

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: *Nigeria*

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 United States fully supports the strategy of improving routine immunization services by leveraging successes of polio immunization programs and by utilizing key resources of the COVID-19 vaccination supply chain. We encourage UNICEF to take advantage of other already-existing vaccine infrastructure.	<p>UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the comments on its draft country programme for 2023-27 from the USA and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional information that could not be adequately covered in a 6000 words document.</p> <p>UNICEF is grateful to the US Government for their support to the strategy for improving routine immunization. As mentioned in paragraph 26 page 6 of the draft CPD, UNICEF will continue to build on existing polio structures and assets including Voluntary Community Mobilizers (VCM) that are being integrated into community health cadres and will also build on the existing expanded cold chain and vaccine</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We ask UNICEF to use gender-sensitive strategies for the prevention and treatment of HIV given the disproportionate rates of HIV among young women.	<p>management systems. We will continue to leverage the success of polio, especially in the area of social and behaviour change as well as the experience from COVID-19 response which includes the digitalisation of immunization data management system.</p> <p>UNICEF agrees on the importance to continue focusing on the use of gender – sensitive strategies for the prevention and treatment of HIV.</p> <p>Consequently, UNICEF will continue to support studies and regular information systems to ensure the availability of gender disaggregated data at sub-national levels on access to HIV prevention services and uptake of treatment. This helped the programme to identify the huge burden in some Local Government Areas and design gender responsive programmes accordingly. For example, the tool for adolescent girls jointly developed by Government and UNICEF integrated the realities of HIV prevention and treatment among young women and the service providers were trained accordingly. The strategy is explicitly referred to under paragraph 25, page 6 of the draft CPD.</p> <p>Additionally, UNICEF develops gender responsive strategies with young women and men through data driven approaches for the delivery of PHC services. An innovative programme to promote access to pre-exposure treatment in at risk communities and young people is being piloted and will be expanded upon, focusing on gender norms that affect young women. HIV treatment, particularly for young adolescent and women is supported at health facilities and at community levels.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The United States appreciates the focus on nutrition in the Country Programme Document. Please comment on UNICEF’s involvement in the rollout of the Global Action Plan for Child Wasting Framework, as Nigeria is a frontrunner country. How will UNICEF expand its approach to include moderate wasting and wasting prevention? The plan currently says the expansion will only include stunting prevention. ● We ask UNICEF to include exclusive breastfeeding as a specific nutrition strategy and program priority given the emphasis placed on the first 1,000 days of life. ● UNICEF notes a unique advocacy role with the Government of Nigeria around nutrition goals. How will UNICEF help the government better position capacity and financing to fill out the supply chain of RUFs for treatment of wasting? How will UNICEF leverage local suppliers of RUFs in nutrition approaches? 	<p>UNICEF is grateful for the US government appreciation of the nutrition focus in the country programme. In keeping with the Global Action Plan for Child Wasting (GAP) and UNICEF’s global sector lead role for nutrition, UNICEF works closely with four UN agencies (FAO, WFP, WHO and UNHCR) to develop joint workplans, harmonize programme implementation and ensure integration where feasible. UNICEF’s plan will include stunting prevention as well as treatment of therapeutic feeding, wasting, and wasting prevention.</p> <p>UNICEF’s focus on the First 1000 Days of Life, along with the introduction and scale-up of innovative commodities such as Small Quantity Lipid Nutrient Supplements (SQ-LNS) and approaches via cash-based programming through the social protection system is intended to prevent all forms of undernutrition, including child wasting.</p> <p>The protection, promotion and support for early, exclusive, and continued breastfeeding remains a priority area under the new country programme. Specific reference is made in the draft CPD result framework which includes a dedicated indicator for breastfeeding on page 12.</p> <p>Proposed strategies include strengthening policy (including maternity protection and the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes), social behaviour change communication and social mobilization, and strengthening the PHC system to provide timely breastfeeding counselling and support.</p> <p>UNICEF has worked closely with government and private sector to enable approval of three local manufacturers of RUTF, which is intended to improve supply chain reliability. UNICEF is in consultation with the manufacturers regarding expansion of product base (e.g. to include SQ-LNS) and to test new formulations of RUTF using alternatives to peanut butter (e.g. soy based). UNICEF is piloting an innovative</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We strongly recommend UNICEF undertake a learning exercise about effective Cash for Nutrition approaches to inform social protection programming options for whole-of-Nigeria investments ● We appreciate that UNICEF will implement programs according to principles of accountability to affected populations (AAP), if needed as a service provider. We urge UNICEF to play a leadership role in system-wide collective AAP at the country level, to advocate for and to build capacity for AAP, even when UNICEF is not directly implementing. 	<p>match-fund to unlock domestic resources for RUTF and intends to scale the same in the new country programme.</p> <p>UNICEF appreciates the US recommendations which are already being taken into account ahead of the implementation of social protection programme in the new Country Programme.</p> <p>In particular, UNICEF is undertaking an analysis of all cash programmes including for Nutrition to inform programming approaches across different sectors, including health, education, WASH and nutrition.</p> <p>UNICEF is utilizing this last year of its Country Programme to work closely with government on strengthening cash-based programming through social protection platforms.</p> <p>UNICEF is grateful to the US government for trusting our Organization’s capacity to play a leading role in promoting AAP.</p> <p>UNICEF is an active participant in the systemwide north-east Community Engagement, Accountability and Localization (CEAL) Working Group. UNICEF plays a key role in strengthening accountability systems such as community feedback mechanisms and ensures that AAP is integrated in all stages of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). These efforts are complemented by UNICEF’s advocacy in various humanitarian coordination forums, in particular the inter-sector coordination group (ISCG), the Operational Humanitarian Country Team (OHCT) at State level, and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).</p>
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<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p>	