

## 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: *European Union*

Draft country programme document: *Guyana and Suriname* (available at [https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/8311/file/2022-PL9-Guyana\\_and\\_Suriname\\_draft\\_CPD-EN-2021.11.15.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/8311/file/2022-PL9-Guyana_and_Suriname_draft_CPD-EN-2021.11.15.pdf)).

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)  |
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| <b>General comments</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ As expected, UNICEF is proposing to continue addressing the key strategic issues prevalent in the region and notably:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ the Safe Schools and Climate-Smart school initiatives; including with the private sector;</li><li>○ to develop digital, technical and vocational skills among adolescents not in education, employment, or training;</li><li>○ to conduct gender analyses to address disparities in school completion rates;</li><li>○ to prevent violence in and around schools;</li><li>○ the expansion of inclusive and shock-responsive programmes; and develop more comprehensive responses through cash plus access to quality essential services;</li><li>○ disaster risk reduction and CCA.</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ UNICEF appreciates the review and comments made by European Union on the Guyana and Suriname country programme document (CPD). These priorities are directly linked to the European Union's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Policy Priorities for 2021-2027. During the implementation of the country programme, UNICEF will ensure to coordinate, align and complement the efforts of European Union and other partners in Guyana and Suriname.</li></ul> |

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| <p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The document lacks sufficient response to refugees, asylum seeker and people on the move. What are UNICEF’s plans to promote their inclusion in education and social protection services?</li> <li>➤ The document could also develop further on Disaster Preparedness</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office agrees with the importance of including migrant children and other children on the move in all services including education and social protection. Due to words limitations, it was possible only to touch on these issues in the CPD. Since migrants began to arrive in Guyana, the Government’s policy has been to allow access to services for all migrant children and their families. (para 6). UNICEF thus has been providing integrated services in the areas of health, nutrition, education, provision of translators, water and sanitation, shock-responsive social protection and child protection including birth registration and psychological support. The migrants are arriving in some of the most deprived parts of the country. In order to maintain equity, social cohesion and peace among host communities and migrants, all services are provided equally to migrant and host families. This approach will continue during the implementation of the new country programme.</li> </ul> <p>Specifically, with regard to education, it is true that the inflow of migrant families over the last four years, especially in Guyana, has put additional strain on the education system, introducing challenges of teaching students from other cultures in different languages. Multi-lingual education remains a challenge due to gaps in content and teaching competencies. The programme will address these issues as part of its support to the Government for curriculum reform, improved teaching and learning methods and inclusion of marginalized children.</p> |
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|  |  | <p>For social protection, the Guyanese policy which allows access to services for all families who come from Venezuela. <u>underlined the need to expand the social protection sector including by building and strengthening the existing social workforce</u>). UNICEF, together with other agencies, supported the Government in implementing a cash benefit programme for Venezuelan migrants, UNICEF continues to offer the same support to migrants and to host communities</p> <p>It is also mentioned in the country programme document (paragraph 39), “Given the ongoing situation of migrant children in Guyana, the programme will support relevant government ministries to improve strategic and sector planning for services for separated, minor and unaccompanied children and host communities”.</p> <p>➤ Regarding disaster preparedness, both COVID-19 and the arrival of the migrants underscored the need for better emergency preparedness, Given the vulnerability of both Guyana and Suriname to climate-induced disasters, the new programme has a much stronger focus on climate resilience and disaster preparedness.</p> <p>It is highlighted in paragraph 41 that “UNICEF will support authorities and communities to identify and manage early warning systems to reduce the risks associated with disasters and climate change, and will help to strengthen partners’ capacities for</p> |
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|  |  | <p>preparedness and humanitarian response at the national and subnational levels. With development partners, UNICEF will provide technical assistance and financial resources to support the Government and communities in scaling up WASH services. It will provide technical support for strengthening policies, strategies and regulations for the integration of climate change into national and decentralized WASH programmes.”</p> <p>Overall, these comments are pertinent and timely and will serve to inform the ensuing and work-in-progress processes of elaboration of programme strategy notes, workplans, and advocacy strategies.</p> |
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