

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: **Sweden**

Draft country programme document: **Zambia E/ICEF/2022/P/L22**

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">- The country programme has been elaborated with good consultation with cooperating partners, as well as GRZ. It has strong ownership and is aligned with country priorities.- Important to maintain focus on UNICEF's areas of comparative advantage.	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by Sweden on Zambia draft Country Programme Document (CPD).</p> <p>Informed by the 2021 Situation Analysis of the Status and Well-Being of Children in Zambia and the UN Common Country Analysis, the Government of Republic of Zambia (GRZ)-UNICEF Programme of Cooperation (2023-2027) is the product of an inclusive and participatory process involving a wide range of partners, including the Government, cooperating partners, civil society organizations, and academia, etc.</p> <p>Drawing on the breadth and depth of UNICEF's corporate experience, comparative advantage and long-lasting partnerships with the Government and other partners, the programmes and strategies in the draft CPD are aligned with</p>

		<p>priorities outlined in GRZ’s Eighth National Development Plan, and the 2023-2027 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Zambia.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important to explore opportunities to <u>include nutrition</u> in child-sensitive social protection and achieve synergies with the nutrition programme. (para 44). - Lessons learned from previous phases of social cash transfer programmes should be taken into account during implementation (financial misappropriation, some accusations of non-transparent selection criteria previous to last elections in 2021) - Important that efforts that focus on strengthening government capacities to stimulate demand for, and deliver, quality and inclusive primary education, takes into account the effects of scrapping of school fees in 2022, leading to an increase in attendance with a risk of lower quality education (higher student to teacher ratio). 	<p>UNICEF agrees with Sweden on the importance of including nutrition in the social protection scheme. Currently, UNICEF is supporting the Government to pilot 1,000 days Social Cash Transfer Nutrition Cash Plus programme in selected districts, aiming to achieve synergies between the social cash transfer programme and nutrition programme</p> <p>UNICEF is committed to work with the new administration in its push for improved governance, including in public finance management with evidence and capacity building. UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen and expand the social cash transfer programme to be more child-sensitive, disability-inclusive and shock-responsive. This will entail closing inclusion gaps, strengthening M&E and data management, and facilitating linkages across programmes in wider Cash-Plus frameworks.</p> <p>Recognizing the long-standing learning crisis in Zambia, UNICEF’s support to the Government will focus on strengthening the quality and inclusiveness of education. This is especially important given the sectoral reforms introduced by the Government which will lead to increased access, while necessitating efforts to strengthen institutional and sector capacities to deliver evidence-based, equity-driven and coordinated education services. This includes elements such as enhancing the capacities of teachers and their professional development, improving teaching pedagogies, and improving curriculum development, to name a few.</p>