

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: *Honduras (available at https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/8381/file/2022-PL10-Honduras_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 5 components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Good health and nutrition,WASH, climate change, risk management and resilience,Learning and skills,Social protection,Safe and protective environments. <p>The document does not mention Education in Emergencies and omits reference and specific data on mental health support, which in our view is necessary to respond to the needs in the programme rationale.</p> <p>It also lacks sufficient specific response to displaced and returned children who may face stigmatisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Migrant and returnee children, mainly those unaccompanied, are invisible to the protection system in Honduras, lacking regularly access to health and education services. Being excluded and extremely vulnerable, these children are easily stigmatized by society resulting in many of them migrating again. UNICEF has been implementing and will reinforce models of detection, referral and support for separated/unaccompanied migrant and displaced children and adolescents who require temporal housing, providing specific protection measures and PSS. Implementation of programs for the monitoring and reintegration of migrant children

	<p>Social protection mechanisms might also be particularly relevant for returnees, who might have additional barriers to access schemes due to e.g. a lack of documentation.</p> <p>Nothing is mentioned to ensure integration of children on move, who transit through Honduras and might be stranded, into existing schools and specific programs.</p> <p>Additional information is required on the lessons learnt of recent disasters e.g. the response to Eta and Iota, and include the conclusions in any proposed DP.</p> <p>Coordination with the HNO and HRP's should be elaborated. Little attention is given to ensure a nexus with humanitarian actions.</p>	<p>and families will also be developed with social workers who will undertake referrals to local services, promoting durable solutions in case management, promoting labour inclusion, entrepreneurship development, and empowerment through participatory processes. Social and behavioral norms related to migration processes will also be tackled through evidence-based sustained interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to that as mentioned on CPD Paragraph 44 on Social Protection: <i>“UNICEF will help to design and pilot innovative interventions to reach and deliver social protection to vulnerable groups, including children in extreme poverty, children on the move and children with disabilities, and develop costed strategies for scaling up. UNICEF will support the development of social protection programmes to enhance education and build skills, as well as entrepreneurship initiatives for children on the move.”</i> This includes support to the Secretary of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS) in the design and development of inclusive social protection programs, including cash/in kind-based interventions, that expand their reach to include migrant, returnees and displaced families. • On Migrant children transiting the country: Honduras is a transit country for migrants from other countries. Numbers have increased since June 2021. Between week 36 and 47 around 57,000 persons crossed the border of Honduras with Nicaragua in transit to the North. That is an average
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		<p>of 4,751 persons per week. Nationalities varies from Haitian (around 45%), Cuban (34%), Venezuelans, Chilian, Brazilian among others (IOM). Though in week 47, from a total of 4,535 persons crossing the border, 76% were from Nicaragua. Few humanitarian actors, and civil society organizations such as churches, are struggling to provide essential services to the migrants in transit in the South, specifically in El Paraiso, where there is almost no presence of the State. Consequently, almost no official data exist about those migrants. Data are collected by the humanitarian community. UNICEF will continue supporting these children when through available funds and humanitarian responses in transit areas including shelter, health and nutrition WASH, protection, and temporary learning activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>On mental health:</i> Children and adolescents are suffering from mental health issues, with the number of suicides in boys and girls showing a steady upward trend in the 2014-2019 period due to different forms of violence. Data from (CENISS, 2020a) show that while 19 suicides were recorded in 2014, in 2019 the figure rose to 52 cases, that is, an increase of 74%. Up to 22% of children deported to Honduras suffer symptoms related to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), such as anxiety, nightmares, poor concentration and poor performance in class (UNIVERSALIA, 2017). UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of mental health services in prioritized communities to attend children affected by migration, internal displacement and violence
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		<p>through municipal psychologists, and emergency psychosocial interventions along with the establishment of child friendly spaces, and the development of protocols to facilitate ‘profile differentiated’ therapeutical responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF technical teams, especially Communications and Early Childhood Development regularly strategize and work plan with PAHO and the Government of Honduras’s Health Ministry. The joint collaboration is especially successful through the COVAX initiative and building into it, the two agencies aim to strengthen the overall public health system in the country during the next program cycle under the UNSDCF. • For the past two years UNICEF enhanced cooperation with WFP through the Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative and the humanitarian emergency responses. Coordination in the school feeding program will resume in 2022, when schools re open. In 2021 UNICEF made extraordinary efforts to increase the body of evidence on infant and childhood malnutrition, contributing new data for the Government of Honduras and the Food Security sector. • The coordination of UNICEF program with EiE cluster strategic plan will be focusing on supporting the reintegration in school through rehabilitation of schools placed in high risk areas, teachers training on psychosocial support including identification and referral of cases; introduction of models for learning recovery, and strengthening risk management capacity and resilience of schools.
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		<p>health promotion; violence prevention and PSS after 2 years of school closure e) Educational bridges: UNICEF will support local initiatives to provide levelling, feedback and development of skills and socio-emotional support, through NGOs and in coordination with subnational levels of the Ministry of Education. Alternative models have been developed and tested to include out-of-school children and adolescents, reintegrating them to regular education. Preparation and distribution of materials for alternative and flexible modalities for learning and training of teachers on its implementation and d) Increasing participation of affected population and young people into different sector interventions as climate change mitigation; violence reduction in communities including GBV; and school environments through student governments.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p>Page 4, paragraph 18: The causes and main drivers for migration could be further elaborated. Climate change, food insecurity are additional drivers of migration. It could be interesting to develop further why returnees face stigmatisation and how is UNICEF going to overcome this. There is no response elaborated related to this.</p> <p>Page 7, paragraphs 31, 32, 33: Information linked to coordination and synergies in strategies with other stakeholders in the sectors of food security, nutrition and health, including UN agencies (WFP, WHO) is lacking. Responses to the mental health needs of children and adolescents are lacking, including differentiated approaches for children and adolescents with specific vulnerabilities (IDPs,</p>	<p>Proposed Changes/Edits to the CPD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Page 4, paragraph 18: The causes and main drivers for migration could be further elaborated. Climate change, food insecurity are additional drivers of migration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed that CC and Food Insecurity are also drivers of migration. It is now included in the paragraph 18 as follows: 18. <i>“A migration crisis in recent years has pushed thousands of Honduran children fleeing poverty, violence, climate change and food insecurity towards forced displacement and irregular migration, mainly to Mexico and the United States of America.”</i>

