

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the country programme documents

2021 First Regular Session

Country programme document posting period: 17 November to 7 December 2020

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

Delegation name: **Canada**

Draft country programme document: **Côte d'Ivoire**

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, 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 will be made public on the Executive Board website, and considered by the requesting country, in close consultation with UNICEF.

General comments	<p>UNICEF is a key partner of GAC bilateral programme in Côte d'Ivoire. Canada appreciates having had the opportunity to attend the November 24, 2020 validation workshop of UNICEF's Country Programme for 2021-2025.</p> <p>UNICEF Country Programme for 2021-2025 is well aligned with the UNSDCF, and partnerships with other UN entities for the various expected results are clearly stated. Of particular interest to Canada is the intent to do joint work with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women on data collection, SGBV prevention and response, and SRHR (paragraph 16).</p> <p>The geographic focus (paragraph 13) is relevant and Canada appreciates that UNICEF targets areas that would benefit the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach children.</p> <p>Canada understands that UNICEF and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire are already seeking funds from some multilateral organizations and mechanisms, such as World Bank (on nutrition) and GAVI (on health). UNICEF's willingness to seek funding from non-traditional sources, such as PPP Cocoa and development bonds, should be commended. It would be interesting to get an update of what still needs to be funded and which outcomes are seen as priorities.</p>
Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<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>

Response from the UNICEF Regional/Country Office

UNICEF would like to thank the Government of Canada for their supportive comments and continued partnership with UNICEF in Côte D'Ivoire. In particular we would like to thank the Government of Canada for their engagement in the education programme, "Pour chaque fille, le droit à l'éducation" a programme that encourages out-of-school girls back into the formal education system, and addresses social and structural barriers that prevent girls from reaching their full potential.

The overarching goal of the UNICEF country programme (2021-2025) is to reinforce access to quality social services and promote behavioural change, especially in geographically vulnerable areas, to enable women, children and adolescents – particularly girls – to realize their rights and full potential. Among the several priorities, our main funding gaps are around child protection, in particular response to SGBV and birth registration, parental literacy skills to support girls' education, and adolescent skills development. Quality screening and treatment for children and adolescents with HIV is also a gap.

We would be happy to discuss further with the Global Affairs Canada in Abidjan a more detailed breakdown of funding gaps.