

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

Delegation name: Sweden

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">1. Sweden appreciates the participatory process that UNICEF has conducted to develop the Country Document Programme for Mali.2. The document appears to be adapted to the life cycle of children in Mali which gives more attention to the rights of children with respect to each stage of their life development and calls for intersectoral intervention. It is however unclear how UNICEF will transfer this approach into practice; the organization will likely remain sectoral in implementation.3. The programmatic approach has a focus on humanitarian and long-term development cooperation which allows maximizing operational flexibility, agility and the ability to adjust to needs on the ground.4. It is noticeable that the two cross-cutting priorities gender equality and humanitarian action are well integrated into all Goal Areas.5. However, there is a need to strengthen Government’s leadership and ownership to reinforce collaboration with other key stakeholders including, community-based organizations, youth organizations and the private sector. This will enhance national capacities.6. Sweden would welcomes more collaboration with MINUSMA, and other UN agencies in order to strengthen the one UN approach I Mali7. Sweden would welcome a process to define baselines for each result areas before starting any implementation of programs, this will enable to measure change and monitor progress.8. There is a need to strengthen the integration of environmental aspects is the document.
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<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<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><i>Page 2 point 2: The reflexion should be made on the whole country rather than limiting the armed conflict only in the northern and central parts of the country. The situation is volatile.</i></p> <p><i>Page 3 point 10: The number of schools closing day by day because of fear of violence from extremist groups is increasing. If not mentioned here, it could be forgotten.</i></p>

Response from the UNICEF Regional/Country Office

UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the Government of Sweden 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 delegation’s appreciation of the participatory process which led to the CPD and its focus on humanitarian and long-term development cooperation and integration of gender equality and humanitarian action is well noted
2. As part of its integrated approach around the life cycle of children, UNICEF has developed outputs with results that are integrated in nature and consist of the synergetic effects of sectoral interventions. Coordination with government and partners will be based on existing mechanisms, such as the government-led regional and local development platforms set up as part of the decentralization process. At sub-national level, UNICEF, government and partners will reinforce and scale up the multisectoral coordination mechanisms identified in the ‘summative evaluation of the integrated programming approach in the regions of Mopti and Sikasso’ as best practices (see para. 17 of the CPD). The work plans, developed with partners, will define the operational plan articulating the essential elements for the implementation and management of the country programme.
3. The country programme has been developed jointly with the Government, the UNCT, youth, CSOs and with private sector involvement. It is aligned with national priorities and national sector plans. Over the course of the country programme, programme reviews at national and regional levels will be regularly organized jointly with the Government for co-ownership of results and challenges, and adaptation of strategies. The outcome 3 on adolescents has a strong focus on empowerment and participation of children aged 13-18; under outcome 4, the capacity of communities and other right-holders to be more engaged in accountability of social services will be strengthened.
4. The country programme of cooperation is aligned with the UNSDCF, and its contribution and synergies with other UN agencies have been identified during the development of the country programme, in line with the UN

Reform. Collaboration with other UN agencies will be strengthened through joint programmes, the implementation of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and with UNFPA, UNDP and UN-Women in the areas of collaboration of the Annex to the Common Chapter of their respective Strategic Plans.

5. Joint-programmes under the country programme will cover priority areas such as gender (e.g. through the Spotlight initiative - UNFPA, UN-Women, UNDP, UNHCR), resilience and peace building (FAO, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO, WFP), and youth-friendly health services (WHO, UNFPA).
6. UNICEF is part of the UN Integrated Strategic Framework developed between MINUSMA and the UNCT to highlight synergies and complementarities between the MINUSMA and other UN agencies in line with the UN Secretary-General's Integration Policy. MINUSMA and UNICEF co-chair the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism of the six (6) grave child rights violations in armed conflict in the Country Taskforce, which was activated in 2013 in Mali in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1612. UNICEF is also an active member of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA) on conflict-related gender-based violence and the Gender Task Force with MINUSMA and the UNCT. These joint efforts will continue. UNICEF together with the other humanitarian actors will continue to uphold humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality, while seeking synergies and complementarity with other UN actors in a complex environment.
7. The results and resources framework provide key progress indicators at outcome level with baselines and targets, which have been sex-disaggregated when reliable baseline data was available. Biannual work plans, outlining indicators at output level, will be developed early next year, agreed with and signed by the Government before implementation, and regularly monitored.
8. The frequency and impact of natural disasters is exacerbated by climate change, increasing the frequency of droughts, floods and accelerating desertification, thereby undermining people's livelihoods, thus increasing their vulnerability. UNICEF will promote improved awareness and management among communities of environmental risks including protection of water resources, adaptation to increasing scarcity of water and deterioration of water quality, and development of resilient and environmentally friendly water and sanitation technologies and systems for vulnerable communities.

Responses to specific aspects of the country programme document

Page 2 point 2 describes the current situation in Mali, where armed conflict is affecting the North and Center. The figures for the population in need of humanitarian assistance refer indeed to the whole country as per the Humanitarian Response Plan that is country-wide and encompasses natural disasters and other types of crises in addition to conflict.

The situation of the closed schools is mentioned in para. 9, page 3.