

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: *Germany*

Draft country programme document: *Bangladesh*

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><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p> <p>We welcome the UNICEF Draft Country Programme Document 2022-2026 for Bangladesh and the opportunity to comment on it. GER and UNICEF are working together successfully in Bangladesh, especially in improving the access to quality education for children affected by the Rohingya crisis.</p>	<p>We sincerely appreciate continuous and very strong support from the Government of Germany to UNICEF for improving the wellbeing of children and women in Bangladesh including Rohingya children and women.</p>

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<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, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p> <p>- <u>Humanitarian-development nexus</u></p> <p>The CPD mentions <i>strengthening humanitarian-development linkages, and supporting the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of longer-term systems strengthening</i>. We would appreciate additional information on <u>how</u> the nexus linkages, including as part of the Covid-19 response, will be strengthened.</p> <p>\</p>	<p>Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. In this context, the occurrence of a large-scale disaster is not a matter of IF but that of WHEN. As such, there need to be strong elements in our development programmes to prepare for humanitarian situations, and equally strong elements in our humanitarian programmes to contribute to the system strengthening of the concerned sectors. The ongoing COVID-19 response provides an opportunity for that as well.</p> <p>One example that can be cited in this regard is COVID-19 response and health system strengthening. UNICEF has been providing support to the concerned counterparts in the Health Sector of the Government of Bangladesh in pursuing the following activities for the national COVID-19 response among others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integration of COVID-19-related key indicators in the national health management information system for real-time monitoring of the COVID situation in the country (eg. number of cases and deaths, test positivity rate) and the status of necessary resources and actions (eg. use/availability of COVID-19 dedicated beds, ICU beds, oxygen-related supplies and equipment, etc.) in a disaggregated manner to facilitate timely response actions. ➤ Strengthening of the national medical oxygen supply system in terms of overall planning and monitoring of the production, procurement and utilisation, and continuous supply of oxygen by helping set up liquid medical oxygen plants in 30 major hospitals (district hospitals and medical college hospitals) throughout the country. ➤ System strengthening and capacity building for infection prevention, control and case management.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ System strengthening for the continuation of essential health services (eg. child immunisation and other maternal and child health services) during a crisis time. ➤ Support for planning and implementation of COVID-19 vaccination (eg. delivery of vaccines, cold chain, communication). ➤ Support to strengthen health supply chain system. <p>The result of these assistances will help strengthen the overall national health system in both humanitarian crisis and development contexts. The fact that many of the countries that had experienced Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 have been fairing comparatively well vis-à-vis the COVID pandemic is a case in point.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<p>- <u>Rohingya crisis</u></p> <p>The Rohingya crisis is a crucial issue and a focus of GER Transitional Development Assistance work with UNICEF in Bangladesh. Acknowledging the annual publishing of a separate response plan for addressing the Rohingya crisis, we would appreciate more information about potential linkages between programmes, particularly the education components, related to the Rohingya crisis and the CPD.</p>	<p>Education for Rohingya children have been provided by using a tailor-made curriculum (Learning Competency Framework and Approach [LCFA]) and will increasingly be provided based on the Myanmar national curriculum from now on. Together with UNICEF's assistance to Education Sector in Bangladesh, it contributes to the goal of equitable access to education by all children in Bangladesh.</p> <p>Similarly, as virus/bacteria knows no boundary, UNICEF helps provide essentially the same basic health services in both the camps and the host communities. One symbolic example is the establishment and management of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centre (SARI ITC) in Teknaf Sub-District of Cox's Bazar District as a health institution dedicated to COVID-19 care and treatment since July 2020. The Centre is</p>

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		<p>open for both the camp and the host community populations and has been saving the lives of people infected with COVID from both the communities.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<p>- <u>Climate Crisis:</u> The CPD mentions Bangladesh being the <i>seventh most-affected country by extreme weather events. Bangladesh has made climate adaptation and disaster response a central pillar of its Eighth Five-Year Plan (8FYP) for 2020 to 2025.</i> Besides the mentioned climate-related interventions in the CPD, we would appreciate additional information on the partnerships UNICEF is going to leverage / synergize (with UN agencies, CSO) on this important agenda.</p>	<p>Given the vulnerability of Bangladesh to the impact of climate change including extreme weather events, disaster preparedness and response are included in all the programmes. The following are the examples of partnership on climate change adaptation and disaster response.</p> <p>A. WASH – Under the UNSDCF Priority Area Group on Climate and Environment, UNICEF has been working closely with FAO (Co-Chair), UNDP (Co-Chair), UN Women, IFAD, UNFPA, IOM, WFP and UNIDO. UNICEF is specifically leading a technical working group on climate change-resilient WASH services.</p> <p>B. Overall policies – UNICEF has also been actively engaging in a Local Consultative Group on Climate (currently chaired by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the FCDO) and particularly the sub-working group on climate policies and strategies which has been addressing national climate policies and the UNFCCC-related issues.</p> <p>C. Insurance-Linked Securities (ILS) – Under the new country programme, UNICEF is planning pilot implementation of a disaster preparedness and response programme based on insurance-linked securities (ILS) in Bangladesh. It is a parametric insurance for which the</p>

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		<p>“trigger” for the release of the relief fund is indicator(s) of specific natural hazard(s) (eg. pre-defined wind speed of Cyclone). It also contains disaster-preparedness component. If it materialises, UNICEF will be able to mobilise sizeable resources quickly in a predictable manner in the event of a major natural disaster. In that case, UNICEF will also be collaborating with the concerned private sector entities.</p>