

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2023 first regular session

Draft country programme document commenting period for Cabo Verde common country programme document: 7 to 25 November 2022 [18:00 EST]

Draft country programme document commenting period for Algeria; Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Central African Republic; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Haiti; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Lebanon; Nepal; Pacific Islands (multi-country programme); Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine (area programme); Sao Tome and Principe: 15 November to 5 December 2022 [18:00 EST]

Draft country programme for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): TBC

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: *Australia*

Draft country programme document: *Pacific Islands Countries (multi-country programme)*

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.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	In general, there is broad policy alignment in the plan with Australia's development priorities, and we have good engagement with UNICEF and its programs across the Pacific.	UNICEF Pacific acknowledges and appreciates the positive feedback and comments on its draft country programme for 2023-2027 from the Government of Australia and would like to sincerely thank the Government and people of Australia for their continuous support to UNICEF's work for children and women in the Pacific.

	<p>We encourage UNICEF to increase focus on implementation issues and alignment to local/regional bodies and strategies (e.g. the PIF 2050 Strategy.). This may help ensure a more consistent narrative and policy alignment with donors who have already endorsed the regional strategies and invested in its implementation.</p> <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australia supports UNICEF’s approach to working in partnership with Ministries of Health and other key regional partners (UNFPA, FAO, WFP, WHO) on issues related to NCDs (high-impact nutrition interventions; strengthening legislation and regulatory arrangements), health workforce (including addressing issues around primary healthcare in remote communities), SRHR, and supporting countries accelerate progress towards UHC, with a focus on women and children. - The proposed work under health and nutrition aligning to the principles of development effectiveness; and makes an important contribution to a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. We would be pleased to engage where relevant with UNICEF and contribute to a more joined up approach on these priority health issues for the Pacific. - We note UNICEF’s ongoing coordination of the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) and efforts to revitalise routine immunisation following the setback due to COVID. - Interested in whether UNICEF has plans to integrate the procurement, and possible delivery, of additional essential health and nutrition supplies with routine immunisation services. 	<p>UNICEF appreciates the encouragement in relation to focus on national and regional bodies and strategies and reaffirms that the UNSDCF – from which the MCPD is derived – and the MCPD itself are designed to contribute to these national and regionally agreed commitments, including the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent of the Pacific Islands Forum as noted in paragraph 22.</p> <p>Health</p> <p>UNICEF appreciates the comments in relation to health and nutrition and looks forward to collaborating even more strongly with Australia to achieve accelerated results at scale across the Pacific.</p> <p>As noted in paragraph 33, options will be explored to expand the VII to include procurement of additional essential health and nutrition supplies, which would also include the delivery to end-user through existing routine immunization systems and services.</p>
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	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We recognise UNICEF’s leading role in delivering early childhood care and development in the Pacific, including as an implementing agency of the Pacific’s Regional Education Framework agenda. - We suggest the CPD would benefit from analysis of early childhood care and development outcomes since the last program document. 	<p>Education</p> <p>UNICEF appreciates the recognition of its leading role in ECD and in implementing the Pacific Regional Education Framework. In support of both the Pasifika Call for Action on ECD and the Pacific Regional Education Framework, UNICEF Pacific’s education programme will work across both the first and second decades of childhood to ensure that the gains made through ECD and primary education will be further expanded through programming support for adolescent education and skills development. As noted in paragraph 26, ECD will be addressed both by individual sectors and a coordinated cross-programme approach, maximizing opportunities for integrated delivery platforms. UNICEF will continue to support governments to develop and operationalize national multisectoral ECD strategies and plans.</p> <p>UNICEF appreciates the suggestion to include analysis of progress in ECD. Noting the MCPD word limitation, additional details have been included in paragraph 12 to highlight the significant outcome achieved in relation to the political leadership and moment through the formation of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development during the course of the current country programme.</p>
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Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document	<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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