular Resources Distribution Plan.

9. PSD prepares RDS indicative country programme ceilings and communicates them to the Directors of Regional Offices.
10. The Directors of Regional Offices review the indicative country programme ceilings and make recommendations on adjustments.
11. PSD and DMS review and consolidate the adjustments to the indicative country programme ceilings, and DMS submits them to the Executive Director (or under delegated authority to RMC) for approval.
12. The Director of DMS communicates the programme ceilings, through the Initial Regular Resources Distribution Plan and its revision(s), upon approval by the UNFPA Executive Director (or under delegated authority to RMC).

#### **IV. Other**

When an updated RAS/RDS indicator dataset is available, UNFPA may update the RAS/RDS using the same indicators and methodologies endorsed by the Executive Board.

V. Process Overview Flowchart(s)



## **VI. Risk Control Matrix**

The [risk control matrix](#) can be found in the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wcbx1IwRB7JrjiUphcfKLuDzdXTJfXsy/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117550707012781865345&rtpof=true&sd=true>