

**United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**  
Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board

**Template for delegations providing comments on the  
country programme documents**  
2020 First Regular Session

Delegation name: \_\_\_\_\_United States\_\_\_\_\_

Draft country programme document: \_\_\_Cuba\_\_\_\_\_

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on any of the draft CPDs being presented during the forthcoming Board session.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents (CPDs) 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 will be made public on the Executive Board website, and considered by the respective regional office, in close consultation with the country office and the concerned Government.

General comments	<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <p>Health, education, sanitation, human rights acquisitions that can help with quick implementation of activities/interventions</p> <p>Country context and knowledge are well defined with details and data</p> <p>Existence of database</p> <p>Existence of a network at all levels that can ease coordination and collaboration</p> <p>Existence of strong Government's implications</p> <p>Promotion of South-South Cooperation, with respect to Disaster Risk Management (DDR). Lessons learned can be shared especially with regards to building capacity for resilience</p> <p>Build on lesson learned from the previous country programme of cooperation concerning the effective implementation of the communication for development (C4D) strategy, for more efficient work with families and systematic monitoring of results at the community level.</p> <p><b><u>Other:</u></b></p> <p>Promotion of ongoing activities for waterborne diseases, water, sanitation and hygiene (not only during emergencies)</p> <p>The involvement of children in the programming phase could particularly lead to sustainable results in the fight to protect children from violence and exploitation</p> <p>Address violence and exploitation (punishments) in schools</p>
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	<p>What do they mean by Government-led administrative systems in the Monitoring and Evaluation component? Who are they? At what level will they intervene?</p> <p>Need of clear definition of roles and responsibilities in the monitoring system at all levels;</p> <p>In addition to alliance with the Government and other organizations, Could UNICEF seek Public-Private Partnerships?</p> <p>In addition to local private sector, it's worth exploring resources available in the Cuban diaspora?</p> <p>Concerned with UNICEF's over reliance on government statistics to measure progress? Too often government provide data that are not reliable for various reasons.</p> <p>The CPD mentions strategic alliance with other UN agencies, government institutions and civil society organizations. Does UNICEF have success stories proving that such partnerships have helped achieve outcomes in Cuba? Also, working with various government entities usually add layers of bureaucracy and thus impact timely implementation. It would be preferable if these implementing arrangements are streamlined to make implementation more efficient.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<p>For paragraph 7 (page 3):</p> <p>“However, the persistence and intensification of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America restricts access to international sources of financing and affects the country, particularly children and adolescents.”</p> <p>Comment: Cuba's claim that the U.S. embargo limits Cuba's access to international financial sources and affects the country is false. Cuba continues to take advantage of other countries' willingness to lend, but poor economic management means it is unable to meet its debt payment obligations, leading to the accumulation of hundreds of millions in arrears. Cuba's economic and financial situation is the result of economic mismanagement on the part of the Cuban regime. Rather than focus on blaming the United States for its economic failures, the Cuban regime would do better to focus its efforts on much-needed reforms. While Cuba blames the United States for food shortages, under the regime's cumbersome and inept central planning system, annual outputs of basic crops such as sugar have fallen to rates not seen in decades. Actual exports from the United States to Cuba in 2018 exceeded US\$275 million (\$275,878,000) and have only increased in 2019. This year, U.S. exports to Cuba through September 2019 already exceed \$271 million (\$271,100,000). Since January 2018, the U.S. Department of Commerce has authorized over \$16 billion worth of exports to Cuba, over \$12 billion of which were food and other agricultural commodities. Of this, Cuba only imported 3 percent of what was authorized;</p>

the decision whether to purchase the products is up to the Cuban government. Since 2001, the United States has exported \$6 billion worth of food and agricultural products to Cuba. Other goods authorized included medicines, medical devices, telecommunications equipment, consumer goods, and other items to support the Cuban people, including children and adolescents.

19. “Growing and accelerated access to information and communication technology and social media exposes children and adolescents to a wide range of digital content and risks.”

Comment: We hope the Cuban government will allow all Cubans the right to access information and won’t restrict access for those who voice disagreement with the Cuban government.

For paragraph 21 (page 5):

21. “The financial and technological barriers created by low economic growth, the intensification of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States and natural disasters all affect the quality of health, education, culture and protection services.”

Comment: Cuba’s claim that the U.S. embargo affects the quality of health and education services in Cuba is false. The Cuban regime has unfortunately chosen to prioritize support for the illegitimate Maduro regime in Venezuela above the health of its own citizens, and repression of its people rather than their education. Rather than focus on blaming the United States for its failures, the Cuban regime would do better to focus its efforts on much-needed reforms. Actual exports from the United States to Cuba in 2018 exceeded US\$275 million (\$275,878,000) and have only increased in 2019. This year, U.S. exports to Cuba through September 2019 already exceed \$271 million (\$271,100,000). Since January 2018, the U.S. Department of Commerce has authorized over \$16 billion worth of exports to Cuba, over \$12 billion of which were food and other agricultural commodities. Of this, Cuba only imported 3 percent of what was authorized; the decision whether to purchase the products is up to the Cuban government. Since 2001, the United States has exported \$6 billion worth of food and agricultural products to Cuba. Other goods authorized included medicines, medical devices, telecommunications equipment, consumer goods, and other items to support the Cuban people.

51. “The component will build community and institutional capacity and promote protective spaces. Advocacy with institutions, communities, families, children and adolescents will raise awareness of violence affecting children and of the existing prevention and response mechanisms among decision makers, professionals from different sectors, institutions, communities, families and caregivers. The generation of evidence-based, contextualized educational and communication tools, together with training, will strengthen the culture of the rights of children and adolescents, taking advantage of the opportunities created by the new Constitution.”

Comment: The U.S. government is not aware of any new opportunities that have been created since the implementation of the new Constitution. The new Constitution, which was created out of a constitutional referendum that was undemocratic and flawed, simply enshrines one party rule.

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