

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: *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>The United States strongly encourages UNICEF country office to engage stakeholders on the ground to discuss and address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The measures to reverse the 72 to 63 per cent and 46 to 36 per cent decline of basic drinking water and sanitation.2. The difference between climate resilient WASH and standard WASH operations, as well as the steps to deal with them, for example in the use of sustainability/integration language in page 7 to provide additional detail to illustrate that the program will clearly incorporate climate resiliency in meaningful terms.	<p>Thank you for the comments on the Zimbabwe draft Country Programme. We appreciate your partnership and support.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We recognize the serious challenges in the stagnation and decline in the water and sanitation indicators, and the CPD prioritises the following measures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>WASH sector coordination and advocacy</u> with a focus on leveraging public financing and investments to scale up durable WASH infrastructure and services; improvement in inter-ministerial coordination; support to sector wide planning and roll out of the drinking water safety and security policy and standards.• <u>WASH services coverage improvement</u> by focusing on equitable access to WASH services, including in emergencies; improvement in water management; scale up of coverage of open defecation free communities and durable latrine construction; WASH in schools and health care facilities; and private sector partnership to scale up the

		<p>solar-powered urban water kiosk in areas with improved willingness to pay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Demand generation</u> focusing on hand hygiene promotion, social mobilization for WASH services, including menstrual health and hygiene and building local capacity to maintain WASH infrastructures. <p>2. Thank you very much for the comment on the difference between climate-resilient WASH and standard WASH operations. The CPD prioritize climate-sensitive interventions to mitigate the risks and impact of climate change across the social sectors. The programme will support the development of climate change strategy in the WASH sector, build capacity of institutions and communities in disaster risk reduction, roll out climate-resilient WASH infrastructure and services, prepare the next generation with the knowledge on climate change through the education system and adolescent engagement; and increase the use of solarization to power schools, health facilities and water supply. The programme will also focus on partnership building with other UN agencies like FAO, UNESCO and UNDP, as well as the Green Climate Fund.</p>
	<p>The United States and other Executive Board members - in formal and informal meetings of the Executive Board and with UN leadership, including the Development Coordination Office (DCO) – as well as OP74 of A/Res/75/233 have set clear expectations that the UN development system do a better job to sequence entity-specific country program documents and their underlying Frameworks and/or outcome matrices. We note that only a draft outcome matrix was provided, without indication that it had been agreed by the Government and UNCT. In the future, we encourage UNICEF to ensure that finalized UNSDCF's and/or clearly marked 'final' or 'approved' outcome matrices are provided along with the draft Country Program Documents during the designated commenting period.</p>	<p>The UNSDCF Results Matrix has been reviewed and agreed by the Government, who led and engaged in the visioning exercise and the prioritisation and strategic results formulation consultations. Subsequently UNICEF and other Ex-Com agencies have received the letter of endorsement letter from the Government acknowledging explicit alignment of the CPD with the draft UNSDCF. The UN RC has also provided a written concurrence on the alignment. Subsequent to the draft CPD's submission for commenting, the Results Framework was finalized and the approved results framework for the UNSDCF in Zimbabwe has been posted on the DCO website as attached below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  UNSCDF ZIMBABWE RESULTS FRAMEWOF </p>