

**Template for delegations providing comments on the
country programme documents**
2020 First Regular Session

Delegation name: ____Norway_____

Draft country programme document: ____Mali 2020-2024_____

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on any of the draft CPDs being presented during the forthcoming Board session.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents (CPDs) 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 will be made public on the Executive Board website, and considered by the respective regional office, in close consultation with the country office and the concerned Government.

General comments	<p><u>Intersectoral programming</u></p> <p>We highly welcome the strong emphasis on intersectoral programming in the draft country program document (CPD). A consequence is however that the CPD provides limited information about each thematic areas. An additional summary budget table providing a breakdown of expenditure per thematic area could be useful to better understand the distribution of funding between sectors.</p> <p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <p>We appreciate UNICEFs plans to work with different UN actors in Mali, and the CPD’s reference to joint programs to address child marriage and FGM. However, the draft does not specify UNICEF’s specific mandate in relation to the mandates of other main UN actors. UNICEF could consider being more specific under each strategic intervention/outcome on which UN organizations to work with and their mandates in reaching the different outputs.</p> <p>There is little reference to humanitarian response in general and specifically how UNICEF will work with actors such as UNHCR and OCHA. UNICEF is also moving to working with vocational training and job creation as part of their work on the second decade. References to how UNICEF intends to work with the ILO in this regard would be welcome.</p> <p>UN Women is mentioned as a central UN partner only in strategic intervention 3 (the second decade). UN Women and their partners may be relevant for e.g. policy development and access to networks</p>
------------------	--

of women's organisations and networks of importance to service delivery to several groups and especially to those "left behind".

Leaving no one behind, human rights based approach

We support the drafted CPD's people- and community centered approaches to «leaving no one behind». This is essential in order to reach those that are currently not being reached. It is however unclear who among those left behind UNICEF specifically will target in Mali. What characterizes their multidimensional discrimination and needs? How will UNICEF identify them, and how will UNICEF operationalize approaches to have positive impact on their lives?

We would appreciate if children with disabilities were better reflected in both background and program priorities, as they represent one of the most marginalized groups.

The CPD gives a good gender analysis under the programme rationale section, but there is limited reference to how UNICEF will foster gender equality through the programmatic intervention, e.g. through gender-targeted actions. The results framework lacks a systematic use of sex-disaggregated data for all relevant indicators.

Peace and security

Mali is a priority country for *Women, Peace and Security (WPS)*. The draft has no reference to SCR 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) or SCR 2250 (regarding Youth, Peace and Security), nor to Mali's commitments (e.g. Mali's Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security). The CPD could better reflect how the programs intend to contribute to reduce, or to avoid increasing, conflicts in target areas.

A gender perspective on the safety of those who will deliver services and of the target groups is of high importance in order to reach planned results. The draft does not mention cooperation with the security sector, institutions or organizations contributing to security in UNICEF's operational work.

Paragraph 24 refers to conflict and risk analysis. This is of utmost importance in Mali, and analysis should include a gender perspective. We would welcome clear descriptions of how to operationalize a conflict and security perspective regarding the strategic interventions/outcomes. Descriptions of windows of opportunities and main challenges under each of the three strategic intervention/outcome would allow for more precise operationalization of partnerships and challenges/risks.

	<p>Attacks and military use of schools, as well as insecurities related to attending and teaching in schools, is a challenge in Mali, but not reflected in the CPD. Mali endorsed the Safe Schools declaration in 2018. A reference to how UNICEF will support the Government to operationalize the commitments in the Safe Schools Declaration could be beneficial.</p> <p><u>Sexual and reproductive health and rights</u></p> <p>The CPD refers to high levels of early marriages and sexual violence in Mali. SHRH, including HIV, is however not sufficiently discussed in the CPD. To promote gender equality, health and education it is crucial that UNICEF includes SRHR in its work with adolescents (10-18 years). Adolescent’s sexual and reproductive health services, including youth friendly health services and comprehensive sexuality education, should be included in UNICEFs work during the formative years (6-12 years) and the second decade (13-18 years). Inclusion would complement UNICEFs intersectoral programming in Mali.</p> <p><u>UNICEF’s normative mandate</u></p> <p>We welcome UNICEF’s human rights based approach to “leaving no-one behind”, targeting both duty bearers and rights holders, and the strong focus on supporting the government’s implementation of national policy frameworks. The CPD refers to supporting the government in the development of standards and policy frameworks to scale up models and accelerate progress towards SDGs. However, the draft does not refer to specific existing (or lacking) national policy frameworks. We find that the CPD could benefit from being clearer on which frameworks UNICEF will support, and from analyses of whether these frameworks need strengthening.</p> <p>Specific references to concrete actions in key thematic areas would also have facilitated understanding of how these actions will reinforce interventions planned at community level.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number X, paragraph number X, or annex (results and resources framework).</i></p> <p><u>Use of evaluations in programming</u></p> <p>In the previous period (2015-2019) there was a focus on organizational evaluations (cost-effectiveness assessments of UNICEF Mali, evaluations on UNICEF’s zonal offices model etc.). The CPD could have made clearer references to if and how the program efficiency section has been informed by the evaluations made in the previous period.</p>

