

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.
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Delegation name: **TURKEY**

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)
General comments	<p>Turkey, along with other member states, has expressed its strong concerns regarding the UN Strategic Framework 2022-2024 for Syria and objected to the narrative of this document, which does not correctly reflect the current situation in the country and the ongoing conflict, where the Syrian regime is responsible for the devastating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the country.</p> <p>The Strategic Framework ignores the fact that the enormous social and economic problems as well as the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure in Syria are the direct result of the regime's ongoing war against its own people. The entire narrative is shaped around the idea that there is no culprit behind the situation. As such, the Framework reflects the views of the Syrian regime, rather than the</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>UNICEF will continue to be an active and substantive player in implementing and operating as One UN. As the co-chair of United Nations Programme Management Team this year in particular, UNICEF has been leading the discussion about joint programming / joint programmes while it has also been an active partner in ongoing UN joint</p>

<p>needs of the Syrian people and reproduces and supports the discourse of the regime.</p> <p>The UNICEF CPD draft has the same shortcoming in context analysis. This, in turn, could hinder proper risk management and undermine country level implementation, whose sole focus should be addressing the needs and alleviating the suffering of the Syrian people in the face of an ongoing conflict.</p> <p>In order to do that, the UN must maintain the consistency and coherence of its overall engagement in Syria, in line with “One UN” approach. Different pillars of the system cannot employ contradicting policies. <i>How does UNICEF plan to ensure this?</i></p> <p>It is crucial that the UN, including its funds and programs, both at the planning and implementation phases, reflect the views, expectations and the needs of all Syrian people. This is also a requirement of the “Whole-of-Syria” approach, which was established by the Organization itself in response to the humanitarian situation.</p> <p>UN programming cannot overlook the needs of millions of Syrians by treating the regime as the only counterpart or beneficiary of its assistance, in particular when it is unclear what the regime is expected to deliver in exchange for this assistance.</p> <p>Given the serious problem of regime’s corruption and diversion of international aid for its own purposes, close monitoring and meticulous risk management, with full institutional transparency and all necessary safeguard measures are essential. <i>How does UNICEF plan to ensure this?</i></p> <p>It is also crucial that the issue of early recovery is implemented without discrimination for all Syrians in need throughout the country, the majority of whom live outside the control of the regime. <i>How does UNICEF plan to ensure this?</i></p>	<p>programmes. It also co-chairs Basic Services Pillar to ensure consistency and coherence in the overall UN engagement in Syria.</p> <p>Due to the limitation of the CPD, which is meant to provide a broad framework with strict word limit, it is difficult to further elaborate.</p> <p>In terms of safeguard measures, the risk management description in the CPD has been reviewed to better reflect UNICEF’s risk management system in paragraphs 48-51.</p> <p>UNICEF in Syria has made significant investment in assessment of violations and vulnerability that children and their communities face and risk management capacities drawn from its robust system. While humanitarian programming relies on the continuous and forward-looking assessment and mitigation of risks, UNICEF collects information from the field to manage risks in a timely manner to ensure its ability to deliver assistance with full respect to humanitarian principles. On this basis, UNICEF continuously reviews and assesses the risks associated with its operations and programming to ensure its ability to deliver assistance in a neutral, impartial, and independent way that upholds a human-rights based and Do No Harm approach. In these efforts, UNICEF’s extensive field presence, evidence based and strong advocacy, close monitoring and continuous, close engagement with communities are critical components.</p> <p>UNICEF conducts due diligence verifications for implementing partners with whom it works. It also utilizes the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers, a risk-based management framework for cash transfers to implementing partners. This ensures partners are assessed for financial management</p>
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	<p>Well-intentioned efforts of the UN or its frameworks and program documents cannot be allowed to become instruments in the attempts of the regime to create a false impression of normalcy or a post-conflict narrative for Syria.</p> <p>The ultimate objective in Syria is a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition in order to end the conflict, which is a UN facilitated process in line with Security Council resolution 2254.</p>	<p>capacity to determine the overall risk rating and assurance activities. UNICEF conducts assurance activities and ensures that recommended actions are taken to strengthen the partner’s capacity and lead to management actions. UNICEF is also an active member of the UN Humanitarian Country Team which discusses and reviews risks and dynamics affecting humanitarian response in Syria as coordinated also with the Resident Coordinator Risk Management Unit. Also, regional dynamics are informed by UNICEF’s Regional Office.</p> <p>UNICEF has four complementary and triangulated programme monitoring modalities. First, UNICEF implementing partners conduct their own monitoring and submit progress reports. Second, independent third-party monitors then impartially verify implementation using prescribed checklists. Third, UNICEF staff and third-party technical facilitators conduct programme monitoring visits to assess progress and quality of results, and identify constraints and adaptations required. Feedback mechanisms are the final pillar of monitoring, including a complaint mechanism/service line, suggestion boxes, beneficiary surveys, focus group discussions and post-distribution monitoring surveys.</p> <p>UNICEF fully supports UNSCR 2254 and the work of the UN Special Envoy for Syria, and seeks to lend support to the efforts undertaken by the UN Special Envoy.</p>
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<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p><i>What are the concrete steps to be taken by UNICEF to implement the CPD in line with UN's Parameters and Principles for Assistance in Syria, when they are not accepted by the major recipient, namely the regime?</i></p> <p><i>The central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs is to leave no one behind. How does UNICEF plans to implement the CPD without leaving any Syrian behind, in the context of an ongoing conflict where the main responsible of the aggravated problems that UN Agencies are trying to address is the regime itself?</i></p>	<p>UNICEF's strong presence on the ground through six field offices and our partnerships with local communities, will ensure beneficiary feedback to inform programme design based on the needs of children and their families. At the same time, UNICEF will capitalize on the humanitarian needs assessments as active partners in several sectors and leads in Education, Nutrition and WASH sectors as well as Child Protection Area of Responsibility. Furthermore, as part of One UN, UNICEF will continue to contribute to the concerted efforts of UN Country Team in needs assessment.</p>
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