

**RBAS - Sub-Regional Response Facility**

20 November 2017 *Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

RE: RDPP/UNDP Regional Initiative: *Development of evidence-based policy options for refugee accommodation in countries affected by the Syria crisis, No Cost Extension Request*

Dear Ms. Carter,

The purpose of this correspondence is to request an amendment of a no-cost extension until 30 April 2018, of the above-referenced cost sharing agreement between RDPP and UNDP on the Policy Options Initiative:

- 1. This extension is necessary in order to maximize impact and visibility through the Syria Crisis response planning cycle, global and regional Syria conferences and events including the UN appeal plan launches and global policy debates – currently, the *EU Supporting Syrians and the Region Conference in Brussels* is tentatively scheduled for April 2018. An extended policy options dissemination and media outreach building up to international fora in early 2018, notably being featured at a *Global Resilience Conference in New York in February* will influence upcoming policy programming and impact the global dialogue. The current RDPP/UNDP Policy Options work-plan had estimated a launch of its final research findings and policy options into the public domain in 31 December 2017. While within the original impact and risk assessment outcomes of the initiative work plan, this timing would not be conducive to an extensive visibility outreach, due to seasonal constraints. Previous organizational experience prescribes that a more extended approach to impact by seizing the opportunities of the upcoming programming cycle and extensive global debate from late January to April 2018.*
- 2. The project has been subject to shifts in scheduling for the country consultation process in Iraq (KRI), Jordan and Lebanon. Following the Iraqi Kurdistan independence referendum on 25 September, the subsequent political upheaval and further internal displacement has placed considerable strain on the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). The project's country expert has carefully monitored developments in coordination with KRG and UNDP Country Office, and the project has agreed that the most appropriate time to hold consultations will be the first week of December 2017.*
- 3. In Lebanon with the current situation includes uncertainties around the government, the resignation of the Prime Minister and subsequent suspension, and upcoming elections, UNDP SRF has consulted with the Country Expert and UNDP Lebanon Country Office that it would be most appropriate to re-assess the context for full government policy dialogues in January after one-on-one consultations with key government counterparts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December, which will provide significant direction on policy option formulation.*



4. *In Jordan, while the policy space is better defined, and interviews and consultant consultations with Government are positive with confirmed demand for the exercise, UNDP Country Office recommends a January dialogue to align with on going policy debates, and with Ministries engaged in the Jordan Response Plan planning process into early December, requires a postponement until January 2018.*

5. *In light of increased interest from Syria Crisis policy experts and think tanks, UNDP believes it would be highly beneficial to scale up the project's review process through January and February 2018, to ensure latest thinking and high quality evidence with a global perspective.*

6. *Please find the proposed project timeline attached.*

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An extended timeline detailing the activities in attached. There will be no change in the project's originally approved scope of work.

We look forward to a favorable review of our request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Rizk'.

Dr. Samuel Rizk  
SRF Manager

Sub-regional Response Facility (Syria Crisis)  
UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States