

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): 18 November to 8 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: *United Kingdom*

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)
<b>General comments</b>	We welcome the efforts of UNICEF to develop this CPD for Iran in an evolving and difficult operating context. Recent developments in the country heighten the importance of the UN clearly setting out how it will continue to uphold the UN Charter, especially promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction. We continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the UK Delegation to the UN.</li><li>• 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 set of standards to ensure the</li></ul>

	<p>to expect that all UN Agencies ensure their work contributes to upholding the Charter, regardless of the country context.</p> <p>In considering this CPD, we note the efforts of the Government of Iran to deflect scrutiny of its repressive practices. As a result, the balance of analysis in this document is of concern. While derived from the UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework, it disproportionately emphasises external factors as drivers of challenges instead of recognising or acknowledging any domestic shortcomings. It also lacks any focus on addressing the problems arising from specific policies of the Iranian Government including, narrow economic development, regression on gender equality issues, increased attacks on religious and ethnic minorities, surging use of the death penalty, and crack downs on civic space. The UK urges the Agencies to more clearly articulate their contribution to gender equality and the respect and promotion of human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.</p>	<p>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, needs assessment and 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 at the centre of the programme in the next five years; this is summarised in para 3 of the Programme Rationale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the programme rationale outlines the needs and deprivations, the UNICEF actions are aimed at addressing the root causes as well as the shifts in strategies and policies required to overcome those deprivations. The programme components detailed in the CPD are aligned with UNICEF global strategic goals 2022-25 as well as the Sustainable Development Goals to mainstream equity, inclusiveness and resilience in the programme design towards addressing deprivations of the most vulnerable target populations at both national and provincial levels.</li> <li>• Gender considerations, or in other words, the needs of both boys and girls are an unquestionable principle for all UNICEF actions in all our programmatic areas and which are designed to be gender responsive based on needs.</li> <li>• The results matrix makes clear reference in its Outcomes and Outputs to build disaggregated evidence generation: 3.1. National capacity for routine disaggregated child-sensitive evidence generation and analysis is increased for informed decision-making towards development pathway for children. <i>(Contributing to UNSDCF intermediate outcomes 1.1–1.5)</i></li> <li>• UNICEF’s support to nutrition programmes commit to addressing micronutrient deficiencies (anaemia has been</li> </ul>
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		<p>highlighted by the country office since 2018 with higher rates for girls (up to 93%), but also concerning rates for boys (53%). This is a priority for UNICEF in Iran through support for the development of a multisectoral plan to address all forms of malnutrition, during the CPD period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming around adolescent life skills and psychosocial mental health has been and will continue to be a priority for UNICEF in Iran. The programme has reached boys and girls in ways that respond to gendered risks and vulnerabilities. Here are a few examples as reported in UNICEF 2021 Annual Report:</li> <li>• UNICEF in Iran continued its support to enhance the technical and practical capacity of service providers working on the prevention and treatment of drug use and social harm prevention. Training is provided to affiliated organizations on evidenced based preventive and treatment approaches for children and adolescents as follows, considering the differentiated needs of boys and girls.</li> <li>• UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Sports &amp; Youth (MoSY) to establish adolescents and youth empowerment centers targeting both boys and girls. These centres aim to support adolescents and youth resiliency development and empowerment through life/social skills programmes, MHPSS services and technical and skills building programmes to enhance future employability.</li> <li>• The UNICEF Iran country office has met the 15% corporate benchmark on Gender Expenditures that are Gender transformative.</li> <li>• UNICEF's will continue and expand differentiated approaches for boys and girls in all sectors and these will be elaborated in each work plan.</li> </ul>
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<b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b>	<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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