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: *Switzerland*

Draft country programme document: *DRC Draft country programme document, Democratic Republic of the Congo*

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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delegation’s comments</th>
<th>Response(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
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| - Sound analyses regarding the macroeconomic growth versus the persistent poverty and lack of children’s rights and lack of prioritization of social sector in Public funding – what consequences for international community and UNICEF for the partnership with the DRC? | UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the comments from Switzerland on its draft Country Programme Document 2025-2029 and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional information that was not adequately covered in a document of 6,000 word.  
Low investment in social sectors such as education and health can exacerbate poverty and inequality. Adequate investment in these areas is crucial for long-term growth and inclusive economic development. Neglecting these sectors may result in reduced confidence and other support from international aid agencies and donors, resulting in reduced bilateral and multilateral assistance and therefore jeopardizing all progress made to date. |
- Similarly: children suffering from consequences of conflict and humanitarian crisis, international agencies and donors covering the needs – what contributions from the DRC Government? What dialogue to lead with the Government on its engagement for humanitarian financing?

UNICEF acknowledges Switzerland's comments regarding the impact of humanitarian crises and government contributions.

Addressing the needs of children suffering from multidimensional poverty, conflict and humanitarian crises, and advocating for sustained and increased commitment by government to these issues, is the central focus of the new CPD. Our equity and geographic convergence strategy requires sustainable and predictable resources and funding, including from the government. UNICEF recognizes the necessity of a multi-faceted approach to mobilizing and leveraging resources, with an increasing focus on the national budget.

Key strategies/actions include:

1) Greater dialogue with the government at national and provincial levels to influence and leverage public financing for children.

2) Provision of data and case studies that illustrate the needs of children suffering from multidimensional poverty and conflict and that could assist in prioritizing budgetary allocations and investments.

3) Demonstrating impact by showing how investment in humanitarian and development aid following a nexus approach can lead to long-term stability and growth, as well as social cohesion.

4) Collaboration: implementing projects whereby international aid is matched government funding to amplify impact.

5) Advocating for specific budget allocations and transparency/credibility at national and provincial levels, ensuring a dedicated portion for social services and humanitarian efforts, especially for the benefit of the most vulnerable children.
The document does not make reference to the Transition of the MONUSCO (accessibility, security, protection of civils, monitoring of (child abuses) etc., how will UNICEF deal with the new challenges in this regard?

6) Transparency and accountability: putting in place new mechanisms and strengthening existing ones to track the use of funds and measure impact of interventions.

UNICEF acknowledges Switzerland's comments regarding the transition of MONUSCO and its impact.

Significant consequences are anticipated as a result of MONUSCO’s withdrawal. A plan is currently being finalized based on lessons learned from withdrawals from Kananga, Haut-Katanga and Tanganyika (finished) and South Kivu (ongoing). The UNCT will coordinate the implementation of the plan which will include the involvement of all agencies including UNICEF.

The three major concerns identified are: threats to security and peace; logistical challenges, particularly pertaining to transportation; and the risk of increased human rights violations.

These will be addressed under Outcome 2 of the UNSDCF 2025-2029. UNICEF will contribute to this under Outcome 5 of the new CPD, as indicated in the Results and Resources Framework (RRF). UNICEF will continue to lead the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) agenda and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), as indicated in Paragraph 33 under Child Protection interventions.

Due to the word limit of the CDP, UNICEF’s approach and interventions to mitigate the consequences of MONUSCO’s transition and withdrawal are further elaborated in the 2025-2029 Child Protection Programme and its accompanying strategy note and workplans.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</th>
<th>UNICEF welcomes the Government of Switzerland's interest in the Nutrition Evaluation planned for 2026. We are keen to explore potential collaboration with Switzerland on this initiative.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- CH will have a particular interest in the Evaluation foreseen in 2026 on nutrition aspects.</td>
<td>We appreciate the Government of Switzerland's comment related to the geographic focus and programmatic convergence. We welcome any potential collaboration with Switzerland to ensure effective implementation.</td>
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<td>- Key lessons: we commend putting focus geographic and thematic convergence and the focus on nexus; the CP elaborates clearly on the need to converge different instruments/approaches for a better impact of (multilateral) interventions in the DRC.</td>
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