

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 (Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania)

24 March to 13 April (Syrian Arab Republic)

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: *Australia*

Draft country programme document: *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)
<b>General comments</b>	<p>Australia remains deeply concerned about the situation in Syria and the impact that a decade of conflict has had on the Syrian people.</p> <p>We consider the context analysis does not fully reflect the extent of the crisis, how it has unfolded or acknowledge the Syrian regime's part in contributing to this dire humanitarian emergency. The context analysis would benefit from presenting the conflict and current situation in a way that is consistent with UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. It should reinforce the need for a comprehensive peace process in line with UNSC resolution 2245 to provide an enabling environment for addressing the continuing challenges faced by the Syrian population.</p>	<p>UNICEF continues to advocate for the availability of data. Unfortunately, the data is scarce at this point. Also, due to the limitation of the CPD, which is a technical document meant to provide a broad framework of UNICEF's programmatic priorities with strict word limit, it is difficult to further elaborate.</p> <p>This said, UNICEF conducted a situation analysis of children and adolescents for the CPD, including risk analyses considering conflict sensitivity and the vulnerability of children. In addition, UNICEF adopts context-sensitive, vulnerability monitoring and community-based and localized approaches to the delivery of its programme to ensure that equitable, inclusive, community-driven priorities and solutions inform UNICEF programming.</p>

		<p>Also, as part of the One UN, UNICEF contributed to a comprehensive UN socio-economic context analysis. Additionally, UNICEF field-based programme staff regular assessments of the context, trends and vulnerabilities of children's and their families is critical for the programme planning and implementation.</p> <p>We are also pleased that UNICEF has received the approval to conduct the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), for the first time since 2006. This is a critical undertaking for further identifying key areas for prioritization in UNICEF and partner programming. We are confident that the narrative will be further grounded with this updated household survey data on key social indicators that are critical for children.</p> <p>The CPD for the Syrian Arab Republic, as is the case for other CPDs and in line with the QCPR and UNDS reform requirements, is aligned with and derived from the Strategic Framework, as validated by the Resident Coordinator.</p> <p>Currently, the primary priority for UNICEF through this CPD is to secure conditions to provide principled, on-the-ground assistance to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of children and population in Syria and fulfil their rights and protection, prevent a further escalation of needs, and build the resilience of vulnerable children and their families and communities.</p> <p>As the chair of United Nations Programme Management Team, UNICEF has led the discussion about joint programming / joint programmes while it has also been an active partner in ongoing UN joint programmes. It is committed to continue and work closely with UNFPA and UNDP amongst others. UNICEF is also fully committed to uphold humanitarian principles in the identification of priority populations and geographic areas, as well as inclusion of children with disability and disability-disaggregated data.</p>
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	<p>Australia welcomes UNICEF commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• joint programming with UNFPA and UNDP;</li> <li>• humanitarian principles in the selection of populations and geographic areas to receive assistance; and</li> <li>• disability inclusion and the collection of disability disaggregated data.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b></p>	<p>Given the prevalence of disabilities in Syria, including those resulting from physical, mental and emotional traumas, we would welcome greater ambition on the target for school enrolment of children with disabilities and for disability inclusion in education.</p>	<p>UNICEF supports children with disability with an integrated social protection programme that provides cash assistance and case management and supports specialized schools to provide special education and address the specific needs of these children. This is in addition to the support for the inclusion of children with disabilities in schools. UNICEF takes note of the comment on the target. Progress and results will be reviewed at mid-term and then assess the possibility of increasing the target in view of the availability of appropriate and flexible funding.</p>