

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2022 first regular session

Draft country programme document commenting period: 16 November to 6 December 2021

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme document being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: *Ireland*

Draft country programme document: *Vietnam*

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, and considered by the requesting country, in close consultation with UNICEF.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	<p>Vietnam's vulnerability to climate change has been well-reflected throughout the CPD and addressing the impact of climate-related disasters on children and their families is given appropriately strong priority throughout the document.</p> <p>The context analysis aligns with that of other development partners, including Ireland, with recognition that meeting the furthest behind children and communities in Vietnam - ethnic minorities, children with disabilities and migrants - will need to incorporate interventions that mitigate and respond to the impact of both natural disasters arising from climate change and COVID-19 and thus require interventions that straddle the humanitarian-development nexus.</p>	<p>General comments are well noted and appreciated. The focus on climate change, closing disparities for ethnic minority and other vulnerable children and programming which straddles the humanitarian-development nexus are all priorities of the CPD.</p> <p>On the coordination with other development partners, para 26 refers to this, as does para 48, which emphasizes the need for stronger partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms due to the risk of further reduction of ODA.</p>

	<p>The proposed programmatic priorities and partnerships align well with the Government of Vietnam’s socio-economic development plans in the short (to 2025) and medium (to 2030) terms and the targets set out are realistic within the timeframe.</p> <p>It would be useful to see more reference to coordination with other development partners and how UNICEF is seeking to maximise partnerships and cohesion given the shrinking international development community in Vietnam.</p>	
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p> <p>30. Given the persistent prevalence of high levels of stunting, particularly of ethnic minority children, it would be useful to see specific reference to focus on maternal and child nutrition interventions that address stunting in the summary of planned programme priorities (stunting is highlighted in the results framework).</p> <p>37. Support to capacity development of the child protection system is welcome, and could be targeted at specific provinces where, for example, child marriage rates are much higher than nationally.</p> <p>47. Key programme risks should include those related to the ongoing and future COVID-19 outbreaks in Vietnam in addition to natural disasters. Support to the Vietnam Disaster Management</p>	<p>Para 30: This para is very much focused on reducing malnutrition in all its forms, including stunting. We have added the reference to stunting to make this even clearer.</p> <p>Para 37: The child protection system will be strengthened nationwide through support to MOLISA for policy development and capacity building and will target specific provinces where child protection concerns are prevalent, including child marriage. Kindly note that para 39 describes the planned sub-national work in remote areas on nurturing family environments, parenting and equitable gender norms, all of which will contribute to reducing child marriage.</p> <p>Para 47: Thank you for this observation, we have added reference to pandemics in this paragraph. VDMA is and will remain an important partner for strengthening early warning</p>

	<p>Authority in strengthening early warning systems should be a priority here also.</p>	<p>systems. Given the strict word limit, we have tried to avoid mentioning specific ministries or government bodies in the CPD.</p>
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