

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: *Zimbabwe*

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 2022-2026 for Zimbabwe and the opportunity to comment on it.</p> <p>1. Programme Rationale: well-structured and comprehensive, however no mention of children</p>	<p>Thank you for the comments. We appreciate the continuing partnership and engagement with the Embassy of Germany and other organs of the Government of Germany in the implementation of the UNICEF Country Programme in Zimbabwe. Please see below the response to the issues raised.</p> <p>1. We appreciate your interest in <u>children in the justice system</u>. The Country Programme Document (CPD) envisaged child justice administration as part of the child protection continuum of care. The programme will strengthen institutional capacity to address gaps in legislation and policies through legal drafting of the Child Justice Bill and the review of the Criminal Law Code. Focus will also be on the development of standards and training curriculum on survivor-friendly justice and law enforcement systems and services for children in contact with the law as survivors, witnesses, or perpetrators of crime. Building on current partnerships, the Programme will support the decentralization of services for the Legal Aid Directorate, scale up of the Pre-Trial Diversion Programme and Victim-Friendly Courts at district levels, and expand the coverage of the Victim-Friendly Police</p>

	<p>in the justice system, both in terms of victims or perpetrators.</p> <p>2. Programme priorities and partnerships: welcome the gender-transformative approach throughout all priority areas; on child protection the role of the Human Rights Commission particularly with regard to child’s rights monitoring should be explored (ref. No 44).</p> <p>3. The aspect of promoting economic development: mentioned a few times (e.g. c)/ page 5) but not clearly defined how the programme will contribute to that.</p> <p>4. Devolution: The programme refers to the devolution process which hasn’t really taken off yet. If the programme was seriously “building on the country’s devolution process” (point 16/ page 5) UNICEF together with other UN agencies and development partners should undertake a thorough assessment of this process and progress to date.</p>	<p>Units, in addition to support for investigation, forensic evidence gathering and prosecution.</p> <p>2. Thank you for noting the gender-transformative approach across all the priority areas. The programme currently has partnership with the <u>Human Rights Commission</u>, particularly the Thematic Working Group on Children’s Rights to develop the Complaints Intake Tool and the Monitoring and Investigation Tools to receive complaints by and on behalf of children. Building on this engagement, the CPD will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission to mainstream child rights issues into its three flagship programmes: (i) Complaints Handling and Investigations; (ii) Monitoring and Inspections, and Research, (iii) Outreach and Education to improve monitoring and reporting on compliance of various actors, with the provisions in Zimbabwe’s constitution and the CRC. • Child participation and accessibility of the Commission to children, including children with disabilities, those living and working on the streets, children in detention with their mothers and children in institutional/residential care. <p>3. Since 2018, UNICEF has earned consultative status for policy discussions, both monetary and fiscal with the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank. Through these engagements, UNICEF provides support and technical advice/options to the <u>national economic development agenda</u>. The CPD envisaged a continuation of this technical assistance to the Government through the social inclusion programme component.</p> <p>4. The Government of Zimbabwe has limited experience with the <u>devolution process</u> as it commenced the implementation of the devolution provisions of its Constitution in 2019, and only commenced fulfilling the minimum requirement of effecting the Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers to the local tiers of government with the 2019 National Budget. Current partnership with the Ministry of Finance is laying the key guidance framework on the use of resources allocated to local tiers of the government through (i) the development of guidance manual on the use of the devolution funds, to ensure priority to social sector (that also benefit children); (ii) systems support and training of local authorities to move from paper-based accounting methods to electronic systems to enhance transparency and accountability, and (iii) support for local level fiscal planning and cashflow management as part of public financial management for children. We agree that a more coordinated UN approach is required to further support the devolution agenda of the Government, and a joint UNICEF/UNDP mapping of the fiscal</p>
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		devolution process is planned for later part of 2021 to identify key areas of support by the UN to the devolution process. The findings of this mapping will contribute to the implementation of the CPD.
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