

**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</p>	<p>We thank the US Government for these valuable comments and take note of the recommendations made.</p> <p>Through its Social Policy Programme component, UNICEF will have an increased focus on public finance analysis and advocacy in relation to nutrition, including at decentralized level, to improve domestic resource mobilization and budget execution. UNICEF will also identify innovative financing modalities to ensure sustainability and national ownership of nutrition programmes.</p> <p>We would like to underline that the CPD nutrition interventions will be delivered through both, community platforms and health facilities, including at primary level, with an effective referral system. In addition to the provision of quality services, these interventions involve the promotion of a healthy diet, sound Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding. Following the adoption of the Community</p>

	<p>UNICEF's emphasis toward support and empowerment of women (especially adolescents) and children.</p>	<p>Health Strategy by the Ministry of Health, with UNICEF's support, community health workers are now recognized as an integral part of the health system and will benefit from additional capacity building to deliver an integrated health and nutrition package.</p> <p>Public health emergencies remain high on UNICEF agenda, both a regional and country level.</p> <p>The health programme component will ensure Madagascar has a gender-responsive emergency preparedness and response system to ensure quality and continuum of care during Public Health Emergencies, including an accountability mechanism to affected populations. To this end, UNICEF plans to undertake a subnational risk analysis for the health sector, which aims at developing tailored emergency preparedness plans in high-risk regions.</p> <p>Building stronger, more resilient, and environmentally friendly health systems, which can provide universal health coverage and high-quality care for all in the context of climate change, is a key priority of the new programme.</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>	<p>We confirm that the existing high-impact health and nutrition package integrates IMCI, immunization, nutrition interventions, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent care, HIV testing and care. This package, as mentioned above, is delivered through community health platforms and district level facilities.</p>

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