

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2022 second regular session

Draft country programme document commenting period (except for the draft CPD for Gabon): 14 June to 5 July 2022 [18:00 EST]

Draft country programme document for Gabon commenting period: 17 June to 11 July 2022 [18:00 EST]

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: *European Union*

Draft country programme document: *Niger*

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>1) The document highlights in its bullet point 11 (page 4/16) that UNICEF will focus on '<i>interventions that promote sustainable and resilient development, particularly those that benefit women and young children, while maintaining agility in responding to emergencies and taking into account the nexus approach</i>'. However, through the narrative UNICEF remains to the curative than prevention actions. Example for malnutrition of under five years children, the indicator is related to the '<i>Number of children aged 6–59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment</i>'. <i>What about moderate and chronic malnutrition/stunting?</i></p> <p>A recent investigation done by EC/EU DEL Niger (Nov. 2021) on the mapping of donors in nutrition sector in Niger shows that more funds are used for curative actions versus prevention (<i>eg. In 2020,</i></p>	

	<p><i>57% of funds used for curative interventions against 43% for prevention).</i></p> <p>2) Looking to the Summary budget table (page 9/16), it is clear that ‘other resources’ is more than 2 times the ‘regular resources’ and its availability is subject to the specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2023 to 2027. What is the experience of UNICEF in its funding system? Is there any probability of not covering some programme component? Per instance, two topics (<i>Every child lives in a safe and sustainable environment and Every child lives free from poverty</i>) are mainly expected to be funded by the ‘other resources’, which represents 6 times the ‘regular resources’</p> <p>The document doesn’t refer to the SNAEFFF- <i>la stratégie nationale d'accélération de l'éducation et de la formation des filles et des femmes</i> (if put in action this strategy could have a huge impact on improving gender equality (and the protection of girls) in education.</p>	
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p>3) Bullet point 23. Page 6/16 How UNICEF will contribute to improve the management of <i>food security stocks</i>?</p> <p>4) Bullet point 25. Page 6/16 How UNICEF intends to collaborate with specialized institutions/local and international in order to set up a sustainable mechanism of early warning system for drought and floods.</p> <p>5) Logframe/Annex: Outcome 3, point 3. For the indicator 2nd indicator “Percentage of the population practising open defecation”, the baseline is 68% while the rate in rural area is about 79%. Even though, to half (T=37.8%) this rate in 2027 seems to be utopic!</p>	

	<p>For all indicators, it would be relevant to have the baselines and its year of reference in parenthesis. It is done for some indicators but not systematically.</p> <p>6) P. 2 Footnote 7 no correct link to demographic growth, Niger experiences amongst the highest demographic growths globally, current language used does not reflect this reality.</p> <p>7) P.2, point 3. Useful to mention the attacks on schools when discussing the accessibility of essential social services (for example in tillabary currently 20% of the schools are closed!)</p> <p>8) P. 4 point 9, important to note that reliability of statistics in a huge concern in Niger and in particular in the sector of education, currently work is being done to address this. Also important to notice that there is a gap between primary schools and secondary/TVET education with insufficient schools to absorb the flow of students.</p> <p>9) P. 7 the Education and Training Sector Transition Plan for the Education and Training Sector 2020–2034, dates are wrong, plan is to be implemented between 2020 and 2023 before a decanal sectoral plan will be elaborated.</p> <p>10) P.9 given the poor digital connectivity of the country, e-education will not reach many pupils – alternatives such as education via radio might prove more effective.</p>	
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