

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: **Central African Republic**

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">No references are made to the RCPCA coordination mechanism, despite the leadership role UNICEF plays as Chair of several sectoral coordination committees (<i>comités de coordination sectorielle – CCS</i>)	<p>UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the comments on its draft country programme for 2023-27 from the EU and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional information that could not be adequately covered in a 6000 words document.</p> <p>UNICEF appreciates and agrees with the EU's comments on the importance of multisectoral coordination. The Country Programme will support this as part of its broader approach to system strengthening, which is one of the three main</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of beneficiaries, there is no particular focus/approach indicated to protect displaced/refugees and returnee children (notably the non-accompanied), despite the high percentage of these groups of population in CAR. 	<p>strategies of UNICEF in CAR, as articulated in para 14 (b) p.4;</p> <p>Para 14 (b) “Strengthen institutional and technical capacity of systems at the national and local levels”</p> <p>Although the document makes no explicit reference to the <i>comités de coordination sectorielle – CCS</i>, the commitment to institutional strengthening, including coordination, is reflected as a specific output under each outcome. For instance, in the result framework, the first output for education:</p> <p>p.11 (Result Framework) “The Ministry of National Education has improved coordination and governance”</p> <p>Furthermore, UNICEF is committed and will continue to support improved sectoral coordination, including as co-chair of several sectoral coordination committees (CCS) of the RCPCA.</p> <p>UNICEF welcomes the EU’s comment on the target population and recognize the importance of a rights-based approach to protect vulnerable children, including displaced/refugee and returnee children.</p> <p>In line with humanitarian principles (specifically the principle of impartiality) and with UNICEF’s Core Commitments for children, UNICEF is committed to providing assistance and protection regardless of the nature of a crisis and irrespective of the legal status of affected populations.</p> <p>In terms of the approach to displaced/refugees and returnee children in CAR, UNICEF will contribute to the collective</p>
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		<p>outcome of the UNSDCF on durable solutions, in close coordination with UNHCR and UNDP, lead agencies for this outcome. This is highlighted in para 19 of the draft country programme document:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Para 19, p. 5 “The programme will support the collective outcomes of the UNSDCF: (a) “durable solutions to internal displacement”.</p> <p>UNICEF, along with UNHCR, will also continue to advocate and provide assistance to all populations in need, including IDPs and refugees, and engage in family reunification in settings where there is a particular risk of separated children.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p><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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point 26. EU is mentioned as one of the partners in strengthening the education sector. Nevertheless, the accent is on primary education without mentioning the objective of increasing transition to F2 (our NDICI program thematic focus) 	<p>UNICEF appreciates and very much agrees with the EU’s comment on the importance of transitioning from primary education to F2.</p> <p>The draft document highlights the importance of transition from primary (F1) to lower secondary (F2) education as articulated in para 26 p.6.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Para 26. “To ensure that children and adolescents complete primary and lower secondary education”.</p> <p>Furthermore, to emphasise the importance of increasing the transition to F2, it has been selected as one of the indicators in the Result Framework (p.11):</p>

		“Transition rate from primary to lower secondary education.”
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