

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 Lebanon: TBC*

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: *Germany*

Draft country programme document: *Lebanon*

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>	<p>1. The current aid and coordination structure in Lebanon is very complex. Together with other donors Germany strongly <b>advocates the "ONE UN" vision</b> in Lebanon. Many UN organizations present in Lebanon are not exclusively working in the areas of their respective core competencies. We see a strong need to use resources <b>much more efficiently and effectively</b> as well as to</p>	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the German Delegation to the UN.</p> <p>1. In social protection, we will build on the successes of the Joint UN Programme, led by UNICEF, that concluded this year. Furthermore, UNICEF led cross-UN collaboration</p>

	<p>channel resources and consolidate the implementation structure. Therefore, Germany welcomes <b>Joint Programming of UN-Organizations</b>.</p> <p>2. Furthermore, <b>capacity building of local partners</b> is also crucial. The CPD states: <i>"It will enhance partnerships with local institutions and strengthen capacity to deliver services, focusing on the most vulnerable (p.5)"</i> Which local institutions are chosen and what are the selection criteria? From Germany's perspective <b>the assessment of partners needs to be conducted on the basis of transparent criteria</b>. Furthermore, concrete project proposal need to be developed and agreed to by donors.</p> <p>3. The annex is referring to the LVAP and VASYR. When are the new <b>results of this two vulnerability studies to be expected</b>, as they are essential for the strategy 2023-25?</p> <p>4. <b>Monitoring and output evaluation</b> are very important, but do sometimes not go far enough. In order to obtain an overview of the long-term achievement of programmes and furthermore to be able to identify needs for adjustments in future programmes, German development cooperation prefers an impact measurement approach.</p>	<p>on Social Protection, particularly with ILO and WFP – resulted in a clear roadmap for engagement, a joint programme with ILO (running 2022-2024) and a UN position on social protection. In the youth sector, UNICEF will continue to explore/expand collaboration with all UN agencies on the implementation of the National Youth Policy Action Plan, as part of the contribution towards advancing the adolescent and youth agenda. In the child protection sector, we continue to coordinate Child Protection prevention and response initiatives with other UN Agencies on the ground in support of local actors.</p> <p>2. For the capacity building of local partners, UNICEF will be working closely with civil society groups and non-governmental organisations, as well as with selected municipalities. Non-government partners are selected based on a transparent process outlined in the UN Partner Portal (UNPP) through competitive 'calls for proposals'.</p> <p>3. The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) data collection occurs in April of every year with final data officially published in December of the same year; already done for 2022 data. The Lebanese Vulnerability Assessment Programme (LVAP) is led by the World Bank and data is currently being collected and will be available in 2023.</p> <p>4. UNICEF appreciates the comments on Impact measurement. UNICEF Lebanon has recently invested</p>
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	<p>5. We welcome data collection and data sharing among UN-Organization, GoL as well as donors. Evidence-based policymaking, project development and monitoring as well as impact measurement in Lebanon have been challenging the last years. Therefore, <b>data pooling and sharing is of high interest</b> also for German development cooperation.</p>	<p>further resources in more impact evaluations to generate new evidence on what works in the country context and align programmes accordingly. In addition, in the new country programme, evaluations to measure higher level results and long-term achievements will be planned and conducted, jointly with stakeholders. For example, Evaluation of the UNICEF education programme is currently ongoing and several country programme components will be evaluated in the next three years, that will measure impact of UNICEF programming. to generate lessons for future programme adjustments.</p> <p>5. We acknowledge and appreciate Germany's support on this issue.</p>
<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b></p>	<p><b>Nutrition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>UNICEF will support the delivery of accessible, affordable, climate-resilient and gender-responsive maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, nutrition and ECD services by strengthening primary health care and other delivery systems (p. 6).</i></li> </ul> <p>We see a growing number of actors active in the field of food security and nutrition (e.g. IRC). It would be interesting to know whether UNICEF is considering to partner with any other international or local organization. We do expect coordination and concerted efforts on the ground and to prevent a proliferation of different approaches.</p>	<p><b>Nutrition:</b></p> <p>In Lebanon, UNICEF partners with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) as well as with INGOs/NGOs to support the nutrition response and more importantly, UNICEF also leads the Nutrition Sector (cluster) Coordination Platform. Since the nutrition sector and response will be expanded to both response plans (including LCRP), UNICEF as the lead for nutrition sector will ensure that the nutrition response by all partners is well coordinated to prevent duplication and ensure that the most deprived areas receive assistance. UNICEF is developing standards for the nutrition response, building the capacity of partners on nutrition response in emergencies, supporting the information management and evidence generation on nutrition, and coordinating with other sectors such as food security to ensure that nutrition-sensitive interventions are in place.</p> <p>With the increasing trends of malnutrition in Lebanon, to complement the ongoing food security programs, UNICEF is</p>

