

**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: United Kingdom

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.

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
<b>General comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The United Kingdom reiterates its serious concerns regarding certain aspects of the UN Strategic Framework for Syria (Framework), particularly the absence of language around the armed conflict and that Syria is not yet assessed as safe for refugees to return. The document contains outdated data or information, or pivotal information is omitted entirely.</li><li>• The CPDs, like the Strategic Framework, are lacking important references to the armed conflict and the resulting humanitarian crisis. We agree with the US</li></ul>	<p>Paragraph 35 of the CPD has been reviewed to articulate UNICEF's commitments for child protection and for monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict and address them, including for the recruitment and use of children and children in detention.</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 to be prioritized based on the needs of the population, with a</p>

	<p>that the CPDs’ country and community context analyses which inform both the public and its own program decision-making should reflect stakeholders’ input and the impact of armed conflicts on the country and local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We welcome the emphasis on humanitarian early recovery being part of the UN’s response in Syria alongside emergency humanitarian relief, especially to ensure the implementation of the paragraphs related to early recovery projects contained in Security Council resolution 2585 (2021). Early recovery must be delivered firmly within our political red lines of no reconstruction until the conditions of a political settlement under 2254 have been met.</li> <li>• The implementation of the UN’s humanitarian operations must adhere to “Parameters and Principles of UN Assistance in Syria,” including the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, and independence for life-saving humanitarian assistance and early recovery and resilience activities. This includes securing access to the geographies of Syria to reach the most vulnerable Syrians affected by conflict. <b>Footnote #17</b>, which reads “<i>The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic does not accept the document titled ‘Parameters and Principles of UN Assistance in Syria,’</i>” raises significant questions about how the UN will secure the necessary permissions and access for principled aid delivery. The UK requests an explanation of how the UN will overcome the resistance of the Government to continuously improve its principled delivery.</li> </ul>	<p>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>The footnote on the “Parameters and Principles of UN assistance in Syria” has been amended to read the following: “The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was not consulted on the “Parameters and Principles of UN assistance in Syria”.</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>
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<b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b>	<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>	