

**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: **United States of America**

Draft country programme document: **Eritrea**

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.

<b>General comments</b>	<b>Delegations' comments</b>	<b>Country response</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The United States encourages UNICEF country office to engage stakeholders to address the following in the CPD:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sex and age disaggregated data -- to consider designing surveys with specific questions that examine the unique needs of vulnerable populations including girls and people with disabilities.</li><li>2. Program and risk management – to consider conducting a risk analysis to identify and manage risks specific to the Eritrean context including the risks of fraud, waste, and abuse. Noting that strengthening risk management practices was a high priority action in the internal UNICEF County Office audit from 2018, we ask UNICEF to include these in the “Programme and risk management” section of the CPD.</li><li>3. A feedback mechanism to capture suggestions and</li></ol></li></ul>		

<p>complaints. We ask UNICEF to ensure a feedback mechanism for programming in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.</p> <p>4. Risks of COVID-19 on program implementation and how UNICEF would adapt. We ask UNICEF to include these in the CPD.</p>		
<p>The United States and other Executive Board members - in formal and informal meetings of the Executive Board and with UN leadership, including the Development Coordination Office (DCO) – as well as OP74 of A/Res/75/233 have set clear expectations that the UN development system do a better job to sequence entity-specific country program documents and their underlying Frameworks and/or outcome matrices. We note that only a draft outcome matrix was provided, without indication that it had been agreed by the Government and UNCT. In the future, we encourage UNICEF to ensure that finalized UNSDCF's and/or clearly marked 'final' or 'approved' outcome matrices are provided along with the draft Country Program Documents during the designated commenting period.</p>		