Delegation name: _____ USA _____________________________

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 | Given the vulnerabilities in the region, disaster risk reduction (DRR) can be integrated in different levels of child/adolescence education (the program includes activities on primary, secondary and adolescence education) to reduce vulnerability to various disasters.

As the CPD was prepared prior to the pandemic, it does not address how UNICEF's country strategy, programs, and budget will be affected by this development. USG suggests that UNICEF take this into consideration since the pandemic fundamentally increases and changes the nature of and prioritization of programming and provide an update to that effect.

We acknowledge that the CPD was developed before the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the following is worth noting: a) the overall strategy remains relevant as the CPD addresses strengthening the humanitarian and emergency response of the office and the country programme; b) the CPD has reference to disease outbreaks (paragraph 20) and there are several indicators in the expanded result framework (the CPD carries only an extract) related to outbreak response; c) the detailed Programme Strategy Notes can be modified as we adjust our programmatic response to the unfolding consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. The organizational budget implications of the pandemic are still being gauged at the HQ level. UNICEF Ethiopia will have to follow the overall budget changes in Regular Resources and Institutional Budget that we anticipate could be introduced by the HQ.

Please note that we have also inserted references to Covid-19 in the updated version of the CPD. |
The Program Rationale does not mention the rise in violent conflict, social tensions, and rapid increase in internal displacement since 2016 and the impact of this trend on equitable access to quality services and the cited social indicators.

While we applaud the inclusion of insecurity and tensions in paragraph 48 (page 9/17), we urge UNICEF to ensure that a robust conflict sensitivity risk and opportunity analysis is completed as part of the risk-reduction plan and appropriate mitigation measures incorporated into the programme design, including proactive efforts to address deficiencies in trust and social cohesion throughout the course of the programme.

UNICEF has indeed referred to ethnic tensions, insecurity and conflict in its Situation Analysis, which accompanies the CPD submission. As a complementary analytical piece, UNICEF has also just finalized (in mid-April 2020 and therefore after the CPD submission) a full analysis on social cohesion. Such in depth analysis is going to guide the specific mitigation measures and potential adjustments to our HAC.

While the risks and assumptions part in the CPD is quite restricted because of strict words count criteria, UNICEF will use the above-mentioned conflict analysis to inform its Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) which allows to examine scenarios in depth and with reference to sensitive issues.

Paragraphs 34/35/36/37 could include specific language on support to children with disabilities in their strategy as disability-inclusive education improves educational outcomes for all learners.

Well noted

Paragraph 34 should note that “outputs” should also focus on improved learning outcomes, not just “increasing access”.

Well noted. We would like to note that the use of the word ‘learning’ in the name of the programme rather than ‘education’ means that we are focusing on learning and not only education and access to school. Also, this paragraph refers to education quality and relevance which includes work on learning outcomes e.g. curriculum reform, teachers’ training, support on measuring learning outcomes

Paragraph 30: The paragraph should be clarified and reworded. UNICEF should consider the following:. What is the main message? Is it the coordination between the humanitarian cluster and national “One WASH” program or just listing various activities under “One WASH” program?

In fact it is both. There has to be close links between humanitarian and development under the One WASH programme.

Paragraph 30: Delete “change” from “climate change” or if we include change replace it with “changing climate”
Paragraph 48: Replace “natural disasters aggravated by climate change” by “climate-related disasters”. Natural disasters by definition include both climate and non-climate related disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis; climate change may not have any impact on these disasters. If the intention is to focus on disasters caused by climate then “climate-related disasters” is more appropriate terminology.

The government in Ethiopia uses the term “climate change.” This is the terminology used in the government plans notably “Ethiopia’s Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy”.

Noting the high rates of physical and sexual violence against children, we recommend UNICEF acknowledge and highlight supports and services specific to these areas of need. We take note that GBV services and PSS are not mentioned, and would urge that each area be specifically and strategically addressed.

Paragraph 23. Delete references to individual organizations. Suggested revised text, “The development and humanitarian partners are the Government, bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector, research, and the media.”

Paragraph 28. Delete references to individual organizations and members. Suggested revised text, “The nutrition programme’s development and humanitarian partners include the Government, bilateral and multilateral organizations, including those in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, civil society, research and media organizations, and the private sector.”

Paragraph 38. As noted, strengthening the capacities of children and families is essential. Paragraph could note types of strengthening such as “livelihood interventions, economic-strengthening, parenting and other social-protection programs”.

Given that additional statements were introduced in the CPD related to Covid-19, given the restricted number of words allowed in the document, and given that the list of partners will not be exhaustive, a change was made in the text which represents a broader list of partners.

Paragraph 45 states “The programme will support gender transformative and participatory approaches and strengthen duty-bearers’ capacity to understand, commit, monitor and take action to bring Ethiopia into compliance with ratified international human rights conventions, treaties and charter.”

Asking for clarification on what the term “gender transformative” means.

Gender transformative approach means essentially to address the root causes of gender-based inequalities and how to transform some harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM. It is essentially about transforming the imbalance of power between males and females into positive ones.