United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board

Template for delegations providing comments on the
country programme documents
2020 Annual Session

Delegation name: Finland

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.

<table>
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<th>General comments</th>
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<td>The programme rationale describes well the situation in Ethiopia (before Covid-19) and provides the basis for the focused, yet comprehensive, programme priorities. Finland deems particularly important the shift to ‘triple nexus’: collaboration between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actions; and encompassing children on the move, vulnerable refugees, returnees, IDPs and trafficked children. The country programme is informed e.g. by the situation analysis: Finland appreciates the in-country consultations, which took place on the analysis and its recommendations. Moreover, the Embassy of Finland in Addis Ababa participated in the preparation of this country programme as a reviewer: something to consider as best practise in a partnership between a bilateral partner and UN organization. Cooperation in programming builds on the excellent cooperation in implementation during the previous country programme, in particular in education and WASH, which are also priority sectors of Finland’s bilateral programme in Ethiopia.</td>
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According to WHO around 10 per cent of the world’s children and young people, some 200 million, have a sensory, intellectual or mental health impairment. Children with disabilities are more likely to experience violence and abuse. They are also more often excluded from education and health services. Children with disabilities and their families constantly experience barriers to the enjoyment of their basic human rights and to their inclusion in society. As an example, it is estimated that around 4 % of children with disabilities in Ethiopia have access to education.

We would like to emphasize the importance of addressing the situation of children with disabilities more explicitly in this draft country programme document. While we encourage UNICEF to increase its disability funding and programming, it is critical to ensure that disability inclusion and accessibility are mainstreamed into all UNICEF themes and programmes and the accountability and results frameworks.

It is recommended that UNICEF applies the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and its upcoming performance indicators as a key framework to guide the organizational and programmatic adjustments that may need to take place in implementing the UNDIS.

Data disaggregation and disability statistics:
We also encourage UNICEF to adopt a systematic way of measuring how children with disabilities and their families are accessing the programs and how they are benefiting. Without clear data and specific policy decisions as well as dedicated resources, children with disabilities do not benefit equally from mainstream programmes and investments, and continue to be excluded and marginalized.

We therefore strongly emphasize the importance of systematic collection and use of disability disaggregated data, by using the Washington Group and UNICEF Module for Child Functioning methodology. We also encourage to have in place specific indicators that measure disability inclusion at the organizational and programmatic levels.

We also strongly encourage to ensure that organizations of children with disabilities and their parents’ are actively consulted and to allow their participation in the implementation and monitoring of the strategy.

Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document

Para 15-16: It is commendable that equity, gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities and inclusion are mentioned here as the guiding aspects of the country programme. The evidence-based approach and use of various sources of information strategically implies strong knowledge management throughout the programme. There is also an intent on downwards accountability towards affected populations and communities.

Para 29-33: The short description of the WASH sector does not provide a breakdown of the total budget of 111.5 MUSD. Considering that 77% of the budget comes from other resources, UNICEF may end up having to implement stand-alone projects instead of being able to contribute to the Common Water Account (CWA). However, even stand-alone projects should be fully aligned with the One WASH national programme (OWNP). This applies also to the results and resources framework: its targets do not seem fully correspond with the OWNP targets. There are other partners, such as the CWA and USAID, which contribute to such targets, so it would useful to harmonize them. The source of at least the baseline information should also be mentioned.

Para 34-37: The learning and development programme focuses on seven barriers to children’s learning and development. These barriers relate mainly to systemic challenges and are well identified. However, we are concerned about the absence of clear focus on children with disabilities in the education programme, even if children with disabilities are mentioned as one of the priority groups in the country programme priorities. Children with disabilities face the most barriers in education, including malnutrition, lack of pre-primary education and school readiness, as well as access to, retention in and learning in education programmes.

CPD Para 50-51, CEP:

Monitoring and evaluation addresses gender equality and age in a clear manner. However, disaggregation or inclusion of persons with disabilities are not explicitly addressed, although the CP vision for change places particular emphasis on them. The CP Outcome statements mention the most disadvantaged, but it is not ascertained that all data and information gathered (results and resources framework, CEP) will capture the persons with disabilities.
Consider elaborating slightly more on how the national systems and capacity will be strengthened in practice.
Consider summarising in CPD how the various evaluations will be used and how they serve learning and steering the programme for results. Moreover, will there be an evaluation on the entire country programme at any point, in addition to evaluating the flagship results areas? If not, consider elaborating on how the overall progress will be assessed/analysed during this programme cycle.
Consider elaborating how the participatory approach mentioned in para 41. will be applied in monitoring and evaluation.
Will there not be any joint evaluations with other UN agencies?