

## 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: *Niger*

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The United States welcomes the Country Programme Document for Niger.</li><li>• UNICEF highlights significant challenges related to “the lack of health centres, their uneven geographic distribution and their poor provision of equipment, qualified personnel and water and sanitation facilities.” How will UNICEF address this issue, both directly and indirectly, e.g. through engagement with other partners?</li></ul>	<p>UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the comments on its draft country programme for 2023-27 from the United States Government and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional information that could not be adequately covered in a 6000 words document.</p> <p>UNICEF appreciates the US government concerns with regards to challenges related to health services.</p> <p>To address these challenges, UNICEF’s programme will focus on bringing basic health care closer to populations living in the most remote and difficult-to-access areas.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We ask UNICEF to further clarify its social behavior change approaches to accompany sanitation and hygiene activities.</li> </ul>	<p>More specifically, UNICEF will promote the use of mobile clinics and the strengthening of the community health platform including a basic health service package as mentioned in paragraph 18 and 19.</p> <p>Health facilities (Hospitals and Health Centers) in Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Zinder regions will be specifically reinforced with material and equipment to increase their capacity and autonomy in provision of basic health care for their population.</p> <p>Advocacy with municipalities and decentralized entities responsible for the management of health centers will be strengthened to ensure ownership and sustainability. In partnership with the WB, EU and IsDB, UNICEF will set up an innovative mechanism to boost motivation of health personnel living in these areas. Performance-based motivation will be launched and piloted in selected health districts.</p> <p>UNICEF will also improve access to adequate water and sanitation facilities in selected health centres. Priority will be given to the construction of gender segregated latrines in health and nutrition centers as well as t the provision of safe drinking water through construction of solar powered autonomous water points connected to the existing water network. Capacities of municipal authorities and communities will be strengthened to deliver and manage WASH services through local financial resources. The programme will also advocate for mobilisation and allocation of additional resources (national budget, donors).</p> <p>UNICEF plans to expand its work in the area of Social &amp; Behavior Change (SBC) to promote and sustain promising practices in the area of WASH.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We appreciate UNICEF’s attention to strengthening of sector governance and accountability frameworks and urge UNICEF to ensure the communities’ voices, especially those of the most vulnerable, are incorporated, as per Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) principles.</li> </ul>	<p>As such, UNICEF will support improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices through a range of evidence-based Social &amp; Behavior Change (S&amp;BC) strategies using behavioral insights and human centered design approaches to nudge positive behavior and social change.</p> <p>As mentioned in the draft CPD in paragraph 26: Community participation and engagement will be strengthened for an improved access to and use of sanitation and hygiene services.</p> <p>SBC will be a key strategy for expanding the community total led sanitation (CLTS) approach, the development and implementation of the national WASH in School strategy as well as the sector contribution to fight against malnutrition and water related diseases.</p> <p>Indeed, Accountability to Affected Population is part of UNICEF new programme as mentioned in paragraph 38. Led by our Social &amp; Behavioral Change (SBC) and Social Inclusion teams, the diverse needs and capacities of the individuals are recognized and promoted through community-based engagement mechanisms (Voice of Youth, Voice of Women, and other on-going discussion with the communities). Some vulnerable people, such as women and children, were engaged in the CPD preparation consultations led by our sub-national offices. Involvement of affected and vulnerable population will continue throughout the CPD implementation cycle and by strengthening existing feedback and complaints mechanisms.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the document, UNICEF acknowledges the low level of national budget spending on social sectors and the risks associated with limited national budget and inconsistent institutional capacity that could compromise achieving outlined objectives. However, the mitigation measures mentioned do address these particular risks. Can UNICEF expand on planned measures to mitigate risks specifically related to these budgetary and institutional capacity concerns?</li> </ul>	<p>UNICEF acknowledges the importance to increase or at least preserve national expenditure for social services. Regarding planned measures on risk mitigation specifically related to budgetary and institutional capacity concerns, UNICEF has developed a distinct component in our new draft country programme dedicated to addressing bottlenecks in budget allocation, efficiency and equity of spending across social sectors, and budget transparency at national and sub-national levels. UNICEF will leverage our existing partnerships with the Ministry of Finance and social sector ministries and expand our advocacy together with key IFIs like the IMF and the World Bank and with the UN system.</p> <p>As mentioned in paragraph 36: UNICEF will support the authorities in charge of social protection, socioeconomic inclusion, decentralization and public finance reform policies through technical assistance: (a) to strengthen national child rights monitoring systems and child poverty analyses; and (b) to build the capacity of sectoral ministries, local authorities, members of the National Assembly and civil society organizations in monitoring public expenditure on children. In the priority intervention areas, UNICEF will strengthen the capacities of the local authorities, focusing on planning, participatory budgeting and mobilizing and diversifying resources for children.</p> <p>UNICEF is also participating in the monitoring of social spending in accordance with the Memorandum on Niger's economic and financial policies (May 11, 2022) including the social investment of the medium-term growth oil revenues.</p>
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<b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b>	<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>	
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