

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: *Estonia*

Draft country programme document: *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	Response
Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<p>We commend the progress Armenia has made in recent years. In the context of hardships that began in 2020, the situation in Armenia needs special attention. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the escalation of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict has left a significant impact on the welfare of Armenian people and it has especially had severe consequences to the most vulnerable groups, including children. We welcome that the programme priorities aim to assist Armenia in overcoming the issues caused by the pandemic as well as the conflict.</p> <p>There should be an even bigger emphasis on digital transformation of Armenia, which plays a significant role in the health care, education and social support services provided to children. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the digital divide in societies and the urgent need to support this digital transformation. Solutions for e-health, distance learning, telemedicine and tracking viruses</p>	<p>The comments submitted by the Government of Estonia are well noted.</p>

	<p>will not only help during the pandemic, but will support the resilience and development of Armenia for years to come. However, we note and welcome that in several subchapters of this document, the need for e-services has been outlined.</p> <p>Overall, we support the programme priorities and welcome that the Adaptive programming approaches have helped to adjust the document according to the most urgent needs.</p>	
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