

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2022 annual session

Draft country programme document commenting period: 22 March to 11 April 2022

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme document being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: *DG NEAR BI*

Draft country programme document: *UNICEF - Syria*

In accordance with Executive Board decision [2014/1](#), draft country programme documents are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. All comments received by the Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board before the deadline stated above will be posted on the Executive Board website, and considered by the requesting country, in close consultation with UNICEF.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	<p>- The number of sectors addressed and the CPD strategies described for each under “Program priorities” remain very wide-ranging. They seem to be less Syria-specific, but rather covering more or less everything that could be undertaken in any context within UNICEF mandates.</p> <p>This could lessen the usefulness and relevance of this CPD as a programming document. As a result, it seems questionable whether the ambition of the CPD for a 2.5 year period is not too high.</p> <p>It is understood that such a broad framework warrants flexibility and allows UNICEF to implement whatever it would have the funds for. A genuine and contextualised prioritisation of potential interventions, which would be all the more critical in a context of decreasing funding, seems necessary.</p> <p>- The elevated attention, in each sector covered, to systems strengthening and revisions or development of laws, policies or</p>	

	<p>national plans, seems premature in the current context. It would go against the red lines of most UNICEF donors – hence, how realistic is it? Also here, references to conflict-sensitivity/do-no-harm approaches are necessary, which are essential and fundamental when aiming to address systemic issues, and legislative and policy matters.</p> <p>- In general, it is important to make the CPD and UNICEF’s “strategies” more clearly inclusive and benefitting all children in a non-discriminatory way regardless of the geographical area they live in.</p> <p>- The CPD could further benefit from tangible and concrete interventions. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* What about civil documentation for children e.g. birth certificates? It would make sense to, at least, include an indicator in the log-frame, which measures this basic right.* What is done concretely to help the young “lost generations”? – youth and adolescents. <p>- It should be considered to better describe the “integrated, multi-sectoral social and behaviour change communication strategy” (pt. 30). As it stands, it remains too vague. Modifications should include a reference to how this strategy would encompass different sectors. If carefully elaborated it could be a valuable approach to complement and supplement the current focus on delivery of basic services.</p>	
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Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document	- p. 5 theories of change. Which ones? (pt. 20). What is the difference with the vision of change mentioned on p. 6 (pt. 24)? Are they related to the 6 change strategies mentioned under pt. 27? Which changes are really aimed at?	
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