

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2023 first regular session

Draft country programme document commenting period for Cabo Verde common country programme document: 7 to 25 November 2022 [18:00 EST]

Draft country programme document commenting period for Algeria; Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Central African Republic; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Haiti; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Lebanon; Nepal; Pacific Islands (multi-country programme); Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine (area programme); Sao Tome and Principe: 15 November to 5 December 2022 [18:00 EST]

Draft country programme for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): TBC

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme document being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: *Australia*

Draft country programme document: *Pacific Islands Countries (multi-country programme)*

In accordance with Executive Board decision [2014/1](#), draft 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 stated above will be posted on the Executive Board website.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	<p>In general, there is broad policy alignment in the plan with Australia's development priorities, and we have good engagement with UNICEF and its programs across the Pacific.</p> <p>We encourage UNICEF to increase focus on implementation issues and alignment to local/regional bodies and strategies (e.g. the PIF 2050 Strategy.). This may help ensure a more consistent</p>	

	<p>narrative and policy alignment with donors who have already endorsed the regional strategies and invested in its implementation.</p> <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australia supports UNICEF’s approach to working in partnership with Ministries of Health and other key regional partners (UNFPA, FAO, WFP, WHO) on issues related to NCDs (high-impact nutrition interventions; strengthening legislation and regulatory arrangements), health workforce (including addressing issues around primary healthcare in remote communities), SRHR, and supporting countries accelerate progress towards UHC, with a focus on women and children. - The proposed work under health and nutrition aligning to the principles of development effectiveness; and makes an important contribution to a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. We would be pleased to engage where relevant with UNICEF and contribute to a more joined up approach on these priority health issues for the Pacific. - We note UNICEF’s ongoing coordination of the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) and efforts to revitalise routine immunisation following the setback due to COVID. - Interested in whether UNICEF has plans to integrate the procurement, and possible delivery, of additional essential health and nutrition supplies with routine immunisation services. <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We recognise UNICEF’s leading role in delivering early childhood care and development in the Pacific, including as an implementing agency of the Pacific’s Regional Education Framework agenda. - We suggest the CPD would benefit from analysis of early childhood care and development outcomes since the last program document. 	
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Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document	<i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i>	
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