

**Template for delegations providing comments on the  
country programme documents**

2020 First Regular Session

Delegation name: **European Commission**

Draft country programme document: **Mali**

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. With the humanitarian crisis in Mali continuing, the document should also explain how it relates to the HRP, not only “strategic plans” of other aid agencies.</li><li>2. As violence and insecurity continue, what mitigation measures are in place to ensure proper delivery of humanitarian aid as well as the security of staff? Does UNICEF follow a “stay and deliver approach”? – detailed description would be appreciated</li><li>3. What arrangements are in place to ensure proper monitoring, especially in conflict-affected areas? The use of third party monitoring is cited, but without further details.</li><li>4. More information would be welcome on the cooperation with others so as to contribute to collective outcomes and build a maximum of synergies, notably in terms of nutrition that requires a multi-sectoral approach.</li><li>5. Could UNICEF provide an update on the roll-out of the Simplified Nutrition Protocol in Mali and the related evidence-gathering in place? The Simplified Protocol would need to be integrated, especially the role that UNICEF intends to play during the testing of the protocols in country, but also for their potential rolling out in the coming years</li><li>6. Mali is a forgotten humanitarian crisis: What does UNICEF foresee to enhance advocacy in this respect?</li><li>7. Mali is a complex crisis. Humanitarian-Development Nexus is important: What does UNICEF intend to do to foster implementation of the Nexus while ensuring that humanitarian aid is implemented fully in line with the humanitarian principles? It is important that humanitarian aid and humanitarian actors are perceived as neutral and independent so as to have continued access to population in need – and not to endanger the security of aid workers.</li></ol>
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Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number X, paragraph number X, or annex (results and resources framework).</i></p> <p>8. Paragraphs 24 and 25: it would be interesting to further develop the potential linkages between the conflict and risk analysis (paragraph 24), and the reduced humanitarian access (paragraph 25)</p>
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## Response from the UNICEF Regional/Country Office

UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the European Commission on the draft country programme of cooperation between UNICEF and the Government of Mali and the opportunity to offer additional information not captured in detail in the 6,000-word country programme document (CPD).

1. The UNICEF humanitarian action strategy is in line with the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan to which UNICEF contributed to and which aims at saving lives and protecting affected populations. UNICEF is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and leads the education, WASH, Nutrition clusters and Child Protection Area of Responsibility. The CPD outlines the next 5-year development vision and the links to the humanitarian situation based on a risk informed analysis and adaptive programming.
2. UNICEF works with all UN security management system (SMS) actors and complies with the UN SMS specific policies, including on women. As part of the UN SMS, UNICEF follows a “stay and deliver approach” as the core principle of its presence in the field. With a large presence in Mali, UNICEF contributes significantly to the Security Risk Management documents in each region, which lists threats, assesses risks and determines specific mitigation measures. Programme Criticality Assessments are regularly updated to inform programming.
3. In conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas, UNICEF will make use of third-party monitoring (3PM) partners to ensure proper monitoring of intervention. UNICEF works with national and international NGOs and private companies, to cover all areas of interventions. 3PM partners are selected through a transparent bidding process, and are fully dedicated to project monitoring, in order to avoid potential conflict of interest. 3PM partners use standard tools and new 3PM partners for the Country Programme 2020-2024 will be trained to ensure monitoring of project implementation according to UNICEF standards, including on do no harm and PSEA principles.
4. With specific regard to nutrition, UNICEF will continue to support the Government for the operationalization of multisectoral platforms at all levels to facilitate coordination of nutrition programming across multiple sectors. The focus will be on the coordination bodies identified by the National Multisectoral Nutrition Policy (PNN) adopted in 2013, notably (i) the National Nutrition Council (CNN) headed by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (ii) the Intersectoral Technical Nutrition Committee (CTIN) headed by the Secretary General of the MoH, (iii) the Nutrition Coordination Unit, which is the Technical Secretariat of the CTIN, and (iv) at subnational levels, committees for orientation, coordination and monitoring of development actions, which are under the leadership of the Regional Governor, the Prefect, and the Mayor, respectively.

UNICEF and other United Nations Agencies will work collaboratively in the framework of the UNSDCF which is aligned with the National Development Plan (CREDD) and the PNN. For the humanitarian component, UNICEF, as a member of the HCT, is actively engaged in the implementation of the HRP. As cluster lead for Nutrition and as lead of the UN Scaling Up Nutrition Forum, UNICEF will promote the links between humanitarian and development actions.

5. In Mali, UNICEF is closely associated with research on simplified approaches and is a member, with WFP, donors, and implementing partners, of the national coordination committee established and chaired by the MoH to support the supervision of trials and standardization of the types and quality of data collected. UNICEF contributes to the design of each study and supports each pilot by providing Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food

(RUTF) and other medicines and equipment to targeted health districts. Partners are currently piloting different approaches. The new evidence generated by these studies will contribute to the global body of evidence required for the adoption and recommendation of a new simplified protocol by the World Health Organization. UNICEF, in close collaboration with WFP and other development partners, will support the national adoption and rolling out of a new simplified protocol while promoting and supporting a comprehensive approach to acute malnutrition that favors a focus on the continuum of care from addressing the drivers of acute malnutrition to prevent new cases to managing cases for which prevention has failed.

6. UNICEF will continue to respond to the humanitarian crisis and remain the voice of children, including in affected areas, by strengthening evidence-based advocacy. UNICEF together with other UN Agencies and humanitarian actors will continue to undertake people centred and human rights-based advocacy. UNICEF will build a narrative stressing the gains, achievements and positive results for children, including by supporting and amplifying the advocacy made by children and young people themselves.
7. Linking humanitarian and development action is one of the key programmatic shifts of the new CPD. The programme is based on risk informed analysis that strives to identify key areas to contribute to strengthening systems and building capacity while responding to humanitarian needs, strengthening resilience of communities and reinforcing preparedness mechanisms. UNICEF will also continue to invest in community acceptance, humanitarian access and partnerships. Multi-year flexible funding will be sought to improve the implementation of humanitarian response and development and to invest in innovative solutions. UNICEF together with the other humanitarian actors will continue to uphold humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality, while looking at synergies and complementarity with other UN actors in a complex environment.

Risk analysis will be a key element in finding solutions to maintain humanitarian access. UNICEF will systematically consider risks and vulnerabilities and adapt strategies and security measures in an environment of complex and protracted crisis. In many parts of the country humanitarian access is available only after significant investments in trust-building and remains sensitive to communities' perceptions regarding the neutrality, impartiality and quality of relief efforts. Conflict analysis will be updated by the UN system in 2020 and inform our adaptive programming, including strategies to maintain humanitarian access.