

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: *USA*

Draft country programme document: *Pakistan*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CPD makes reference to Afghan refugee crisis but does not detail how programming will address the specific needs and compounded challenges of children in refugee communities, including those unregistered in Pakistan and unable to access health and social services.● What is UNICEF doing to increase polio vaccine acceptance, especially with parents who are reluctant to get their kids vaccinated?● We suggest doing an evaluation on NIA/SIA for polio much earlier than 2026; in addition, we suggest yearly evaluations on the effectiveness of these campaigns.● Does UNICEF have any concredited plans to collaborate with WHO to prepare for certification of the eradication of polio in Pakistan?	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We ask UNICEF to clarify how their nutrition and WASH programs link with social protection programs and support programs for disaster risk reduction and responding to shocks. ● We encourage UNICEF Pakistan to take into consideration lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and utilize the already existing vaccine supply chain to improve the country's routine immunization program. ● We ask UNICEF to consider giving more attention to maternal health in the program priorities. While the country's overall maternal mortality rate has decreased over the years, the disproportionately high rate in Balochistan Province (298 deaths per 100,000 live births) remains concerningly high. Region-specific strategies and primary health care interventions should be adapted to fit this unique region. 	
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p>Page 3/17: Reports three cases of wild polio virus in 2022, in fact there have been eleven cases to date, compared with one case in 2021. Polio eradication remains a concern; Afghanistan disruptions and migration threatens progress.</p>	

	<p>Page 6/17: Health programming described does not detail how the program will be effective in strengthening health systems or providing immunizations against COVID-19.</p>	
	<p>Page 7/17: Nutrition programming described does not detail how the program will address gaps and deficits in nutrition due to the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, climate crisis, and weakened supply chains.</p>	
	<p>Page 7-8/17: Child protection programming does not address specific means of eliminating child, early, and forced marriages (CEFM) amongst religious minorities, who suffer from kidnappings and forced conversions via CEFM.</p> <p>Page 11-12/17 Is UNICEF evaluating their support to national and subnational immunization activities (NIA/SIA) focused on polio for Pakistan?</p> <p>Page 7 (of CEP): Why is the evaluation of polio occurring in 2026 and not earlier?</p>	

