

**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: *Nepal*

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.

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
<b>General comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- UNICEF prioritizes children with disabilities (CWD) in their outcomes, yet there are no indicators associated with CWD to examine whether the country program is supporting access and quality of education for this group. The United States recommends adding such indicators.</li><li>- The UNICEF country program prioritizes early childhood education, yet there are no indicators to measure progress in this area, or they are at least absent from the performance table. The United States recommends adding such indicators.</li><li>- It will be helpful for UNICEF to share specific geographic focus down to the school level once established in order to ensure there is no duplication of resources in the education sector with other interventions.</li></ul>	

- What is the capacity of the Government of Nepal to fulfill reporting requirements to donors, as required under the Joint Financing Arrangement? How is UNICEF working to ensure that the GON's capacity is built up, and that UNICEF plays a supporting rather than leading role?
- We recommend that UNICEF leverage gains made in Nepal in improving newborn and child health survival to support the Government's efforts to accelerate reductions in preventable maternal mortality – including by prioritizing delivery of integrated maternal and child health and nutrition services in underserved communities.
- The U.S. recommends using “gender-based violence” (GBV) terminology throughout to better capture multiple forms of GBV (i.e. sexual violence, child, early and forced marriage, trafficking, etc), which are experienced by children.

**Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document**

*(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.*

- The indicators for progress under foundational learning are unclear.
- What age groups/grades do these indicators refer to?
- Are they the percentage of learners passing national exams, and if so in what subject areas?
- The result area refers to learners in early childhood development (ECD) through grade 12 but there is only one indicator. Should all grades meet this metric?
- Does UNICEF plan to have different metrics for literacy and numeracy?
- It is unclear whether UNICEF only plans to work in the education sector in Sudurpaschim and Madesh provinces. In the table on page 16, this seems to be the case; however, currently UNICEF is working more broadly. Is this a change in strategy?
- On p.4, #10, the U.S. recommends referencing gender-based violence specifically: “Despite progressive legislation and policies, violence, including **gender-based violence**, and exploitation affecting children, especially girls, remain major concerns.”
- On p. 5, #15(b) and p.8, #32, the U.S. recommends using “gender-based violence” terminology instead of “harmful practices.”