

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: **France**

Draft country programme document: **Draft country programme document (CPD) for Bhutan**

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	France generally supports the 7 proposed country programmes (Cambodia, Philippines, Madagascar, Brazil, Bhutan, Gambia, Guinea).	UNICEF Bhutan acknowledges and appreciates the positive feedback and comments on the draft country programme document from the Government of France.
Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents	With regard to Bhutan's country programme, France would like to have more rationale on the extent to which the programme to combat obesity is relevant (point 37, page 7), taking into account that undernutrition affects 23% of children aged under 5 years old, 45% of the population does not have access to a balanced diet (point 9, page 3) and Bhutan has only 2% of obese children, in line with the regional average and the lowest international average.	<p>The request for more rationale in relation to overweight/obesity is appreciated. According to the World Obesity Atlas 2023, Bhutan is ranked as 'Poor' (113 of 183 countries) in terms of relative preparedness to tackle obesity (where 1 is best preparedness practices and 183 is worst preparedness practices).</p> <p>The projected annual increase in child obesity between 2020 to 2035 of 8.9% is rated as very high with 22% of boys and 14% of girls projected to be obese (BMI \geq 30kg/m²). During the same period, it is projected that there will be annual increase in adult obesity of 5.6%. If these rates occur, the total economic impact of overweight (BMI \geq 25kg/m²) by 2035 is estimated to be 2.5% of GDP.</p>

		<p>This data – and the impact on children’s physical and mental wellbeing – indicates the need for UNICEF to invest in a balanced approach to combating the triple burden of malnutrition, as well as highlighting the relationship of accelerating actions on infant and young child feeding in the first 1,000 days as a critical window for setting the pathway to lifelong good nutritional status and adoption of healthy dietary practices for children, adolescents and their families.</p>
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