

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2023 first regular session

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: *United States*

Draft country programme document: *Central African Republic*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How does UNICEF plan to build WASH service capacity in national and local systems, to address the impacts of climate change, disaster risk, and environmental degradation?- What is UNICEF's strategy for supporting its program priorities within rural communities under threat of violence and without access to government-supported systems?- We recommend that UNICEF's health programming under the new CPD builds on gains made through COVID-19 prevention/response efforts in strengthening primary health care delivery. This can and should include continued support to health workers, building on investments in vaccine	

	<p>logistics to expand routine immunization, and WASH improvements in health facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States recommends using “gender-based violence” (GBV) terminology throughout to better capture multiple forms of GBV (i.e. sexual violence, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and cutting, etc), which are prevalent and experienced by children. Namely, on pages 3, 5, 6, and 7 (see below). 	
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</p>	<p><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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Page 4, para 14: “14. Building on the previous programme, and using an evidence-based approach, the programme will use the following key strategies: (a) Improve linkages between humanitarian, development and peace interventions, using the triple nexus approach, guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will these strategies, specifically improving linkages between humanitarian, development, and peace interventions, be in coordination with the Central African Republic authorities? - On p.3, #7, the United States recommends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Editing the following sentence per the general comment above: "Gender-based violence is a serious protection concern for children. This includes sexual violence, female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) and child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM)..." 	

- Adding the following: “In the Central African Republic, 22% of girls and women (aged 15-49) have undergone FGM and 61% of women (aged 20-24 years) were married or in an informal union before age 18” (Source: [UNICEF](#)).
- On p.5, #18, the United States recommends using the term "gender-based violence" rather than "sexual violence" per the general comment above.
- On p. 6, #28, the United States recommends referencing "violence, **including gender-based violence,**" which is a barrier for girl's retention in school.
- On p.6, #28, the United States recommends including girls in the group of marginalized populations:
 - "Integration of the most marginalized children, especially **girls** and those with disabilities, will be improved through cash transfers."
- On p.6, #30, the United States recommends editing per the general comment above:
 - "...protection from violence for the most vulnerable children, including **gender-based violence.**"
- On p.7, #31, the United States recommends referencing child, early, and forced marriage explicitly. Birth registration can help girls avoid early marriage, where laws exist forbidding it.
 - "There will be greater synergies with the education and health sectors to ensure registration of births, and prevention and response to **gender-based violence,**

including child, early and forced marriage."