Delegation name: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

Draft country programme document: Ethiopia

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on any of the draft CPDs being presented during the forthcoming Board session.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents (CPDs) 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 respective regional office, in close consultation with the country office and the concerned Government.

| General comments | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia commends the Government of Ethiopia and UNICEF for the progress achieved to this date and remains hopeful that action will be advanced in areas that have not seen the expected results. We welcome the draft country programme focusing on capacity development for policies, planning, information management and service provision in all priority sectors of the programme as well as the improvement of SBCC strategies. The programme follows a holistic approach by bringing forward interlinkages and partnerships with other development and humanitarian partners and existing initiatives; however, we would like to see more the operational side of the cooperation described within the programme. In current circumstances, we see that the programme should describe undertakings to be put forward to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on children and youth. Alongside a strong response to the impact of COVID-19, it will be important to ensure the continuation and acceleration of ongoing initiatives with the aim to minimise delaying the implementation process of the established programme. The latter would increase inequalities and uncertainties even further. |
| Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document | Regarding the section on **health** and the dire impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we would suggest including a paragraph on actions that address the shortcomings exposed by the pandemic within the health care system affecting children and adolescents and plans to build resilience in this regard. In the same section, the response to neonatal mortality and HIV/AIDS should be brought forward – areas where progress has stalled. As immunisation rates in Ethiopia are still low, firmly established should be the continuous effort to increase childhood vaccination rates against preventable diseases. In addition, to support a safe and enabling environment for children, the attention should be put also on the provision of a safe and healthy environment in which children and youth develop. Considering **learning and development**, the pandemic has paralysed many school systems, created obstacles and sometimes even made it impossible for students to continue their education. The risk of social inequalities rising is high. To build resilience of schools and their ability to adjust to crisis |
situations in Ethiopia, we suggest incorporating into the programme the enhancement of distance learning opportunities.