**UNICEF Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board**

**Template for delegations commenting on the country programme documents**

2020 second regular session

*Country programme document posting period: 16 June to 8 July 2020*

---

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on any of the draft country programme documents being presented to the Executive Board during the second regular session.

Delegation name: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia*

Draft country programme document: *Serbia*

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 respective regional office, in close consultation with the country office and the concerned Government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Response from UNICEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General comments</td>
<td>Current UNICEF draft Country Programme Document (CPD) for Serbia includes appropriate priorities. It is important that Serbia as a candidate country of the EU achieves further progress in the reform process, which will help to contribute to the implementation of the Country Programme and enhance the areas related to the rights of the children, empowering young people, including through public-private partnership, etc. Good to note that digitalization and innovation have been Serbian Government’s priorities for many years, which could add value to achieve results in different priority areas. Although there have been several developments in Serbia, many challenges remain. Therefore, engagement and expertise of UNICEF is necessary.</td>
<td>UNICEF thanks the <em>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia</em> for its comments and will work with the government in these endeavours.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document | Quality and inclusive pre-university education, including early childhood education and care: in relation to enhancing digital competences of children, it would be important to improve the quality of education by modernising curricula, teacher training and digital platforms provided for children. Distance learning should be an integral part of the modernisation of the education system. It will not only provide better access to education but also build emergency preparedness for education and child protection will address the following issues:  
  - Modernising curricula, teacher training, digitalization/distance learning (paragraph 40)  
  - Counselling and reintegration services (paragraph 44)  
  The country programme pays particular attention to the most disadvantaged and excluded across all sectors: paragraph 25, 33 (young child health and well-being, 38 | UNICEF would like to confirm that efforts in Education, and child protection will address the following issues:  
  - Modernising curricula, teacher training, digitalization/ distance learning (paragraph 40)  
  - Counselling and reintegration services (paragraph 44)  
  The country programme pays particular attention to the most disadvantaged and excluded across all sectors: paragraph 25, 33 (young child health and well-being, 38 |
crises situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic that forced schools into lockdown. **Child protection:** alongside with the improvement of and access to the juvenile justice system, counselling and reintegration services should be enhanced. Elimination of discrimination and protection of minorities should be a priority.

(education), 43 and 45 (child protection), 46 (young people), 51 (Social policy, public financing and child-rights monitoring)