

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 Lebanon TBC

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: *The Netherlands*

Draft country programme document: *Lebanon*

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		UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the Netherlands Delegation to the UN.

<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On page 5 (point 14) the document mentions “public-private partnerships that rally support for child rights”. It would be good to elaborate on this. What does this mean in the Lebanon context? What specific actions will be taken? 2. On page 5 (point 16) it says that “The main underlying assumption [for the theory of change] is that the Government will take the necessary action to address the current crisis, thus preventing the further deterioration of the economic and social situation.” In case this does not materialize, what are the implications on the CDP and ToC? 3. On pages 5-6 it would be good to see more on localisation under the ‘Survive and Thrive’ section. How will local community-based healthcare centres be engaged? It is implied that work will be done with PHCs (etc.), but good to focus more on the localisation aspect and how this can (at least temporarily) cover existing gaps. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To build a social compact at local level between municipalities, civil society, private sector, religious groups, diaspora and UNICEF, it will be important to plan joint services for children and leverage strategic public and private sector investments in areas of work where children’s needs are highest such as for children on the streets, working children, children affected by drugs, violence etc and build safe spaces where vulnerable children can access psychosocial and homework support, ICT and skill building. 2. If the government does not succeed in stabilising the current crisis, UNICEF’s programming will shift further away from a Nexus approach that focuses on humanitarian and development programming to mainly humanitarian assistance to offset the worst impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable children and women. The capacity building, technical assistance and other development related interventions would have to be de-prioritised drastically to use available resources for basic and lifesaving assistance. 3. Localisation represents the need to further support Lebanese actors, institutions and stakeholders, empowering them to ultimately the national development agenda. For example, many Primary Healthcare Centres which are owned / operated by charities or the private sector, and funded by diaspora or the private sector, have formed
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	<p>4. Page 6 under 'learning and skills' point (c) 'Construct and rehabilitate schools'. Will this include renewable energy? Renewable energy is mentioned under WASH and Health, but is also highly demanded by the education sector.</p> <p>a. In the same section: UNICEF already works a lot with MEHE and have aligned the TREF with MEHE's 5-Year Plan. Why is there no mention of the 5-Year Plan?</p> <p>5. Page 11 (point 44) mentions that "A national hotline will also be set up to manage information requests and share information about UNICEF programmes with affected populations." Would be good to have more details on the hotline. How will it be managed? How will</p>	<p>networks across the country, largely linked and supported by MoPH PHC directorate. They provide medicines and vaccines to these PHCs and conduct assessment of quality of care on a regular and routine basis. They are not under the management of municipality at the local level, but UNICEF is working with both PHCCs and municipality, as well as the MoPH PHC Directorate, to improve the overall quality of care and ensure equitable access to services for the most vulnerable in the community to support covering any gaps in services.</p> <p>4. Renewable energy is a vital need for Lebanon's public schools noting the absence of steady electricity supply through the national grid, high cost of fuel for generators (where generators are available). UNICEF is currently undertaking a "whole of school stock" (1233 schools) assessment of energy needs in all Lebanon's Public Schools, and this will be a vital baseline to inform investment in renewable energy. UNICEF will proactively support the mapping of energy needs across all schools and based on funding availability will support renewable energy initiatives in schools.</p> <p>UNICEF's learning and skills agenda in Lebanon which is operationalized through TREF supports achievement of the MEHE 5 Year Plan on Education. We will ensure clear mention of the MEHE 5 Year Plan in the CPD document.</p>
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	<p>functionality/effectiveness be ensured? How will beneficiaries' needs and complaints be addressed and prioritised? Will donors receive updates on accountability-related matters/complaints?</p> <p>6. Overall, we see that UNICEF Lebanon is trying to work on longer-term interventions to aim for better impact. How will UNICEF Lebanon adapt its internal procedures to reflect this?</p>	<p>5. The UNICEF call Center is the formal mechanism for receiving information and feedback from people in communities where UNICEF operates in Lebanon. Callers reach out to UNICEF to inquire about a range of topics, including but not limited to targeting criteria for being included in UNICEF assistance, complaints about assistance received/not received, cases of fraud and misuse of assistance, appreciation, and sensitive complaints related to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).</p> <p>The call centre system is managed by UNICEF, with high capacity by 30 agents working from 9 am to 6 pm. Inquiries are recorded on an ICT supported platform (aligned with data protection requirements), allowing the call centre agents to easily log, track, analyse and present data on needs, priorities, feedback, and complaints as expressed by the beneficiaries hence donors will be able to receive regular updates on the UNICEF complaint and feedback mechanism.</p> <p>6. One specific example of working for longer-term impact is the parallel delivery of social assistance that UNICEF Lebanon leads for children, while at the same time leading the technical assistance and advocacy to develop the national social protection system as a whole. This approach – even in a very challenging context – has yielded fruit, whereby Lebanon now has its first ever National Social Protection Strategy, and national</p>
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		<p>consensus on the need for a national child grant as well as a national disability allowance.</p> <p>Also in addition to the above, UNICEF has adopted an holistic approach to child rights governance with a commitment to develop a comprehensive child rights policy, advocacy with Parliament for amendments of the laws that still contain harmful aspects pertaining to children and development and implementation of a call to action at local levels with municipalities, civil society, religious groups and communities themselves. Hence, a combination of a bottom up approach in parallel to upstream advocacy and legal reform while also continuing to support life-saving services for the most vulnerable children and women.</p>
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