

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: Estonia

Draft country programme document: Eswatini

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>Estonia notes with appreciation the significant progress Eswatini and UNICEF have achieved in key areas of child well-being.</p> <p>It is commendable that the CPD focuses on building emergency preparedness and resilience of essential services to be provided during emergencies, such as has been the need with the COVID-19 pandemic. The spread of epidemics has increasingly become a growing risk factor that can lead to conflicts and crises. In addition, it would be necessary to focus in the CPD on climate change and environmental pressures that have direct and indirect effects on the security and stability of countries and communities and on the well-being of children and adolescents.</p>
Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<p>Maternal, child and adolescent health: as many children and adolescents are exposed to violence and sexual exploitation, improving prevention, response and support services for victims is of essence. Mental health and sexual and reproductive health and rights should be important parts of the CPD.</p> <p>Under Priority 1 it is important to bring out that it will be necessary not only to ensure birth registration, but also that civil registration records are easily retrieved by individuals. The registration process must be available and accessible without difficulties.</p> <p>Lifelong learning, protection and development: a priority should be addressing the high rates of out-of-school children, including high rates of grade repetition, dropouts due to poverty or unsafe school conditions and the gendered patterns of dropout.</p> <p>To build emergency preparedness of education systems, we suggest incorporating into the programme the improvement of digital distance learning opportunities.</p>