

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board
Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents
2023 second regular session

Draft country programme document commenting period: 13 June to 3 July 2023 [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: GERMANY

Draft country programme document: Benin

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	<p>Germany welcomes the sound analysis and programme design which highlights the significant strides being made by the government of Benin to advance issues raised, but also highlights and addresses continuous challenges.</p> <p>It is particularly welcome that UNICEF puts a clear regional focus (p. 5) on the North and on situations of emergency. Data show that the Northern region are particularly affected by problems such as stunting. This is the region which is also affected by the spillover of insecurity.</p> <p>The strategic priorities and concrete outcome indicators are well chosen, results-oriented and clearly defined. They aim at improving (a) equitable access to quality health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), b) facilitating access to quality and inclusive education (c) creating an enabling, inclusive</p>	<p>UNICEF CO in Benin acknowledges and appreciates the positive and encouraging comments on its draft country programme for 2024-26 from the Government of Germany and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional information that could not be adequately covered in a document of 6000 words.</p>

	and safe environment d) strengthening resilience of the social protection system.	
Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A stronger focus on the strengthening of sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls would have been welcome, in synergy with the UNFPA country programme. 2) We have suggested that the UNFPA programme could be better aligned to the UNICEF country programme which clearly has a focus on the 4 Northern departments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF CO in Benin acknowledges the importance of strengthening sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls. • Through the 2023-2026 UNSDCF, the United Nations will work jointly to make a significant contribution to the implementation of the PAG 2021- 2026. Sexual and reproductive health rights are clearly articulated in outcome-2, covered under the health sector, which focuses on strengthening coherence, collaboration and complementarity with other UN agencies, including UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNOPS, and WHO. • Furthermore, UNICEF CO in Benin has been collaborating specifically with UNFPA to address adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and the overall well-being of adolescents. In addition, UNICEF will continue to collaborate with UNFPA through joint programmes.