

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

Delegation name: **BELGIUM**

Draft country programme document: **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The goal of the programme (children have equitable, quality and sustainable access to basic social services, especially in the most deprived provinces and in humanitarian settings) is very relevant for the Democratic Republic of Congo. - There is a huge difference between the regular resources (328.010 USD) for a five year programme 2020-2024, the other resources (760.550 USD) and the estimated annual 326 million USD emergency funds based on the humanitarian action for children appeal. This gives the impression that the country programme document is very ambitious without a guarantee of funding, taking into account that in 2017 the percentage of other resources mobilized against planned resources was 62%.
Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point 9: the net attendance ratio in primary, junior secondary and senior secondary schools was 78, 32 and 34 per cent respectively. What is the reason why the net attendance ratio in senior secondary schools is higher than in junior secondary schools ? - Point 16: the Strategic National Development Plan 2019-2022 of the DRC is not yet finalized - Point 17/18: The theory of change of the program is that quality basic social services are delivered at scale. The promotion of the civic participation of the Congolese population through participation in the management of basic social services should get more attention in the theory of change. The communities have to understand the concept of accountability of service providers and local authorities (rights based approach) and help keep public service providers accountable for their role in doing so. The improvement of the management of basic social services through increased involvement of the population in public management at the local level should be stressed in the theory of change. The approach should underpin an assessment of the quality of basic social services – such as education, sanitation, health, safety, electricity, water and administration – involving collaboration between citizens, civil society, local authorities and service providers towards greater transparency and social accountability of

	<p>these different actors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Point 27: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation. The program should stress the importance of children in armed conflict and the necessity to provide lifesaving temporary services to Children Associated with Non State Groups. Additional funding is required to strengthen coordination and capacities of local stakeholders to prevent and respond to violence/abuse against girls and boys, to provide adequate temporary care to children victims of violence but also, and mostly, to ensure the sustainable reintegration of thousands of children in their families and communities. Belgium has been funding projects of UNICEF in this field which are not mentioned in the draft country program.- Point 32: the harmonized approach to cash transfers as well as the zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment is only mentioned as a mitigation measure. Given the wide-spread fraud and corruption risks linked with implementing programs in the DRC, a more proactive approach should be developed.- Page 12: the base-line for live births attended by skilled health personnel = 75 per cent. In point 5 it is mentioned that 85 per cent of deliveries were delivered by skilled health professionals- Page 13: there is no base-line available for the proportion of adolescent and pregnant woman receiving the minimum acceptable diet. How has the target of 10% been calculated if there is no base-line available.- Page 15: apparent survival rate in the fifth grade of primary schools: the base-line has been sex-disaggregated. What is the reason why the target (55%) is not sex-disaggregated ?
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