

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: *Algeria*

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Since Algeria experiences the effects of climate change, desertification, and major natural hazards including earthquakes and floods, how will UNICEF work with Algeria's national response structures to ensure early warning systems are integrated into social protection policies and programs?2. How will UNICEF work with its partners to ensure durable solutions for inclusive, high-quality education and maternal and child health service for Sahrawi refugee children living in the Tindouf refugee camps?	<p>The US delegation's comments are well noted and appreciated.</p> <p>Point 1</p> <p>UNICEF in Algeria supports the government to strengthen shock-responsive social protection system, so they are ready to respond. UNICEF's work on shock responsive social protection system is guided by UNICEF Programme Guidance: Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems-SRSPS, UNICEF, 2019.</p> <p><u>First component of the SRSPS - Evidence and analysis:</u> UNICEF is engaged with national partners to institutionalize regular multidimensional child poverty and vulnerability analysis, which for some age groups includes specific analysis of nutrition and physical development. The analysis also disaggregates the dimensions by households' wealth quintiles and geography. These dimensions/variables are correlated with natural hazards.</p>

Two rounds of the multi-dimensional poverty analysis were carried out during the 2016–2022 cycle and will be regularly updated during 2023–2027.

Additionally, and for the first time, UNICEF and national partners are working jointly on an analysis of children’s vulnerability to external shocks. Initially, the focus was on the lessons learned of the pandemic, but it has now been expanded to include additional dimensions of vulnerability/risk. This vulnerability analysis aims to present decision-makers with concrete policy recommendations for strengthening the national preparedness response for vulnerable children against shocks. It will include a social protection component and the importance of early warning systems synergies.

Finally, an assessment of the national social protection system’s sensitivity to children and adolescents’ needs – based on different parameters, undertaken by national partners with UNICEF technical support – is ongoing and covers 2022 to 2023. This assessment will help to identify the gaps and challenges of the current system in addressing vulnerabilities within a life cycle approach and will make recommendations to inform reforms of the national social protection system to address current needs and to plan future adjustments within the country context.

Third component of the SRSPS – Programmes and design features:

UNICEF advocates for the establishment of a progressive universal child benefit, starting with the youngest group, aged 0–5 years. If this policy advocacy is successful and such a scheme is approved, then all children in this age group will be added to the national registry of beneficiaries. This means that during shocks these children are easily identifiable and would benefit from Government measures expanding social protection. The assessment mentioned above will support this advocacy and help to better identify an appropriate and effective operational mechanism.

Point 2

UNICEF Algeria’s CPD is aligned with UNICEF’s global strategic plan (2022-2025) to design and address medium- and long-term needs for health, food/nutrition and education in population impacted by humanitarian crises,

especially for children, while also addressing acute emergency needs, through sustainable and locally owned interventions.

With UNICEF support, the Sahrawi education sector developed a five-year strategic plan involving all stakeholders (including Sahrawi authorities, the UN system, implementing partners and donors) in efforts to support local governments to address key gaps related to access and quality of children's education, including those at risk of drop-out. A mid-term review is planned in 2023 to identify adjustments needed to ensure long-run ownership by Sahrawi authorities.

A similar approach is being developed for plans to undertake a nutrition causality analysis in coordination with the Sahrawi authority and sister UN agencies. Recommendations for immediate, medium- and long-term needs of children under five will be implemented and monitored.

Another important means to sustain UNICEF's intervention in the Sahrawi camps is to strengthen the technical capacity of health and education staff, in collaboration with Algerian authorities and sectoral ministries. There is strong demand to maintain the functionality of social sectors equipment, and the output will complement the application of new knowledge on the site using the new material, equipment and guides purchased and/or developed during the implementation phase.

UNICEF will strongly advocate for an Inter-Agency Preparedness Plan, since the Sahrawi community appears to be regularly affected by natural disasters that negatively impact its mid-to-long-term resilience and prevent investments in more qualitative programmes (such as education). Based on the lessons learned from implementation of humanitarian programmes to date, it appears that strengthening contingency mechanisms would help to clarify a means to quickly mobilize resources for the rehabilitation of the social infrastructure on a regular basis and ensure continuity.

<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> <p>3. Paragraph 7: Recommend expanding information about Sahrawi refugee youth/refugee camps, if appropriate.</p>	<p>Point 3 UNICEF acknowledges the relevance of this comment, additional information on achievements for children and programming for Sahrawi refugee children will be available in the 2022 UNICEF Algeria Annual Report which will be released early next year.</p>
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