

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: *Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)*

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">- We encourage UNICEF to continue implementing principled and quality programs guided by humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence.- The U.S. seeks to ensure that the effectiveness of the proposed UNICEF programming can be properly assessed in light of previous experiences whereby international partners were unable to access official statistics from the host government. For example, will UNICEF be able to accurately measure the success of their immunization and nutrition programs by comparing current data to prior epidemiological reports? Will UNICEF have	

access to all relevant health and social indicators that are required under Venezuelan law to be published?

- The U.S. would also like to understand how the distribution of programming resources will be determined geographically. Based on international best practices, we encourage UNICEF to utilize relevant poverty assessment criteria to identify target communities and populations.
- What are some ways UNICEF will provide technical support in making climate policies and programmes more child sensitive? How will UNICEF support changes in behavior amongst children and adolescents regarding climate change?
- How will UNICEF coordinate with other humanitarian actors in Venezuela for the provision of lifesaving humanitarian assistance?
- We encourage UNICEF to consider other nutritional indicators including underweight and possibly low birth weight, in addition to wasting and overweight prevalence, as indicated in the Results and Resources framework.
- Considering the difficulty that UNICEF and other agencies had to date in accessing official statistics, what confidence does UNICEF have in accessing them now? For example, how will UNICEF be able to measure the success of their immunization and nutrition programmes in a transparent and accountable way since these national statistics are not publicly available?

- The CPD notes that UNICEF will base their framework on the national statistics and geographic system but also indicates that UNICEF will strengthen these entities concomitantly. What confidence does UNICEF have in current accessible statistics that UNICEF proposes to base their framework on?
- How will UNICEF and the Government of Venezuela divide responsibilities and maintain their respective roles during implementation of the interventions?
- What role will UNICEF play in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Venezuela, considering that UNICEF, and other UN Agencies, are only just starting to work in this area in Venezuela?
- The United States would also like to understand how the distribution of programming resources will be determined geographically. Based on international best practices, we encourage UNICEF to utilize relevant poverty assessment criteria to identify target communities and populations.

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.

- Please provide more details on the proposed health interventions under 1.1. How will UNICEF coordinate with UNFPA and PAHO regarding maternal and child health? WASH in health facilities?