	<p>refugees and asylum-seekers, vulnerable migrants and returnees, unaccompanied and separated children, etc.)</p> <p>Page 8, paragraph 40: Please include more information on coordination and possible synergies with ongoing EiE initiatives.</p>	<p>2. It could be interesting to develop further why returnees face stigmatization and how is UNICEF going to overcome this. There is no response elaborated related to this.</p> <p>It is proposed to edit Paragraph 18 of the CPD as follows: <i>“Returnee children are often invisible to the protection system. With difficulties to access health and education services they face exclusion and are easily stigmatized by society, resulting in many of them migrating again.”</i></p> <p>3. Responses to the mental health needs of children and adolescents are lacking, including differentiated approaches for children and adolescents with specific vulnerabilities (IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers, vulnerable migrants and returnees, unaccompanied and separated children, etc.)</p> <p>It is proposed to add the following information on paragraph 50: <i>“UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of mental health services for children affected by migration, internal displacement and violence through municipal psychologists, emergency psychosocial interventions, and the development of protocols to facilitate ‘profile differentiated’ responses.”</i></p> <p>4. Page 7, paragraphs 31, 32, 33: Information linked to coordination and synergies in strategies with other stakeholders in the sectors of food security, nutrition and health, including UN agencies (WFP, WHO) is lacking.</p>
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