

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the country programme documents

2021 second regular session

Country programme document posting period: 16 June to 6 July 2021

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

Delegation name: *[ADA CO Tirana]*

Draft country programme document: *[Albania]*

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	Delegations' comments	Response
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>UNICEF has been working for many years in Albania for the protection of children and youth. UNICEF has a solid understanding of the landscape needs and challenges.</i> - <i>Very important to see that in the new CPD a life-cycle approach is being prioritized.</i> - <i>Current collaboration with ADA is under the regional project "Social Inclusion of Roma Children & Children with Disabilities in the Western Balkans & Moldova.</i> - <i>Three out of the five targeted outcomes in the new CPD are in alignment with ADC's main (e.g. good governance and rule of law) and cross cutting priorities (e.g. gender equality, social inclusion). Those are Outcome 2 (School-aged and adolescent</i> 	<p><i>UNICEF Albania appreciates the comments and the excellent partnership with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) in Albania.</i></p> <p><i>UNICEF Albania appreciated the opportunity to participate in the mid-term evaluation of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)'s Albania Country Strategy 2015-2020. UNICEF highly values the participation of the ADA team in the consultation process organized with development partners in March 2021.</i></p> <p><i>It also appreciates the recognition of its role as knowledge broker when it comes to child and adolescent rights in the country.</i></p> <p><i>UNICEF Albania highly values ADA's support in the framework of the regional project "Social Inclusion of</i></p>

	<p>boys and girls learn, acquire skills for life, demand, access and utilize services in a healthy, resilient and gender-responsive environment); Outcome 3 (The most vulnerable children are protected from poverty and violence, are accessing justice and social and child protection services, and are thriving in a caring family environment) and Outcome 4 (There is a more conducive environment for policy and child rights governance, with a focus on equity accountability and on social and gender norms change).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcome 2 (School-aged and adolescent boys and girls learn, acquire skills for life, demand, access and utilize services in a healthy, resilient and gender-responsive environment) is very relevant and timely for Albania considering the high youth migration rates. - Under Outcome 3 – UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice to develop and budget for the National Justice for Children Strategy — a first of its kind document dedicated to child-friendly justice in Albania. In the new CPD UNICEF will also focus on ensuring the rights of children are respected when confronted with the justice system. ADC has an ongoing project with UNDP in Albania that aims to increase access to justice for vulnerable groups and strengthen the free legal aid system. To that regard, 8 free legal aid centres are operating in Albania and supported by ADA. We would encourage UNICEF to join forces and seek synergies with ADA and UNDP to ensure free legal assistance is provided for children/youth. 	<p>Roma Children & Children with Disabilities in the Western Balkans & Moldova” and reaffirms its commitment towards inclusion.</p> <p>UNICEF Albania welcomes the reference to the alignment between three CPD outcomes (2,3 and 4) and ADC’s main and cross-cutting priorities that create further opportunities for strengthened partnership.</p> <p>Regarding Outcome 3, UNICEF Albania confirms the existing coordination with UN agencies under the current UNDAF outcome Governance and Rule of Law, and in particular the output “Access to Justice” chaired by UNICEF. UNICEF Albania is fully committed to joining forces and strengthening cooperation with ADA and UNDP in the area of access to justice for youth and children in Albania.</p>
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