

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: Azerbaijan

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.

Category	Comments	UNICEF Response
General comments	<p>In the context of 2020's hardships, the situation in Azerbaijan needs special attention – the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the escalation of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict has left a significant impact on the welfare of the people of Azerbaijan and it has especially had severe consequences to the most vulnerable groups, including children.</p> <p>Many children living in the conflict affected regions live in insecurity and danger and many child victims do not have adequate access to medical and psychological care or comprehensive rehabilitation. This is a pressing matter needing immediate attention.</p>	<p>UNICEF acknowledges the issues raised by Estonia and is already working to implement programmes, in cooperation with the Government of Azerbaijan, to address many of the urgent needs of conflict-affected populations.</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> <p>In our view, there should be a bigger emphasis on digital transformation of services being provided to children and adolescents in Azerbaijan. Innovative solutions should be in the forefront of the priorities brought forward in the country programme, playing a significant role in building the resilience of health care, education and social policy systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the digital divide in societies and the urgent need to support digital transformation.</p>	<p>UNICEF concurs with the observations of Estonia regarding the importance of digital solutions for children, and will consider the most effective use of such solutions through the implementation of the new Country Programme.</p>

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