

**Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board**  
**Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents**  
**2024 first regular session**

*Draft country programme document commenting period: 14 November to 4 December 2023 [18:00 hours Eastern Standard Time]*

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme documents being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: *United States of America*

Draft country programme document: *Madagascar*

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.

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
<b>General comments</b>	<p>The United States urges UNICEF to prioritize building local capacities and domestic resource mobilization to strengthen the delivery of high-impact nutrition interventions, particularly in underserved communities.</p> <p>UNICEF should prioritize nutrition interventions, including the promotion of positive nutrition practices/diets, maternal micronutrient supplementation, exclusive breastfeeding, as well as infant and young child feeding, as an integral part of all routine essential maternal, newborn and child health services. This includes building community level primary health care delivery capacities, backed by effective referral systems.</p>	

	<p>Given Madagascar’s continued vulnerability to climate-related crises and infectious disease outbreaks, it is vital that UNICEF prioritize efforts to strengthen public health emergency preparedness capacities. The United States welcomes the shift of UNICEF's emphasis toward support and empowerment of women (especially adolescents) and children.</p>	
<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents</b></p>	<p><i>The heavy budget investment in health, nutrition and WASH is appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>While the CPD (Para #26) notes plans to prioritize using the childhood immunization program to deliver an integrated essential health-care package, it is vital to ensure that an essential package of integrated MNCH: (a) includes high-impact nutrition interventions; and (b) is also delivered through other community and district level PHC facilities and other delivery platforms, including pre/post-natal follow-up care delivery by community health workers.</i></p>	