

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: **United States of America**

Draft country programme document: **Mauritania**

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"> ● The United States notes the Country Programme Document (CPD) for Mauritania. ● We note that there are limited references to the outcomes and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic response in the CPD. How does UNICEF plan to assist the Government of Mauritania and the Ministry of Health in taking stock of and building upon health system improvements at all levels? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the comments on its draft country programme for 2024-27 from the Government of the USA and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional information that could not be adequately covered in a document of 6000 words. ● UNICEF CO in Mauritania appreciates the USA comments related to health system strengthening. ● During the COVID-19 crisis, the ministry of health has been supported to strengthen Case Management and Infection Control and Prevention in hospitals, through monitoring of water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management conditions in 27 hospitals in the country as well as an in-depth training of medical and paramedical staff.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● In the new country programme , support will be given to the implementation of the Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) Improvement Plan to improve stock management. UNICEF CO in Mauritania will continue to advocate for the funding of vaccines and immunisation activities from the government budget. In addition, the process of integrating vaccination against COVID19 into routine immunization will be pursued to ensure robust immunization coverage. ● Based on the lessons learned from COVID-19 response, UNICEF CO in Mauritania will continue to strengthen the health system through:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. preparedness and response to disease outbreaks, including through community-based surveillance (early warning for health and nutrition);2. strengthening resilience of primary health care systems, especially community health and nutrition programmes, with a strong focus on empowering community health workers to reach the last mile in healthcare delivery as well as take on multisectoral roles (in health & nutrition, protection, education...);3. engaging and empowering communities and especially women in decision-making for their care, and behaviour change to promote prevention and access to care;4. climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable healthcare facilities to better respond to extreme weather events, extreme heat, and changes in natural systems.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We strongly support UNICEF’s prioritization of efforts to improve maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition outcomes through a focus on the first 1000 days. Noting the critical importance of birth registration documentation, we strongly recommend that UNICEF/Mauritania elevate this as a top crosscutting objective across all its programming and to strengthen collaboration with all partners to jointly advocate for the Government of Mauritania to enact registration/documentation policies that enable all children in the country to access health, education and protection services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNICEF CO in Mauritania acknowledges the importance of civil birth registration. ● Birth registration is an outcome-level priority for UNICEF CO in Mauritania as articulated in the draft RRF page-13 (<i>By 2027, children, especially the most vulnerable adolescent girls, including in emergency settings, are protected from violence, exploitation, discrimination, abuse, neglect and harmful practices and have access to justice and birth registration.</i>) ● UNICEF CO in Mauritania is engaged with the National Agency for the Registry of Populations and Secure Documents (ANRPTS) in charge of civil registration. ● UNICEF CO in Mauritania will provide support to the organization of birth registration catch-up/regularisation campaigns using various platforms, including schools and community-based organizations. Furthermore, UNICEF will support the implementation by the government of effective interoperability between the health system and civil registration system to facilitate birth registration. The birth registration is clearly articulated in the draft CPD para 20, 22 and 29 and will be further elaborated in the workplan in 2024. ● UNICEF will pursue its advocacy and technical assistance to the government along with the UN System in Mauritania (UNHCR, OHCHR, WHO, IOM, UNFPA and UNDP) within the United Nations
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		legal identity agenda (UNLIA) and the Core group supporting African Union, Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS).
Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents	<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>	