

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2023 first regular session

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: *United States*

Draft country programme document: *Bolivia*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Are indigenous populations living in remote and protected areas classified under “rural populations?”<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Some of these populations have reported having zero to minimal support from the government in health and education, which the document recognizes on page 4, paragraph 12.	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the United States Delegation on the Bolivia country programme document (CPD). The comments are relevant and timely and will inform the ongoing work of elaborating programme strategy notes, work plans and advocacy strategies.</p> <p>In relation to the query about indigenous populations living in remote and protected areas, in the context of its new CPD, UNICEF Bolivia intends to focus its activities on indigenous communities, some of which are classified as rural populations.</p> <p>In Bolivia, Education Law 070 considers intercultural and plurilingual intracultural education as a priority. Within this framework, through the current cooperation program, UNICEF Bolivia has promoted the development and implementation of regionalized curricula for the indigenous population. The new cooperation program for 2023-2027</p>

will focus on removing barriers to access pre-primary and secondary education; addressing dropout rates; improving the quality of education and skills development; and empowering children and communities in shaping more inclusive, resilient, and peaceful school management with special emphasis in indigenous communities. The strategies include continuing to support the implementation of regionalized curricula in schools in the most vulnerable indigenous communities.

In Health, UNICEF will advocate for delivering services with an equity approach that considers the care of populations with geographical or cultural barriers to access. UNICEF support and technical assistance to the Intercultural Policy for Family and Community Health (SAFCI) will contribute to implementing different strategies adapted to the needs and culture of remote indigenous populations.

Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document

(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.

- Page 8, section on “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and sustainable climate and environment”: the United States would support mentioning the rapidly increasing mercury pollution in Bolivia’s water resources.
 - Bolivia is the largest importer of mercury in the world. Mercury has been found at unacceptable levels in women and children, especially in indigenous communities. As a growing risk to human health, especially in women and children, and the environment, is UNICEF addressing the rise in mercury pollution?

The source of mercury pollution in Bolivia is mainly related to its use in artisanal gold mining.

UNICEF Bolivia works with the Vice-Ministry of Environment and Biodiversity, developing strategies to raise awareness in mining groups about the impact of pollution on children’s and women’s health. Other activities designed with the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth include a Climate Change programme to strengthen national capacities for monitoring water pollution with chemical components, including mercury and pesticides. One of the most important results has been the development of an Index of Risks and Vulnerabilities of Children to Climate Change, which allows monitoring indicators related to water quality and informs the impact of pollution on children’s healthy development. UNICEF Bolivia also works with national authorities to promote local and national platforms to encourage the participation of children and adolescents in policy development and implementation on climate change issues, including water resources conservation.

During the 2023-2027 country program, UNICEF Bolivia will increase its efforts in climate change and environmental preservation, advocating and providing technical assistance to the government for increased budgets, adaptation measures and consideration of children’s rights in this agenda. These efforts include advocating for better environmental policies and action towards preventing the contamination of water resources with heavy metals, including mercury.

UNICEF’s plans also align with the broader UN system actions within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework aimed at addressing environmental challenges and mercury pollution.