

**Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board**  
**Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents**  
**2024 first regular session**

*Draft country programme document commenting period: 14 November to 4 December 2023 [18:00 hours Eastern Standard Time]*

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme documents being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: *Belgium*

Draft country programme document: *UNICEF - GUINEA*

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.

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
<b>General comments</b>	The Programme covers a wide range of sectors in which other development actors are also involved. Coordination with other actors is therefore very crucial. As far as the Belgian development agency Enabel is concerned, there are links to be made with the expiring and new portfolio (including 'She decides') and with the projects for third parties (in particular 'état civil'). How will UNICEF coordinate with other actors and avoid overlap? The objective of using schools as an entry point for synergies across programmes is a very good point.	
	Focussing on certain priority zones is understandable but also involves a risk of exclusion. Which are the intervention zones and how has this choice been made?	
	When it comes to digitalisation (e.g. paragraphs 21, 26, 36), accompanying measures (training, infrastructure, government budget) must also be considered to guarantee sustainability. In addition, before developing a new application, it is important to check whether there is an existing application that can be used and	

	which other actors are developing or have developed digital initiatives in the same domain.	
	In order to guarantee the sustainability of mechanisms for social protection (paragraphs 20, 25, 37, 38) and accessible justice (paragraph 30), it is important that government budget is available, so that such initiatives do not solely depend on funding of UNICEF and other development actors. Is there sufficient government budget for these initiatives and how does UNICEF plan to guarantee sustainability of these mechanisms? Will the "pilot initiative" (paragraph 38) be incorporated in the national health system?	
	The Programme rightly addresses the need for reliable data. In which situations does UNICEF work with own data by lack of existing data or are data lacking completely? How can we work to address that issue?	
<b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents</b>	What is meant by “humanitarian support” in paragraph 19 and why is this kind of support for interventions from the past programme needed?	

	<p>The cross-cutting component "programme effectiveness" (paragraphs 41-43) has the second largest budget, but information on it is very limited. How will this budget be used? Moreover, the results and resources framework annexed to the CPD does not contain any indicator or outcome in relation to this component.</p>	
	<p>The various initiatives mentioned to address gender disparities in the completion of secondary education (paragraph 25) are very important, but attention should also be paid to adapted infrastructure (e.g. separate sanitary facilities).</p>	
	<p>In the case of risk management, it can be concluded that the planned mitigation measures are not very convincing and do not have a lot of added value. "Community-based resilience-building" is something that is provided anyway. "Prompt reaction in case additional funding is required" seems like a meaningless measure. In addition, there is no reference to political risks linked to the transition period. Climate risks and responses to them are not elaborated in much detail in the document, yet they are an important part of the programme according to paragraph 20.</p>	