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: **Belgium**

Draft country programme document: **Uganda**

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><strong>General comments</strong></th>
<th>Uganda made moderate economic progress with growth in gross domestic product of about 6% per cent per annum. Despite the progress made in reducing income poverty, neonatal mortality stagnated and undernutrition remains an important contributor to poor maternal and child health. The country programme document mentions that the impact of the corona pandemic is expected to exacerbate poverty further. But this has not been thoroughly analysed in the country programme document. Uganda’s economic performance is influenced by developments in the global economic environment. Therefore, a slowdown in the global economy as a result of coronavirus will have a negative impact on Uganda’s economy and on the budget of Uganda. The relative decline in the share of the health and education sectors in the budget of Uganda is therefore worrying, where the Ugandan government planned expenditure for the security sector (albeit in an election year) is 24% higher than in the previous budget year. The socio-economic impact of the Corona crisis should be reflected in the proposed country programme document, given its impact on the social sectors.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **18 (page 5):** The country document mentions that while Uganda boasts relatively strong and child-friendly policies and plans, implementation remains challenging, due to supply shortages, poor maintenance and staff motivation...Belgium is implementing its health program in Uganda using results based financing (RBF). RBF is a strategic health service purchasing mechanism that shifts the focus from input-based financing to output-based financing, where health facilities are paid on the basis of their actual output. It also subsidizes fees for patients and provides incentives to health professionals. RBF mechanism allows the health facilities to reinvest the revenue, improve the conditions of operation, and provide new and better quality health services. Would this be a strategy that also could be used for the implementation of the UNICEF programmes?

**39 (page 9):** for the “child survival and development” component, the other resources are 149.247 USD and the regular resources are 34.053 USD. This means that the other resources are more than 4 times higher than the regular resources. This is not the case for the other programme components. What is the rationale of this proposal and what are the risks taking into the Corona crisis and the shift in donor financing?

**Page 12: results framework: key performance indicator:**
**proportion of children receiving a minimal number of food groups: baseline 30.3% and target 85%**. The target seems to be very ambitious, taken into account that evaluations of nutrition programs in Uganda have shown that targets that were mentioned in the log frames of UNICEF for nutrition programmes have not been met in the past. Although mothers have understood the importance of complementary feeding, compliance was complicated by the lack of food availability and resources to obtain proper available foods. The socio-economic crisis linked to the Corona pandemic will have most probably a negative impact on the household budgets of the most deprived part of the population. What will be UNICEF’s strategy in order to reach this very ambitious target?

**Page 13: average learning outcome results in core subjects**
The base line contains sex-disaggregated figures but the targets are not sex-disaggregated. What is the reason for this?

**Page 14: out of school rate for girls and boys of primary and lower secondary school age**
The base-linen and the targets do not contain sex-disaggregated data. What is the reason for this?

**Page 15: share of public spending on health education and social protection**. The proposed targets indicate a rise of the spending in the health and education sector, but the proposed budget indicates a relative decline in the share of the health and education sectors in the budget of Uganda for the fiscal year 2020-2021. What is the strategy that will be developed by UNICEF in order to advocate for a rise of the budget for the social sectors, taking into account the expected socio-economic impact of the corona-crisis?

(D1.3, LT, 19 June 2020)