	<p><b>Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In line with the approach “Leave no one behind” Germany sees the need for <b>multi-lateral funding</b> (e.g. Education Can-not Wait (ECW)) <b>of the education approaches</b>. Programs such as TREF should not mainly be funded by EU and Germany. A concerted effort by humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation is important to help children and young people.</li> <li>▪ UNICEF should verify which other organizations are already active in providing digital learning support for children in schools (e.g. LAL) in order to provide a coherent digitalization approach in the sector. Implementation of new platforms is not needed, moreover existing approaches need to be scaled up. <b>Alignment with MEHE</b> and the <b>official curriculum</b> is also important to increase a chance <b>for out-of-school children and refugee children</b> to be <b>integrated in the formal education system</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Protection from violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Germany <b>fully supports the engagement on this topic</b>. Vulnerable groups such as women, children and people with</li> </ul>	<p>scaling up nutrition specific interventions for sustainable nutrition results. This will also include continued evidence generation of the nutrition situation, and advocacy with the government of Lebanon for policies and programmes to be nutrition-sensitive and appropriate for the evolving nutrition context.</p> <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>UNICEF fully acknowledges the need to diversify funding for TREF. Both the EU and Germany have made vital contributions to support and inform the design of TREF. UNICEF will continue to mobilize a diverse range of public sector donors to support TREF and priority programmes, while also making efforts to mobilize funds from the private sector and other funding streams.</p> <p>On digital learning, UNICEF will ensure digital learning support is well-coordinated both in the formal education programmes and also through the Multiple Flexible Pathways, including alignment with the curriculum and to support transitions (this includes better learning assessment and certification of digital learning). Germany’s support for digital learning has already allowed for comprehensive mapping of country initiatives and steps are being taken to ensure complementarity of UNICEF initiatives in the digital learning and skilling space.</p> <p><b>Protection from violence</b></p> <p>UNICEF appreciates the support and continued engagement and collaboration with the German Government especially in</p>
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disabilities are increasingly **victims of violence**, especially in such dire socio-economic crises such as in LBN.

### **Water**

- We fully agree with the high demand for support in the water sector. In our experience, it is important **not only to build infrastructure**, but also to ensure its **sustainable use** in the long-term.
- Several projects have been started (e.g. FRA, GER) regarding treatment of water and wastewater; in some cases they could not be successfully finished. Project planning should take into account in which regions of LBN the treatment of water and wastewater is already supported.
- *Innovative management models enhancing the role of municipalities will be scaled up. (p.8)* We would like UNICEF to elaborate how this could be realized. **Which municipalities might be able to implement such an approach?** Where does the final decision-making authority lie (water establishments)? What does **“innovative management”** entail?

view of the decreasing availability of funding specifically for protection related activities in Lebanon.

### **WASH**

UNICEF will continue to support the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Regional Water Establishments towards a more sustainable operation, in line with the Water Sector Recovery Plan. This also requires advocacy to the Government of Lebanon to prioritise the water sector and support the recovery plan, including financing. We are working with other sector stakeholders in this regard.

