

## 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: **Cameroon**

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The United States welcomes UNICEF's Country Programme Document for Cameroon.</li><li>• We strongly encourage UNICEF country office to engage stakeholders on the ground to discuss ways to better address the following issues in the CPD:</li></ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The risks of COVID-19 on program implementation</li><li>2. Addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of separated/unaccompanied children and their specific needs.</li><li>3. Adding a focus on community-based healthcare providers and services and improving access to essential health services to the section "Every child survives and thrives".</li><li>4. Addressing the risks of fraud, waste, and abuse,</li></ol>		<p>The Country Office thanks the United States of America Delegation for its comments that are addressed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The draft CPD describes the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 on children as mentioned in paragraph 4. The draft CPD recognizes that worsening public health emergencies, which may include COVID-19, constitute a risk to the achievement of the expected results (paragraph 45) and includes measures intended to address this risk. Thus, paragraph 14 refers to enhancing the resilience of communities and systems to shocks and stresses, including those stemming from the multiple effects of public health emergencies such as COVID-19, as a key strategy underpinning the programme logic and addressing the risks of COVID-19 on programme implementation. To help mitigate the economic effects of COVID-19 on children, paragraph 38 states that "UNICEF will advocate for increased domestic resource allocation to the social sectors". This will help strengthen COVID19 resilient social systems. Further,</li></ol>

<p>and SEA, and related reporting mechanisms and including these in the “Programme and risk management” section.</p> <p>5. Addressing the risks of armed groups including Boko Haram, ISIS, and others affecting programming, and include these risks and the mitigation measures in the “Programme and risk management” section.</p>		<p>paragraph 43 refers to the use of risk communication to engage communities in the response to public health emergencies and promote the acceptance of vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccination. Indeed, strengthening routine immunization represents one of the key results of the programme, as explained in paragraphs 15 and 24.</p> <p>2. The country programme will address the needs and vulnerabilities of children affected by emergencies, who include separated/unaccompanied children, as explained in paragraph 20: “<i>In areas affected by emergencies, UNICEF will provide direct assistance to affected children and their families, including internally displaced persons and refugees</i>”. Additionally, paragraph 33 explains that the programme component Every Child is Protected from Violence and Exploitation includes “<i>supporting the integration of a minimum package of child protection services into health, education and social protection</i>”, in both development and humanitarian contexts - separated/unaccompanied children are among those who will benefit from these services. Further, the second output within outcome 4 involves identification, referral and provision of a minimum package of protection services to children at risk, who include separated/unaccompanied children (page 14).</p> <p>3. The draft CPD includes a focus on community-based healthcare providers and services to improve access to essential health services. Thus, one of the elements of the programme logic explained in paragraph 14 is that “<i>national and regional authorities and local councils utilize evidence-based integrated models tested at the community level to scale up the coverage, capacity and quality of essential social services</i>”. This overarching approach is reflected in the programme component Every Child Survives and Thrives. Thus, paragraph 22 states that UNICEF will support the strengthening of capacity of healthcare services through the “<i>engagement of communities, families, parents and caregivers to adopt healthy behaviours and practices in favour of children</i>”. Further, paragraph 23 states that the programme component includes a focus on “<i>expanding integrated community case management to prevent and treat childhood illnesses</i>”.</p> <p>4. These concerns are addressed in the draft CPD. Thus, paragraph 41 states that “<i>UNICEF will apply a value-for-money approach to enhance the effectiveness of financial resources</i>”. This approach encompasses programmatic and financial assurance activities to address the risks of misuse of funds, within the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework. Paragraph 43 explains that UNICEF</p>
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		<p>field operations and humanitarian action will engage with partners to provide humanitarian assistance “<i>that safeguards children from sexual exploitation and abuse</i>”. The same paragraph addresses reporting mechanisms, stating that “<i>accountability to affected populations will be promoted through support for the operationalization of adequate complaint and feedback mechanisms</i>”.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Paragraph 45 section, item (c), refers to “<i>protracted regional instability</i>” – which includes instability arising from the activities of Boko Haram and other non-state armed groups – as a risk to the achievement of the expected results. Mitigation measures mentioned in the same paragraph include support to “<i>the Government to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies and to promote social cohesion</i>”.</p>
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