

**Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board**

**Template for delegations commenting on the country programme documents**

**2021 second regular session**

*Country programme document posting period: 16 June to 6 July 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: *Republic of Azerbaijan*

Draft country programme document: *UNICEF draft Country Programme Document for Armenia*

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, 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 will be made public on the Executive Board website, and considered by the requesting country, in close consultation with UNICEF.

| General comments  | Delegations' comments  | Country response |
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| <b>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</b> | <p><u>Paragraph 2:</u></p> <p>The recent large-scale military hostilities <del>in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area</del> <u>between Armenia and Azerbaijan</u> caused a massive displacement <del>from Nagorno-Karabakh</del> to Armenia, resulting in a humanitarian disaster for tens of thousands of women and children. Among an estimated 90,000 displaced people, 88 per cent were women and children who were housed in host communities and collective shelters. <del>A significant number of the arrivals from Nagorno-Karabakh may not be able to return safely with the ceasefire in place, particularly residents of territories currently under control of Azerbaijan. Tens of thousands of them lost their homes and productive assets due to large-scale military hostilities.</del> The humanitarian needs and vulnerability of children and their caregivers will be prioritized based on the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.</p> |                  |

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|  | <p><u>Paragraph 3:</u></p> <p><del>Of note, the negotiated, comprehensive and sustainable settlement of all remaining core substantive issues of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in line with the basic principles and elements within the framework of the internationally agreed format of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group Co-Chairs continues to shape the humanitarian-development-peace nexus for the region, including for Armenia.</del></p>  |  |
|  | <p><u>Paragraph 4:</u></p> <p>In Armenia, 51.7 per cent of children live below the national poverty line, and 61.6 per cent (75 per cent of children in rural areas and 52 per cent in urban areas) are deprived in two or more dimensions of multidimensional poverty. Yet family benefits reach only 13 per cent of the population. Ongoing social protection reforms require further action to eliminate inclusion and exclusion errors, improve the adequacy of benefit size and address insufficient public financing for social sectors. The urgency of strengthening the social protection system and social service workforce while making other sectors more shock-responsive is underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic <del>and recent military hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area.</del></p> |  |

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|  | <p><u>Paragraph 5:</u></p> <p>In the aftermath of the large-scale military hostilities <del>in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area</del> <b>between Armenia and Azerbaijan</b>, the vulnerabilities of children in displaced families and those in border communities of Armenia have significantly increased. The needs of such children and families will require additional social protection measures <del>in locations affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict</del>, as well as the Tavush and Syunik regions. The social protection, integration and physical rehabilitation needs of children and adolescents in Armenia affected by the military hostilities require special multisectoral interventions, including medical care, access to quality education, psychosocial support and vocational training. In 2019, 1.5 per cent and 2.0 per cent of GDP was allocated to health and education, respectively – five times lower than the average for countries in the Europe and Central Asia region for health and 2.5 times lower for education. At 6.9 per cent of GDP, social protection expenditure is also below that of other countries in the region.</p> |  |
|  | <p><u>Paragraph 15:</u></p> <p><del>The water, sanitation and hygiene conditions of conflict-affected communities in Armenia have been severely affected by the recent military hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area.</del> Access to clean water and sanitation, including improved WASH facilities in schools and health centres, will be prioritized according to needs and available resources.</p>  |  |
|  | <p><u>Paragraph 18:</u></p> <p>Nearly 69 per cent of parents admit to using some form of violence to discipline their children. Twenty per cent of children self-report peer-to-peer violence. Underlying causes for such violence vary, from social norms justifying corporal punishment to lack of knowledge and capacities to effectively promote positive discipline in homes and educational institutions. Armenia joined the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children in 2018 and has included actions towards ending violence against children in the</p>   |  |

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|  | <p>National Strategy for Human Rights Protection (2020–2022) and action plan. The protection of children displaced and orphaned in the aftermath of the military hostilities <del>in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area</del> <b><u>between Armenia and Azerbaijan</u></b> will be prioritized.</p>   |  |
|  | <p><u>Paragraph 23:</u></p> <p>UNICEF will scale up its humanitarian assistance as part of the humanitarian community’s response, focusing on the protection and health of children as well as on ensuring access of the most vulnerable families and communities to WASH <del>in areas affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict where they can be reached directly or through indirect humanitarian response mechanisms.</del> Specific rehabilitation, integration and vocational training initiatives will be designed for young people who were affected mentally and psychologically, wounded or disabled during the military hostilities <del>in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area</del> <b><u>between Armenia and Azerbaijan.</u></b></p>  |  |
|  | <p><u>Paragraph 45:</u></p> <p>This country programme outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization’s programme and operations policies and procedures. UNICEF will execute the programme under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Joint UNSDCF and UNICEF-specific programme governance mechanisms and processes will assess the progress of interventions, identify possible risks and define appropriate mitigation measures. The programme will mainstream the humanitarian response to the needs of people displaced by the recent large-scale military hostilities <del>in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area</del> <b><u>between Armenia and Azerbaijan</u></b> and will prioritize their needs <del>of conflict-affected communities.</del></p> |  |