Project planning takes place in consultation with the Ministry of Energy and Water and in line with the priorities of the National Water Sector Strategy, taking full account of existing facilities.

The proposed approach builds on experience gained in the Southern Suburbs of Beirut, in which UNICEF supported a collaboration between the Union of Municipalities in the area and the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment. The approach was legally endorsed by the Ministry of Energy and Water. This experience has shown that such collaboration between Water Establishments and municipalities is feasible. The work that UNICEF will do to bring closer the Water Establishments and some municipalities is the innovative approach it will take in this respect. This will ensure technical oversight and community participation, as well as accountability of the water establishment to the affected population.

	<p><b>Adolescents and youth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany welcomes cooperation in the area of support to youth, adolescents and TVET approaches not only among other UN agencies, but also with donors and their implementing agencies (in the case of Germany with GIZ, KfW) and the EU. We see new engagement in this sector by different donors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coherent strategy in the area is highly appreciated as we do see many actors on the ground involved in social protection: MoSA, SDCs (I) NGOS, WFP, WB. Especially in the context of the planned and ongoing NPTP&amp;ESSN merger this is important.</li> <li>Germany is interested to know: Where can UNICEF and ILO precisely come in in a complementary way (support to elderly and people with disabilities) to establish a sustainable and –eventually – government owned social protection strategy in LBN?</li> <li>Who are UNICEF's partners in the GoL (MoSA, Ministry of Labour, PCM: CAS?) and civil society?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adolescents and youth</b></p> <p>UNICEF Lebanon has set in place a Skills working group with ILO and World Bank which includes all agencies/ organizations working in the skilling, employment and TVET sector and funded by GIZ/BMZ/KfW/EU/USAID etc.</p> <p>Moreover, it was agreed with the German government/KfW to schedule quarterly coordination meetings with all agencies/organizations funded by the German government/ BMZ.</p> <p><b>Social Protection</b></p> <p>Now that the National Social Protection <u>Strategy</u> (NSPS) is approved by the Council of Ministers, UNICEF will continue to lead sector coordination and technical assistance to support national leadership to implement a financed action plan.</p> <p>UNICEF and ILO continue to work jointly to collaborate on technical assistance (sharing activities as per comparative advantage and experience) to support implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy. Under the UNICEF-ILO joint programme (in place for one year) there is a joint objective to establish social grants – as agreed in the NSPS, with UNICEF leading on implementation of the Child Grant, and operationalising the National Disability Allowance.</p> <p>UNICEF's GoL partners in social protection are firstly the interministerial committee under the Prime Minister, the Ministers and DGs in the key ministries (MOSA, MOL, MOF, MOJ, MEHE, MOPH), the civil society experts collective on social protection, and the platform for organisations representing people with disabilities. In addition, UNICEF</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Germany has supported the lately published Public Finance Review for Lebanon by the World Bank. In Lebanon a <b>self-sustaining state system for social security</b> needs to be established in the long term. Measures towards this outcome should be part of financial reforms which are urgently needed to cope with the multi-dimensional crisis in the country.</li> <li>▪ Advocacy for a coherent <b>national taxation system</b> in order to increase public revenue and ensure Lebanon's long-term economic stability should be continued. Germany would welcome a joint messaging with UNICEF &amp; ILO.</li> </ul>	<p>leads the 5-agency regional mission on social protection, which includes the World Bank, ILO, WFP and the EU with UNICEF to ensure coherency of messaging and activities.</p> <p>On <u>financial reforms</u>, UNICEF has a programme of work with the Institute of Finance under the MoF and with two Lebanese thinktanks to (i) promote national finance transparency and accountability; (ii) bring together national actors, evidence and analysis to advocate for a more efficient and progressive tax system. Furthermore, we have worked with the IMF to influence the content of the new IMF programme to ensure that reforms go beyond financial and include social issues, such as establishing a national child grant. UNICEF will continue to work closely with ILO on key economic adjustments and reforms that also need to be made in Lebanon.</p>
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