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

*Draft country programme document commenting period: 11 June to 1 July 2024 [18:00 hours Eastern Daylight 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: *United States of America*

Draft country programme document: *Ukraine*

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.

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(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.)

Point 20(c) - The phrase “childcare” (as one word) would normally be referring to nurseries and daycares. Please check whether you want to make it two-words- “child care” (as in the child welfare system).

Also- is the Better Care approach simply focused on deinstitutionalization? Or rather about ensuring all families in need have the appropriate social service support required?

UNICEF Ukraine Country Office appreciates the review of the United States and agrees with the suggestion to split the word into two - “Child Care” - in reference to the child welfare system.

Furthermore, Ukraine Country Office thanks the United States for the opportunity to clarify the difference between the Better Care approach and classic deinstitutionalization. If deinstitutionalization focuses primarily on the closure of institutions, Better Care is more comprehensive in its scope.

The UNICEF Child Protection Programme’s Theory of Change articulates the Better Care leadership area as a comprehensive child care reform initiative that aims to ensure every child grows up in a loving, nurturing, and safe family and inclusive community, and which we can share directly with the representation.

The Better Care leadership area involves a multifaceted approach, including upstream policy, legislative, and budgetary reviews, complemented by downstream investments in community-based services, capacity building, and the promotion of social norm changes, all while enhancing accountability for safeguarding children's rights. UNICEF seeks to achieve this goal by investing in and expanding access to integrated social services and benefits, such as early intervention, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), positive parenting programs, inclusive daycare, support for foster families, crisis intervention, home visiting, rehabilitation, cash assistance, and inclusive education, to strengthen families and communities, and prevent unnecessary separation of children from their biological families. Additionally, UNICEF is dedicated to
strengthening and expanding family-based care alternatives like kinship care, foster care, and adoption, providing children with stable and nurturing environments as alternatives to institutional settings. Furthermore, UNICEF collaborates closely with communities to transition children from institutional care back to family-based care, and reorganizing existing infrastructure, staffing, and resources to be redirected to community-based alternatives that prioritize children's rights, well-being, and healthy development.

In general, national level immunization data is not sufficient. Given that UNICEF is trying to assess its impact from a decentralized approach, we recommend also tracking how many provinces/states met the target.

**Outcome 4:**

- Formative evaluation of UNICEF’s decentralization approach and support in Ukraine: Under criteria used for selection, “UNICEF will align its strategies to the post-evaluation context”. We ask UNICEF to clarify what the "post-evaluation context" means. It also talks of UNICEF adapting its support to align with national “Decentralization strategies” without stating or clearly defining what the “Decentralization Strategies” means. Please clarify this too.

All of the indicators in the CPD are presented at the national level. However, UNICEF does have access to oblast-level data from the Public Health Center of Ukraine [Охоплення щепленнями | Центр громадського здоров'я (phc.org.ua)] and will track this information as well for its own programming and targeting purposes.

The comment referring to “alignment to the post-evaluation context” is intended to refer to text stating “Evaluations on the strategic positioning of UNICEF in Ukraine especially when the UNICEF needs to align its strategies to the new post-emergency context.” This text refers to protracted crisis and recovery context of the country.

Alignment to “national decentralization strategies” refers to the need for the evaluation to look at how UNICEF decentralization has supported the GoU’s decentralization – a series of reforms to allocate greater authority and resources to local authorities at regional and municipal level. The GoU has recently approved a “Decentralization Roadmap.”
- Most of the baseline indicators are set, but many target indicators are not set. Could you please explain why and adjust as needed?

| All of the RRF indicators have targets indicated in the document except for two related to youth: Proportion of young people (15-35) empowered to make informed choices to participate in decision making process at all levels* and Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment, or training (NEET), by sex*. For both of these indicators, it was noted that the targets would be set to align with those in the UNSDCF Results Framework, which will be finalized by September, 2024. The targets will be aligned to the UNSDCF Results Framework. |