

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: *Germany*

Draft country programme document: *Somalia*

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	UNICEF's Response
<p>We welcome the UNICEF Draft Country Programme 2021-2025 for Somalia and the opportunity to comment on it. GER and UNICEF are working together successfully in Somalia, especially in strengthening resilience of vulnerable households to droughts and food insecurity. Please allow us some general comments:</p>	<p>UNICEF Somalia appreciates the collaboration with and support from the Government of Germany. Germany is the strongest partner to UNICEF Somalia in the area of resilience building with a child rights lens. The significant support from Germany offers multi-year funds that are critical to build capacity of children in communities to resist multi-dimensional shocks.</p>
<p>One of the UNDS-reforms' key aspects is improving UN-agencies' collaboration and coordination in programme implementation. We would therefore appreciate a stronger reflection of UNICEF's programming partnership with UN-agencies and international organisations in Somalia. This includes a) outlining more clearly in which programme areas partnerships exist and how the comparative advantages of each partner agency/organisation lead to an added value in programming and b) describing more clearly how the new Somalia CDP contributes to the implementation of the relevant aspects of the UNDS-reform.</p> <p>The BMZ funded UNICEF-WFP-FAO joint programme on strengthening resilience of vulnerable households</p>	<p>UNICEF recognises the importance the joint programming amongst UN agencies to accelerate Somalia's progress towards the SDGs. Indeed, this CPD was formulated under strong UNSDCF, with a number of highly significant joint programming partnerships across several programming areas banking on comparative advantage of and synergy among UN agencies, and operationally anchoring the UNSDCF. These include partnerships with the UNDP and other UN agencies on the development of a National Investment Plan for Water; the Joint Programme with UNFPA on the elimination of FGM/C, the Joint Resilience Project with the WFP and the FAO, and the Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) with the ILO, UN Capital Development Fund, UNDP and Habitat.</p> <p>Due to word limits of the CPD, we could not list these out under paragraph 29 where UNICEF's commitment to bilateral and multilateral partnerships and the importance of joint</p>

	<p>in Somalia is now entering its third phase. Joint programmes bring together UN-agencies with their respective comparative advantages and are an effective instrument to strengthening multiple resilience capacities of vulnerable households and local structures, along the HDP-nexus. Furthermore, joint programmes are an essential element to strengthen collaboration within the UNDS-system. We would therefore appreciate a stronger focus in the new CPD on joint programming approaches and their role on strengthening resilience.</p>	<p>programming under UNSDCF are mentioned. However, the paragraph 29 has been revised to highlight the importance of Joint Programming under the UNSDCF.</p> <p>UNICEF clearly recognizes that, of the above-mentioned joint programmes, the Joint Resilience Project with WFP and FAO, funded by BMZ, in particular, is marked by its holistic approach to resilience and offers multipliers and synergies across sectoral interventions such as nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as livelihood. The prioritization of this the Joint Resilience Project in the Costed Evaluation Plan for an impact evaluation signifies the strategic importance with which we participate in it.</p>
	<p>Social protection programming has proved to be an effective measure to strengthening resilience of vulnerable children and families. We appreciate that developing shock-responsive and child-sensitive social protect schemes is included in the CPD and integrated into a system strengthening approach. In line with our comments above on partnerships, we recommend the inclusion of information on UNICEFs partners in the field of social protection programming, including the delivery of cash and voucher assistance, in Somalia. Furthermore, we would then welcome more information on the specific thematic area of collaboration, coordination mechanisms and division of labour and synergies with other UN agencies (notably WFP and its SCOPE management system to deliver cash-based transfers). In our view, these are information that should be included in the respective section of the CPD.</p>	<p>UNICEF appreciates Government of Germany's recognition as UNICEF Somalia has taken the strategic decision of focusing its work on institutional development of the social protection sector. With other UN agencies and International NGOs active in humanitarian cash transfer off-budget and off-government, UNICEF worked closely with WFP in 2018 to first support Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' (MoLSA) efforts to develop the National Social Protection Policy to ensure the government regains leadership of the sector. The policy and capacity development work has continued in close collaboration with ILO and WFP with funding from Italy through the MPTF and the SDG Fund. Building on UNICEFs comparative advantage in social protection system building, UNICEF is playing a central role in the World Bank funded Baxnaano project supporting MoLSA in the creation of the social protection governance systems and the development of national payment delivery systems, namely the Unified Social Registry, the Operational Manual and MIS of a government run national social transfer program. While UNICEF work focuses on governance and delivery systems, WFP supports the delivery of regular cash transfer to Baxnaano beneficiaries through SCOPE and their implementing partner. The Unified Social Registry, which is under development, will be populated with data</p>

		<p>coming from SCOPE and Baxnaano’s 200,000 household beneficiaries. In all this, UNICEF Somalia works closely with all key partners in the government, donors and development partners including WFP, ILO, FAO, EU-Technical Assistance Facility, Save the Children, NGO Cash Consortium, etc.</p> <p>Moving forward and in line with our commitment to building and using national systems, UNICEF will continue to focus its social protection on supporting the government in the areas of policy and governance support, development of government delivery systems and piloting and building evidence around child friendly social transfers delivered through national systems. In doing so, UNICEF Somalia will leverage not only its current work with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs but also its engagement with districts through the UN Joint Programme on Local Government and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG).</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<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>	