

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: *The Danish Mission to the UN*

Draft country programme document: *Draft country programme document for Egypt (2023-2027) (E/ICEF/2022/P/L.30)*

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	<p>The draft country programme for Egypt (2023-2027) overall captures the needs for child protection and development in the country, but it could further address the challenges to the programme to ensure full effectiveness and progress of the interventions.</p> <p>Further, the country programme should include reference to and inclusion of civil society organizations on children rights particularly in Section (2) on programme priorities and partnerships.</p>	<p>The country programme document derives from more detailed analyses undertaken for each programme outcome, along specific theories of changes which capture challenges in acceleration to progress and target bottlenecks.</p> <p>UNICEF agrees that partnership with civil society organisations will be crucial to deliver on the results of the country programme. Specific civil society organisations with whom UNICEF and the Government will partner will be identified at the time of the development of the specific workplans. While kept generic in the CPD Result framework, partnerships with CSOs are mentioned for each of the programme outcome.</p>

<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p>In Section (1) on <i>programme rationale</i>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main challenges for progress on several issues, including in relation to follow up and implementation, could be elaborated in this section. - Paragraph 1 could include the current economic challenges faced by the Egyptian economy and its potential impact; as it only states economic growth stability in the Egyptian economy with decreasing poverty rate, which is not necessarily the case at the moment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paragraphs 7, 10 and 14, tackling the situation of migrant and refugee children, do not encompass the exclusion of refugee and migrant children from state social services, including social care intuitions. 	<p>It is agreed that a limited word count does not allow for more nuances and descriptions of complexities of the macro-economic and economic situation of Egypt. It is also acknowledged that the CPD has been developed based on available data and evidence at the time of its preparation (including on poverty and the status of the economic situation) and its common interpretation by UNICEF and partners at that time. As such the analysis in the CPD has limitations, and the picture can not be fully accurate at the time of the submission. The impact of recent developments on the global stage have yet to be fully understood on Egypt's society and economy, and in the course of the country programme, it will be important to strengthen national monitoring systems, as mentioned in the CPD, to be able to support the adaptation of national strategies and policies and adjust the Country Programme, as need be. Depending on the situation, the need to undertake a mid-term review of the country programme will be explored.</p> <p>In relation to the access of children on the move to state social services and their protection, the Government of Egypt has effectively included and provided access to basic social services (health, education, etc) for migrant and refugee children. In 2022, the Government has given access to additional social services that include case management services for unaccompanied and separated children and children on the move. UNICEF is already working on the implementation of this decision in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and NCCPIM-TIP. The country programme will aim at further removing barriers to inclusion.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moreover, paragraph 10 does not adequately address the various protection issues faced by children in contact with the law and particularly children on the move; including but not limited to over-use of detention, lack of access to legal representation and lack of statistics of the matter. This is also coupled by limited rehabilitation and reintegration services for these children. These factors are critical to address. - Paragraph 11 refers to decreasing rates of FGM, while the cited official statistics (Egypt Demographic and Health Survey 2014) do not indicate such progress. The cited survey indicates a rate of 87.6 % among women and girls aged 15-19 years. More recent estimates should be cited in the country programme, if available. <p>Section 2 on <i>programme priorities and partnerships</i> should also focus on ensuring the systematic implementation of national policies to promote progress and sustainability of efforts.</p>	<p>Indeed, issues relating to detention, and other barriers to inclusion are important to tackle to improve the situation of children migrants and the comments by the Danish mission is welcomed and supportive of the objectives and strategies of the Country Programme, which are already at the core of the interventions of UNICEF and part of the MoU signed in 2022 between the Ministry of Justice of the Arab Republic of Egypt and UNICEF. UNICEF and the Government will further work to continue to address the rights of child migrants, in the course of the implementation of the country programme.</p> <p>On FGM, data from various sources point to decreasing rates, while the prevalence remains very high and a source of concern. In the new Country Programme, addressing this harmful practice through multi-sectoral interventions will remain a priority for UNICEF, in cooperation with UNFPA and others,</p> <p>The systematic implementation of national policies to promote progress and sustainability of efforts, is indeed a key focus of the UNICEF Egypt Country programme. It is spelled out in the CPD: in paragraph 21 point (a) for example, we refer to ‘Support to national system-strengthening ...’ recognizing that policies are a crucial building block of the ‘system’ that UNICEF aims to strengthen. In the same paragraph, point (b) refers to the generation of data and analysis to inform national policies. Paragraph 22 focuses also on sustainable results.</p>
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