

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: *Romania*

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">We ask for more specifics (and examples of detailed programming) on how UNICEF will address the 2022 spike of refugee children.	<p>Since the start of the war in Ukraine, our strategic investments and support to promoting and realizing child rights – with a focus on making the different social services equitably accessible to all children and families – now includes refugee children as well. With Romania being a member of the European Union since 2007 with a strong governance structure – UNICEF will continue to focus on strengthening the existing systems and services – with equity being the core lens.</p> <p>When it comes to detailed programming for refugee children – UNICEF priority will lie in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Child protection: blue dot family support hubs will continue to be a key entry and referral point for the most vulnerable children and families; at the same time, investments and programming in

		<p>this area will aim to benefit the system as a whole; an example of recent progress in this regard is the successful introduction of Primero – which as an adaptable open-source case management system promises to use the current crisis as a leverage to digitalize much of the protection sector. Work around preventing and responding to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, including gender-based violence and trafficking, will be continued and strengthened (particularly within the third CPD outcome).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Education: support to refugee children around inclusive quality education, again, aims to strengthen the education sector as a whole – which will take different forms, both informal and formal – in close collaboration with the Government of and UNICEF team in Ukraine. 3. Health: access to immunization and health and prevention services have been UNICEF focus in the past five years and the refugee response places an even greater emphasis in this regard. By ensuring that these critical services are fully and equally made available to refugee children and families, the system will be made more inclusive and resilient. Healthy and safe practices promotion, especially with respect to nutrition and mental health will also be prioritized, as part of UNICEF work on social and behavior change. 4. Recent months have shown that the ongoing crisis has allowed for stakeholders in Romania to come closer together across key sectors – (border) police, social assistance, child protection, education and health. UNICEF intends to leverage this critical momentum and attention – supporting the government at national, county and local levels to increasingly systematize and normalize this modus operandi as good practice. Cross-sectoral areas of work and interventions will also look at ensuring accountability to affected populations (refugee children and other vulnerable groups), leveraging innovations for change (use of Primero as
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		<p>mentioned earlier, scaling up proven solutions such as the successfully tried and tested Aurora software as part of scaling up the Minimum Package of Services). Child and adolescent participation – both as a programming tool and good practice – will continue to be championed as a way to ensure this becomes a systemic part of governance and decision-making at all levels as well as to ensure that all vulnerable groups, including child refugees, are empowered to influence decisions affecting them and their future.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>		