

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: *European Union*

Draft country programme document: Lesotho

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>The strategy lacks a clear protection component.</p> <p>Recent visit by DG ECHO in Lesotho indicated the importance to have a more active UNICEF to fight child labour, child exploitation and risks associated to child trafficking versus South Africa.</p>	<p>UNICEF takes note of and agrees with the comments from the EU on ensuring a strong child protection component and reaffirms that child protection is a critical component in the new Country Programme. The Country Programme positions the child protection component within the life-cycle approach for greater synergized actions at appropriate life stages. The following illustrates select examples of priority child protection interventions and strategies geared towards strengthening the national/community systems and institutions, which could not be reflected in the CPD due to word-count limitation.</p> <p>The First Decade Outcome addresses prevention and response to violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse primarily through strengthening the positive and non-violent parenting practices and the birth registration.</p> <p>The Second Decade Outcome addresses child protection concerns particularly affecting the adolescents, while the systems and institutions strengthened under this outcome concern both children and adolescents. These efforts include among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonized policies and coordination <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development and implementation of National Child Protection Strategic Plan and National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour 2023-2028, which ensure the continuum of essential protection services across education, health and justice; b) Enhancement and harmonization of existing policies related to children;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Operationalization of the amended Child Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA) and the National Prevention and Response Plan on violence against children; d) Establishment of a statutory structure overseeing and coordinating plans on child well-being and child welfare activities at the national level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities for quality services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, justice and child protection practitioners to uphold and implement child-friendly and inclusive protection systems, e.g. police stations and courts; b) Strengthening the capacity of national, district and community council child protection structures on child rights and the implementation of related Acts and national Plans; c) Strengthening the capacity of schools and teachers to prevent and respond to violence in schools, including through identification, reporting and referrals; d) Establishment and systematization of one-stop shop facilities for child victims of violence • Improved data and accountability <p>Strengthening the data collection tools and mechanisms for monitoring the violence against children, along with enhanced multisectoral stakeholder coordination over the evidence generation agenda in child protection.</p> • Adolescent empowerment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support to adolescent-led actions against negative social and gender norms, such as child marriage, early and unintended pregnancies, violence and abuse, and stigma against children with disabilities; b) Identification of and engagement with positive role models, including community and faith leadership, as champions to change; c) Awareness raising on the available services and reporting mechanisms. <p>The Country Programme results matrix reflects the importance of the child protection agenda through the following outcome level indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under First-Decade Outcome: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age: ○ Under Second-Decade Outcome : Number of girls and boys who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services.
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<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents</p>	<p><i>Must include a much more detailed and prioritized protection component.</i></p> <p><i>The documents seems not to elaborate sufficiently on the way NISSA was and is currently actually supported with funds from the EU, nor does it clarify how the same can be really used as a way to promote a shock responsive social protection system.</i></p>	<p>UNICEF takes note and agrees with the EU’s comment regarding the child protection component and refers to the aforementioned explanations for details.</p> <p>UNICEF also fully agrees with the EU’s comment and acknowledges EU funds’ vital importance in supporting the NISSA. UNICEF reaffirms that the NISSA is a key unifying targeting system for all social protection programmes, including the Child Grant Programme, with a view to strengthening a shock-responsive social protection system in Lesotho. UNICEF will advocate for the use of the NISSA by the Government and development partners as the social registry of reference for multiple social protection and other interventions (social assistance, labour market interventions) regularly as well as in times of shocks. UNICEF has made some modifications in the CPD accordingly.</p>
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