

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; and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): 15 November to 5 December 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: *European Union*

Draft country programme document: *Sao Tome e Principe*

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">• Good reference to international conventions (Rights of child, Rights of PwD and Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women combined with domestic relevant policy (Programme of the 17th Constitutional Government 2018–2022) within the 2023–2027 UNSDCF. Following recent elections please update if necessary the domestic programme.	<p>UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the comments from the European Union on its draft country programme for 2023-27 and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional information that could not be adequately covered in a 6000 words document.</p> <p>The new government, which took office on 14 November 2022, is currently developing a new national development programme. The newly elected government has signed the 2023–2027 UNSDCF, from which the CPD is derived. Hence no significant changes are foreseen.</p>

<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Equitable child survival: health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene: as the EU Delegation is involved in WatSan sector budget support, we would appreciate close collaboration with UNICEF especially in following UNICEF components which are the backbone of our budget support : (a) evidence-based policies, increased budget allocations, and improved efficiency of public spending; (b) improved sectoral and multisectoral coordination (c) evidence-based planning, information systems and quality services nationally and at district level</i> <i>As regards coordination/complementarities, the programme refers to other UN agencies (WHO, UNDP, ILO) which is fine, but should be expanded at least to the EU</i> 	<p>UNICEF acknowledges the importance of strengthening and nurturing our strategic partnership with the European Union in relation to WASH to (a) advocate evidence-based policies, increased budget allocations, and improved efficiency of public spending;(b) improved sectoral and multisectoral coordination (c) evidence-based planning, information systems and quality services nationally and at district level.</p> <p>The draft Country Programme Document 2023-2027 refers to coordination with the EU in the sector of Water and Sanitation (paragraph 32, page 8) as well as in the Education sector with the aim of strengthening multisectoral coordination (paragraph 38).</p> <p>Para 32, page 8 “The programme will assist the Government in ensuring that children, including adolescents, and their families have access to safe and resilient WASH services in coordination with strategic partners including the European Union, the World Bank, bilateral donors and partners.”</p> <p>Para 38, page 9 “UNICEF will work with the World Bank, the European Union, the Global Partnership for Education, United Nations agencies and civil society to support the Government to design flexible learning pathways and implement multisectoral measures, including social and child protection to prevent school dropout, early pregnancy and violence, and to create alternative learning opportunities for adolescents (aged 11–19 years) in and out of school.”</p> <p>The CO has also included the reference to EU in the results framework. UNICEF will share evidence with the EU delegation regarding the work done under public finance for children, as well as coordinate the technical support provided to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Infrastructure on evidence-based planning, information systems and quality services nationally and at the district level</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social inclusion: <i>we commend the reference to the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, Family and Vocational Training and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Entrepreneurship as economic autonomy is key to fight poverty and increase social inclusion. We would appreciate dialogue with UNICEF on this matter as TVET is a key element of our green transition 2023 programme.</i> 	<p>UNICEF welcomes the appreciation of the EU and agrees to the importance of focusing on social inclusion and fighting poverty through economic autonomy with line ministries.</p> <p>Reference is made to multisectoral collaboration in the Education sector, which foresees TVET as a key component to achieve the expected results. UNICEF will actively reach out to the EU delegation for Sao Tome and Principe to deepen our dialogue, already started and ensure synergies to contribute to the EU green transition 2023 programme.</p>
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