

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)
<b>General comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- We encourage UNICEF to continue implementing principled and quality programs guided by humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence.</li></ul>	UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the United States of America on the Venezuelan Country Programme Document (CPD). In its work UNICEF consistently adopts a right based approach to programming and result based management, based on the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence as mandated by the Core Commitments for Children (CCC) in humanitarian responses.

- 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 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?
- 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

UNICEF acknowledges the importance of data and statistics in programming and to assess the results of its interventions. UNICEF will make programming decisions based on quantitative data entry points, namely but not limited to Government generated data in health, education, nutrition, water, child protection, and qualitative information and data generated through programme implementation and collaboration with government and implementing partners.

Additionally, as referred in the CPD, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the National Statistics Institute (INE) for the development of robust child related statistical systems (refer to paragraphs 28 and 29). In this regard, UNICEF has initiated dialogue and will further engage with and provide technical assistance to the Government to promote the use of internationally adopted methodologies and tools such as the Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS).

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 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?

UNICEF welcomes the suggestion to utilize relevant assessment criteria to identify and dedicate resources to children in the most vulnerable communities and populations. Downstream interventions in identified geographical regions will keep targeting the most vulnerable thanks to continuous situation analysis aimed at understanding the priority needs of the most vulnerable children, based on the analysis of existing prioritization, vulnerability, and severity analysis, including government data and other sources such as the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and other methodologies.

Aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2022-2025), the new CPD introduces a new priority component (paragraph 20) to work on prevention and to address the impact of climate change on children. UNICEF will support national programmes and policies to mainstream Climate, Environment, Energy, Disaster risk reduction and recovery (CEED) with a child sensitive focus in school curricula; promote the elaboration of CEED-related studies and analysis; activities to increase community resilience will be amplified including with engagement of children and families in collection and treatment of rainwater through low-cost solutions. Alternative sources of energy like the use of solar panels in remote areas to increase the capacity of vaccine storage will also be continued. In addition, UNICEF will support the National Climate Change agenda, in coordination with other partners such as UNDP.

Through its social and behaviour change approach, UNICEF will deliver child-focused, risk-informed programmes that engage children and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How will UNICEF coordinate with other humanitarian actors in Venezuela for the provision of lifesaving humanitarian assistance?</li>   <li>- 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.</li>   <li>- How will UNICEF and the Government of Venezuela divide responsibilities and maintain their respective roles during implementation of the interventions?</li> </ul>	<p>young people as agents of change in environmental and climate action; initiatives in schools and communities to promote environmentally sustainable changes that are critical to climate action, focusing on girls and women, to address their societal roles and equitable participation, leadership, and decision-making.</p> <p>UNICEF coordinates with National and subnational authorities to reinforce capacities for emergency preparedness and response. Additionally, UNICEF coordinates with other humanitarian actors under the architecture of the humanitarian response led by OCHA, by coordinating the Education, WASH, Nutrition Clusters, as well as the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.</p> <p>UNICEF works on the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in all forms in Venezuela, liaising closely with the Ministry of Health, the National Nutrition Institute, and other partners. The indicator in the results framework is not comprehensive - UNICEF will be working on additional areas related to maternal and child nutrition: Early childhood nutrition, maternal nutrition, and nutrition in emergency. Additionally, complementary interventions with health programme will reach pregnant and lactating women with a focus on adolescent pregnant mother (which represent 20 per cent of the mothers with low-birth-weight babies). At operational level, indicators include infant and child feeding practices on breastfeeding, complementary feeding, as well as micronutrient supplementation in children under five and pregnant and lactating women as all at wasting management indicators.</p> <p>Under the framework of the CPD, UNICEF develops specific workplans with National and Subnational authorities with agreed roles and responsibilities for provision of technical and other support required to address the needs and priorities for children. During implementation of the interventions, and as a part of capacity building strategy, UNICEF identifies and provides training and other capacity support identified to</p>
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- 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?

strengthen services and promote accountabilities to reach sustainable results.

UNICEF has been cooperating with national authorities in DRR for a decade, namely in the Education sector; with the National Civil Protection System; with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene authorities; with partners such as Fundación Venezolana de Investigación Sismológica (FUNVISIS); the Instituto Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología, (INAMEH); and with other entities of United Nations System.

Under the new CPD, UNICEF will further expand its role in DRR, working in all its areas of mandate with relevant government entities as well as the academia, private sector, civil society, and other actors to advocate, provide technical support and capacity building for the prioritization of investment and strengthening of evidence-based policies and programs, based on the CCCs.

<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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?</li> </ul>	<p>The coordination in maternal and child health between UNICEF and other UN agencies is developed mainly twofold through:</p> <p>i) Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), that compiles the prioritized states and establishes the lines of key lifesaving interventions according to each UN agency mandate and defined activities. ii) UN Agencies joint projects in most vulnerable areas and/or specific interventions, with complementary roles among UN agencies.</p> <p>Under the above collaborative framework, UNICEF focuses on capacity strengthening for delivery care, critical neonatal care, immunization, (including cold chain), pediatrics care, essential medicines and nutritional treatment supplies for children.</p> <p>Under the coordination of Health authorities, UNICEF also plays a key role in supporting life-saving rehabilitation of infrastructure, provision of equipment, WASH and improvement of other critical conditions in both primary health care facilities and reference hospitals to improve health services for children and women.</p>
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