

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board
Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents
2023 second regular session

Draft country programme document commenting period: 13 June to 3 July 2023 [18:00 EST]

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: *Kingdom of the Netherlands*

Draft country programme document: *Burundi*

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.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	<p>We appreciate the thorough analysis in the CPD and the clear results and resources framework.</p> <p>The CPD puts a strong focus on the direct needs and direct impact of proposed activities on the health and wellbeing of children in Burundi. However, it could benefit from a stronger focus on the root causes and long-term impact of problems identified.</p> <p>With a high fertility rate of at least 5,2 children per women, and given the current GDP, most children will be born into poverty, and will not have access to sufficient food, health care or education. The increasing number of street children can be seen as a direct consequence of this fact. Adequate access to contraceptives, not only for couples but also for adolescent girls and boys, as well as comprehensive sexuality education that starts at a young age, is the cornerstone of an effective policy to reduce poverty among (future) children and to eradicate teenage pregnancies. We expect UNICEF to work jointly with UNFPA,</p>	

	<p>WHO and other partners, to ensure that this message is part of all policies.</p> <p>Another example is the fact that a high percentage of malnutrition in the country not only leads to direct suffering, it also deprives a country from generations of talented young people. We expect UNICEF to work with the WFP and others, to emphasis the fact that in order to combat malnutrition, countries need to investment in sustainable solutions.</p> <p>We applaud the fact that UNICEF makes thorough analysis of public investments of the government of Burundi vis-a-vis education, health and nutrition. We however also note with concern UNICEF’s significant demand for additional resources, while the government budget lines for health and education have declined over the course of the last few years. How do you continue conversations with the government about domestic resource allocation?</p>	
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents</p>		