

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: *Madagascar*

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>The United States encourages UNICEF country office to work with stakeholders on the ground to address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● To consider the integration of management of acute malnutrition in the program rationale section.● To consider building government capacity to monitor and enforce adherence to the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.	<p>The UNICEF Madagascar CO would like to thank the Government of the United States of America for its interest and valuable comments on the UNICEF Madagascar CPD, and is pleased to share its responses below.</p> <p>UNICEF acknowledges this suggestion with thanks, as addressing acute malnutrition is an important part of our programme. The CPD has been duly adjusted.</p> <p>UNICEF Madagascar has supported the capacity building of the Government on the International Code of Marketing on several occasions and will continue to do so. The new country programme reflects the critical importance of mobilizing other actors, including the private sector to further the efforts, as described in paragraph 27.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To consider conducting a risk analysis to identify and manage risks specific to the Madagascar context including the risks of fraud, waste, and abuse. 	<p>A comprehensive risk management apparatus is employed by UNICEF at the country level, specifically the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) approach. This includes an assessment and mitigation proposition for risks such as in security, fraud, misuse of funds and corruption, as well as reputational risks, fundraising constraints, and complexity in field operations, etc. UNICEF’s ERM approach fits into comprehensive country-specific risk analysis in the UNSDCF.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To maintain its focus and ensure a sufficient allocation of resources in the areas most impacted by climate shocks. 	<p>UNICEF Madagascar recognizes that climate shocks and environmental degradation affect the entire country, with some zones indeed more vulnerable than others, particularly to drought and cyclones. Ensuring allocation of resources to these zones, especially via a nexus approach is key to the country programme. At the same time, UNICEF will also employ nation-wide approaches, for example on immunization, as well as geographical targeting to address sectoral programming needs that may not be related specifically to climate shocks.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To articulate in a clearer manner the potential linkages between the different sectors, for example, WASH efforts to increase market-based approaches to sanitation. 	<p>UNICEF Madagascar agrees that robust cross-sectoral approaches and linked-up synergies between sectors are vital to achieving results, as elaborated in the CPD and UNSCDF. Examples are the linkages among WASH, education and environment; social policy and child protection; and governance and justice. In addition, strategies will be selected considering the potential to amplify the cross-sectoral linkages, such as roles of the private sector and markets to increase efficiency and sustainability of water and sanitation approaches.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To ensure a strong focus on government commitment to improved water management and increased government and community capacity for sustainable water use. Subsidies for water costs must be carefully constructed so as not to counteract water system cost-recovery and sustainability. 	<p>UNICEF agrees with the recommendation to focus on mid-to-long term sustainability in water management, noting that humanitarian situations might call for swift emergency response in which subsidized water can be an element. When working with the Government and other stakeholders around the response to the current drought emergency in the South, all elements will need to be considered, looking at approaches adequate for short, mid and long-term.</p>