

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): 18 November to 8 December 2022 [18:00 EST]*

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: **Canada**

Draft country programme document: **Iran**

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)
<b>General comments</b>	A. While normally Canada would avoid commenting at this stage of the process of the country program documents (CPDs), in light of the overall deteriorating situation of human rights in Iran, the UN and Member States must ensure that CPD language reflects core UN principles and values and does not undermine a rules-based international system that upholds human rights and democratic governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the Canadian Delegation to the UN.</li><li>• UNICEF remains committed to UN principles and values which are mainstreamed in all our operations and programmes. These are reflected in our regular programme reviews. CPD development in UNICEF follows a predefined set of standards to ensure adherence</li></ul>

	<p>B. Current developments in the country demonstrate the profound plight of women’s human rights. We expect the UN to work towards advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, to eliminate poverty, create lasting peace, and achieve sustainable development.</p> <p>C. Canada also urges Agencies to meaningfully further their work with the most vulnerable and excluded groups, including, but is not limited to, ethnic and religious minorities, individuals from LGBTQ2I communities, women with disabilities, and women living in rural and remote communities.</p> <p>D. We would welcome wider and more transparent consultations with stakeholders and partners in-country, such as women’s rights organizations, in the implementation of the CPD to better adjust to the evolving context, leaving no one behind.</p>	<p>of the organisation to the governing/guiding principles including, but not limited to, the UN Charter and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Iran, in addition to the context as a major determinant of the needs. The current CPD is based on a comprehensive situation analysis, including the needs assessment and deprivations of children and adolescents living in Iran and these are summarised in the programme rationale section. This was followed by a bottleneck analysis and a prioritisation exercise to ensure the most critical disparities are at the centre of five years programme and those are summarised in para 3 of the CPD Programme Rationale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CPD is a framework document spanning a five-year period and the actual implementation of programmatic priorities are carried out through annual work plans with individual line ministries. Given that UNICEF is working with multiple line ministries (currently nine) and given that the disparities and needs may be different across sectors, the specific aspects on rights, vulnerable groups and gender will be identified, prioritised and reflected in the annual workplans.</li> <li>• Gender considerations, or in other words, the needs of both boys and girls are an unquestionable principle for all UNICEF interventions in all our programmatic areas and which are designed to be gender responsive based on needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The results matrix makes clear reference in its Outcomes and Outputs to build disaggregated evidence generation: 3.1. National capacity for routine disaggregated child-sensitive evidence generation and analysis is increased for informed decision-making towards development pathway for children. <i>(Contributing to UNSDCF intermediate outcomes 1.1–1.5)</i></li> <li>- UNICEF’s support to nutrition programmes commit to addressing micronutrient deficiencies (anaemia has been</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	---	--

		<p>highlighted by the country office since 2018 with higher rates for girls (up to 93%), but also concerning rates for boys (53%). This is a priority for UNICEF in Iran through support for the development of a multisectoral plan to address all forms of malnutrition, during the CPD period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programming around adolescent life skills and psychosocial mental health has been and will continue to be a priority for UNICEF in Iran. The programme has reached boys and girls in ways that respond to gendered risks and vulnerabilities. Here are a few examples as reported in the UNICEF 2021 Annual Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. UNICEF in Iran continued its support to enhance the technical and practical capacity of service providers working on the prevention and treatment of drug use and social harm prevention. Training is provided to affiliated organizations on evidenced based preventive and treatment approaches for children and adolescents as follows, considering the differentiated needs of boys and girls.</li> <li>b. UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Sports &amp; Youth (MoSY) to establish adolescents and youth empowerment centers targeting both boys and girls. These centres aim to support adolescents and youth resiliency development and empowerment through life/social skills programmes, MHPSS services and technical and skills building programmes to enhance future employability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The UNICEF Iran country office has met the 15% corporate benchmark set by UNICEF on Gender Expenditures that are Gender transformative.</li> <li>- UNICEF's will continue and expand differentiated approaches for boys and girls in all sectors and these will be elaborated in each work plan.</li> <li>• In addition, UNICEF's aspiration to contribute to leaving no one behind and reducing child poverty is elaborated</li> </ul>
--	--	--

		<p>across the document, particularly under Social Protection. UNICEF’s work on social protection aims to address multi-dimensional poverty and the contributing factors through support towards enhancing the social protection systems for greater efficiency, effectiveness and resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNICEF’s focus on disparities and disadvantaged groups is reflected in Point #3 of the programme rationale and across the programme priorities – Health &amp; Nutrition; Education, learning and well-being, and Social protection. Each of these programmatic areas caters to their unique populations of concern, and these will be reflected in the annual workplans that will be developed with the relevant line ministries.</li> <li>• UNICEF remains committed to working with a broader array of partners, including NGO’s, CSO’s and the private sector towards programming in the best interest of children in the county. Given the different entities involved in different aspects of UNICEF’s work, these partnerships will be elaborated in the annual work plans</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b></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>	