

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: 14 June to 5 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: **GERMANY**

Draft country programme document: **E/ICEF/2022/P/L.22; Zambia**

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	The policy highlights the importance of girls rights and SRHS targets , and that all efforts e.g. regarding nutrition, education and WASH cannot be seen separated from population dynamics . However, we suggest to translate this into more concrete programmes on strengthening girls rights and SRHS , in particular addressing the high rates of teenage pregnancies .	UNICEF appreciates the comments made by Germany on Zambia draft country programme document (CPD). Given Zambia's demographic dividend with adolescents representing a quarter of Zambia's population, UNICEF will support the Government to deliver policies and programmes that address the specific needs of adolescents (in particular adolescent girls). With the changing political environment in favour of adolescent and youth rights, in particular girls, there is an enabling environment grounded in the National Youth Policy, draft Children's Code Bill, draft National Youth Strategy as well as the draft National Adolescent Health Strategy 2022-2026. UNICEF support will be across various sectors, e.g. adolescent health (including sexual and reproductive health services and information, and mental health); adolescent nutrition (factoring in the significant teenage pregnancy rate and the additional nutrition needs this

		<p>comes with); investing in keeping girls in schools (thereby preventing risk of pregnancy) and supporting skills development for this age group; while engaging adolescents to participate in decisions that affect them, and creating platforms to allow for meaningful adolescent engagement. UNICEF will also continue its work on preventing child marriage and gender-based violence prevention and response. Social and behaviour change strategies will be employed to address the social norms and practices that underpin these, including those resulting in high rates of teenage pregnancies. These actions will be taken in close collaboration and coordination with UN agencies such as UNFPA, WHO and UNAIDS.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nutrition: The section focusses on the health sector but should also, along the "multisectoral approach", include measures promoting diversified food supply and production in collaboration with other partners (as through the SUN II programme). ➤ Data are provided mostly only up to 2018 (pt. 3 & 4, p. 2) Does this shows a general lack of adequate basic data? If so, we call on UNICEF to support GRZ in this respect as outlined in para. 31 	<p>Recognizing the multisectoral interventions required to address the drivers of poor nutrition, UNICEF will work through the health system delivery platform – but also support the Government to leverage the food, WASH, education and social protection systems to address all forms of malnutrition and their underlying causes. The Scaling Up Nutrition Phase II (SUN-II) Programme, which is a joint UN initiative, works with multiple government Ministries and partners (UN agencies and civil society partners) to implement a multisectoral package of interventions, including interventions aimed at promoting diversified food supply and production, sustained practice of optimal nutrition behaviours, utilization of quality health and WASH services, linking beneficiaries to various social protection programmes, etc.</p> <p>The most authoritative data presented in the draft CPD are from the 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey. The Government of Republic of Zambia is planning to carry out the 2022 Census, which UNICEF will support, along with a repeat Demographic and Health Survey in the new</p>

	<p>➤ WASH: Pt.. 33: Efforts supporting climate resilience in WASH should be well coordinated with Ministry of Water and Sanitation and their general efforts regarding Water Resource Management in the face of climate change. Also Ministry of Health should be involved.</p>	<p>country programme period. As outlined in the draft CPD, in the 2023-2027 country programme, UNICEF will support the Government on routine household surveys with a view of strengthening data robustness, data disaggregation, equity and child focus. It will also support to enhance the use of real-time data, including using the digital tools and platforms, strengthen administrative data systems, and find innovative ways to triangulate this with other rapid and targeted surveys to identify who the most vulnerable are, and where they are, in order to ensure no child left behind.</p> <p>UNICEF agrees that efforts supporting climate resilience in WASH sector should be well coordinated with the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS) in the face of climate change. Major government partners for the climate-resilient WASH outcome also include the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment; and The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit under the Office of the Vice President. UNICEF has started to explore ways to improve the climate resilience of WASH systems with existing partners, for example, by drilling deeper in areas where shallow aquifers recharge may be affected by climate change.</p>
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