

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: *El Salvador* (available at https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/8371/file/2022-PL8-El_Salvador_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)
General comments	<p>The programme focuses on 4 components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Health, nutrition and WASH,Educational transformation,Protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse, andInclusive social protection. <p>The programme rationale does not include recent developments in the context (impact of the bitcoin law or the upcoming foreign agents law) who could potentially impact the humanitarian access or the margin of manoeuvre of civil society organisations.</p> <p>More information on coordination mechanisms with humanitarian stakeholders are deemed relevant, as well as common advocacy strategies to ensure space for civil society organisations.</p>	<p>The Government implemented the Bitcoin Law that came into effect on 7 September 2021 and this topic was included in the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which are on course and ongoing. The fiscal space of the country is limited, and this is a situation that is being closely monitored by UNICEF El Salvador, specially with respect to its potential impact of the provision of essential services for children and their families, particularly the most vulnerable; these services are being financed by Government of El Salvador funds as well as by donations from donor countries. This monitoring is ongoing, and UNICEF El Salvador is committed and placed to work with IFIs (in particular the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank) to support the Government of El</p>

	<p>Also, the contribution/coordination with the HNO and HRP's could be explained.</p> <p>Strategies to ensure access to social protection for displaced persons and returnees should be elaboration (taking into account specific barriers, lack of social networks, lack of access to information, lack of necessary documents e.g. IDs or birth certificates).</p>	<p>Salvador in its implementation of US \$600M in early childhood development (ECD) financing.</p> <p>With respect to the Foreign Agents law proposal, this proposal has not moved forward with the Legislative Assembly at this juncture. In response to the draft Foreign Agents law proposal, on 23 November 2021, Ernesto Castro, President of the Legislative Assembly, asserted publicly clarifying that this law would not go forward without due consultation with the international community and its cooperation agencies as well as with civil society. (https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/index.php/node/11778)</p> <p>Based on our lessons learned in 2020 and 2021, in the humanitarian sphere, UNICEF El Salvador has worked closely with the Government of El Salvador and this collaboration has been successful in constructing common advocacy strategies to ensure space for civil society organisations and to optimise coordination and resources in the emergency contexts. This was the case in all humanitarian clusters led by UNICEF that include: child protection, education in emergencies, nutrition, and WASH. In this connection and throughout 2020 and 2021, UNICEF El Salvador has worked closely with national authorities to ensure that civil society organizations form part of and actively contribute to emergency response, with great success that include the WASH cluster's work with Juntas Rurales de Agua – Community Water Boards – that were and are being supported throughout the emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and service 25% (1.3M people) in some of El Salvador's most vulnerable communities. Likewise, another example is that of education in emergencies where the cluster served to ensure that civil society organizations specializing in education coordinated their response with the Ministry of Education and other relevant Government authorities to optimize resources and to identify and build synergies.</p>
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		<p>"Crecer Juntos" also contributes to addressing this challenge.</p> <p>In this connection, the UNICEF CPD (2022-2026) places great emphasis on supporting inclusive social protection strategies that look to strengthen institutional areas such as supporting programmes to reduce multidimensional poverty, including the bridging of the digital divide, WASH; ECD etc.; and the leveraging of efforts in COVID-19 vaccination for the population of children under 18 years of age to support a plan to institute a universal registration to meet ID requirements for children, adolescents and their families to access services available, including for returnee families and children who enter the Salvadorean territory.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p>Page 4, paragraph 20: Please include additional data e.g. on missing persons and complete the information on the second sentence of the paragraph as it seems incomplete.</p> <p>Page 8, paragraph 44: Please provide further information on the evidence and lessons learned from the comprehensive reintegration model, as well as possible remaining gaps. Does this model include community-based protection actions? If so, how does this model coordinate and interact with on-going humanitarian operations in the country?</p> <p>Page 12, Annex, Outcomes indicators: Please include WASH, Health and Nutrition indicators.</p> <p>Page 13, Annex, KPI: Adolescents (15-19 years) fertility rate. Please revise as this indicator is not SMART or an indicator.</p>	<p>Proposed changes/edits to CPD</p> <p>Page 4, paragraph 20:</p> <p>Violence has differentiated impacts. While homicides have diminished in the past five years, 1 of 10 victims are young men (13–35 years); while sexual violence disproportionately affects girls and young women. Between 2016 and 2020, the National Civil Police reported over 25,000 sexual crimes, of which 54 per cent of the victims were girls. Reporting of sexual crimes has increased progressively since 2016, doubling by 2019. Limited access to complaint mechanisms during the COVID-19 confinement and/or fear of reporting while living with a perpetrator may explain the reporting rates, which decreased by 27 per cent in 2020. As of 3 November 2021, official Government figures indicate that 257 children are reported as missing (165 girls and 92 boys) signaling a concerning patterns disproportionately affecting girls (<i>source: Fiscalía General de la República, Dirección</i></p>

de Análisis, Técnicas de Investigación e Información, Departamento de Estadísticas).

Page 8, paragraph 44

Violence is a systemic cause of displacement and migration. Reintegration services for returned and displaced children are limited and not available throughout El Salvador. UNICEF will support scaling-up based on lessons learned and best practices garnered from its evaluations. Together with Government Officials from ISNA and NGOs, UNICEF has developed a comprehensive reintegration model incorporating legal and psychosocial support, community-based protection actions, educational reintegration, employment training and life planning. Evidence generation will be supported to deepen institutional capacities and policies to meet the needs of displaced and migrant children. This approach builds on the humanitarian development nexus.

Note: The comprehensive reintegration model for returnee and the forcibly displaced children will be developed based on the evidence obtained from the evaluation of existing services that is ongoing. This evaluation expected as a core result of the EU Global Promotion of Best Practices for the Children in Migration (2020-2023) in Eastern and Southern Africa and Latin America and Caribbean Regions programme, funded by INTPA and implemented in El Salvador by UNICEF and UNHCR.

Page 12, Annex, Outcomes indicators

The following outcome indicators on WASH, Health and Nutrition are to be included:

- Child mortality rate (under 5 years)
- Maternal mortality rate
- Percentage of households with access to improved water sources

Page 13, Annex, KPI

The adolescent fertility rate indicator (15-19 years) provides information on the number of births that occur in each period for every 1,000 women between 15 and 19 years of age.

UNICEF El Salvador is committed to promoting efforts to achieve significant advances in reproductive health care for young women and adolescents. The relevance of the indicator lies in the effects that early fertility can have on the development of optimal life trajectories of adolescent and young women.

The estimate of the indicator is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Adolescent fertility rate (15 – 19 years)} \\ & = \frac{\text{Total number of births}_t}{\text{Female population from 15 to 19 years old}_t} * 1000 \end{aligned}$$

In this sense, UNICEF El Salvador determines that the indicator is specific because it has a target population, it is measurable through the estimation formula previously detailed, it is achievable with the available information, it can be measured for a specific and realistic time according to the country's conditions and the relevance that has taken the measurement of the indicator in recent years.