

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)

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| 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. |
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Delegation name: *Danish Mission to the UN*

Draft country programme document: *Syrian Arab Republic*

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) |
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| General comments | <p>DK reiterates its general concerns regarding the UNSF, a number of which are also reflected in the draft CPD. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Insufficiently holistic analyses of the conflict in Syria, its root causes, human rights violations and the realities on the ground, including the dire humanitarian situation in northern Syria. There is a need for deeper and broader analysis of the continued state of conflict in the country and its development since its beginning in 2011, as the basis for any programming. Challenges related to humanitarian access and thereby delivery of humanitarian assistance in line with humanitarian principles should also be elaborated. | <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. This said, UNICEF conducted a situation analysis of children for the CPD, including risk analyses considering conflict sensitivity and the vulnerability of children. UNICEF adopts a context-sensitive, vulnerability monitoring and community-based and localized approaches to the delivery of its programme to ensure that equitable, inclusive,</p> |

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| | <p>b) Footnotes regarding reservations on the side of the Syrian regime regarding the UN “Principles and Parameters of UN assistance in Syria”: Adherence to P&P remains essential. We expect all aspects of implementation of the CPD’s and programming to be compliant and within the scope of P&P and the UN/agencies to ensure that adherence is monitored.</p> <p>c) Denmark is guided, inter alia, by the EU Council Conclusions on Syria from April 2018 in our decision-making and as a donor in response to the Syria conflict. The EU Council Conclusions stipulate that “EU assistance must benefit the population of Syria and avoid benefits accruing to the Syrian regime that would legitimise its national and local governance”. CPD references to the strategy plan “Syria 2030” are concerning. Denmark reminds agencies of donor conditionalities, including those of the EU, not to support reconstruction until a political process, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 2254, is firmly underway.</p> | <p>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>UNICEF has significantly expanded its reach over the past period to have sustained presence in areas such as the Northeast of Syria, through a transparent approach, in an effort to provide assistance to the most vulnerable and hard to reach children in the country in an equitable manner. In terms of humanitarian access, it is mentioned in Paragraph 48 as part of risks. In close coordination with RC/HC and Humanitarian Country Team, UNICEF will continue its effort to expand the reach.</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>As referenced in Paragraph 23 of the CPD, UNICEF operates fully in line with the document titled, “Parameters and Principles of UN assistance in Syria”, which recognize that reconstruction will only be possible once a credible political solution, consistent with UNSCR 2254 and the Geneva Communiqué, is firmly underway but also that assistance is</p> |
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| | | <p>to be prioritized based on the needs of the population, with a particular focus on the needs of vulnerable children, families and communities, in a manner that protects human rights and child rights as an outcome, and that such assistance be delivered in a fair, equitable, non-discriminatory and non-politicized manner.</p> |
| <p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p> | <p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p> | |