

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: *Iran*

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">- This CPD lacks any focus on addressing risks to children, particularly adolescents, arising from specific policies and practices of the Iranian government, including those related to its use of violence, mass detention, and forced confessions, and other abuse and repression, against children in response to popular demands seeking respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in guiding UN documents and other international instruments. The CPD and CEP documents disproportionately emphasize external factors as challenges without recognizing or acknowledging the challenges posed by the Government of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the US Delegation to the UN.• UNICEF remains committed to UN principles and values which are mainstreamed in all our operations and programmes. These are reflected in our regular annual and mid-year programme reviews. CPD development in UNICEF follows a predefined set of standards to ensure adherence of the organisation to the governing/guiding principles including but not limited to the UN Charter and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Iran, in addition to the context as a major determinant of the needs. The current CPD is based on a comprehensive situation analysis, including a thorough needs assessment and an analysis of deprivations of children and adolescents living in Iran; these are summarised in the programme rationale section. This was followed by a bottleneck analysis and a prioritisation exercise to ensure the most critical disparities are

Iran's repressive practices and its own domestic shortcomings.

- How will UNICEF adapt climate change and disaster risk reduction mechanisms in the program implementation process?

adequately addressed in the next five years; this is all summarised in para 3 of the Programme Rationale.

- While the programme rationale of the CPD outlines the needs and deprivations analysis, the actions by UNICEF as part of the country programme are aimed at addressing the root causes of the deprivations and the shifts in strategies and policies required to overcome those deprivations. The programme components detailed in the CPD are aligned with UNICEF global strategic Plan 2022-2025, as well as the UNSDCF to mainstream equity, inclusiveness and resilience in the programme with focus on the most vulnerable target populations at both national and provincial levels.
- The CPD is a framework document spanning a five-year period and the actual implementation of programmatic priorities are carried out through annual work plans developed with individual line ministries. Given that UNICEF is working with multiple line ministries (currently nine) and given that the disparities and needs may be different across sectors, the specific aspects on rights, vulnerable groups, and gender will be identified and prioritised and reflected in these annual workplans.
- Climate change has been included under the “programme rationale” as well as” programme and risk management” sections of the CPD and identified as a priority area. Given that this is a relatively new area of work for UNICEF in Iran, our approach will be incremental. In addition, it is worth noting that UNICEF has embarked on a comprehensive Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) whose results will be available before Q2 2023 and will inform the most appropriate approaches to mitigate climate associated risks to children.
- As elaborated under several sections of the CPD, UNICEF's programmes related to emergencies and disaster risk reduction focusses on building resilience of the host communities, system strengthening for improved emergency preparedness and response as well as direct response to emergencies where acute needs hinder development pathways.

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.