

## 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: *Montenegro*

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)
<b>General comments</b>  <b>In Montenegro UNICEF is a strong partner to the EU and to the Accession process. Contacts with NEAR D2, D5 and the EUD are regular and valued.</b>  <b>The document reflects this close working relationship.</b>	<b>Key focus on EU Accession well noted. This should continue to be reinforced and embedded in development of UN work in country.</b>	

<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b></p>	<p><b>Poverty</b></p> <p>Protection from poverty, violence and exploitation</p> <p>26. This component will engage in public advocacy about the harmful effects of poverty, adversity, violence, and exploitation. It will promote institution-building and community mobilization. UNICEF will collaborate with key partners and across the sectors to build commitment to an evidence-based national multidimensional poverty reduction strategy, supported by effective monitoring of its implementation. It will advocate for an expanded system of shock-responsive social and child protection that reaches children and families living in poverty and children who need protection.</p> <p><i>We would request a description on how UNICEF intends to tackle this priority in Montenegro particularly if they rely in EU funding to achieve results in this area.</i></p> <p><b>Early Childhood Development</b></p> <p>29. To create an enabling, nurturing environment in which every child can thrive, technical support will be given for the</p>	

	<p>implementation of an integrated early childhood development (ECD) strategy and the development of relevant policies and plans to promote young child health and development.</p> <p><i>In fact the development of ECD policy is envisaged under the ongoing EU and UNICEF project on ECD, but noted here that it is still remains to developed in 2023 (it was originally planned in 2021).</i></p> <p>30. The programme will contribute to health workers' strengthened technical knowledge and skills with a focus on immunization, on maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition, and on counselling and interpersonal communication with families. The programme will advocate for improved workforce capacity at the primary health care level and integrated prevention-focused services.</p> <p><i>Since the ongoing ECD project is dealing with strengthening skills of health workers' and on counselling and interpersonal communication with families. Can UNICEF explain what will be the focus of UNICEF's future intervention(s), and how will they differ from the ongoing one?</i></p> <p>32. UNICEF will advocate with government and other partners to expand accessible preschool infrastructure and quality services, especially for the most vulnerable such as those with disabilities and from Roma and Egyptian communities, and to implement the ECE strategy.</p>	
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	<p><i>Access to the pre-school education and quality services to children with disabilities and from Roma and Egyptian communities are included in the project proposal submitted to the EUDEL by UNICEF. However, this may not be addressed at the first phase of the planned project. We are interested to know if UNICEF has more ideas (concepts) on how to support and to further inclusive education in MNE.</i></p>	
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