

Title	Funding Code	Type of engagement	Duty Station:
SBC Polio Consultant – P3 Aden, Yemen	SC240513	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Contractor	Aden, Yemen

Purpose of Activity/Assignment:

The SBC Polio Consultant (International, P3) will support the polio communication effort in Yemen based in the Aden Field Office during the response to the poliovirus outbreak, working under the supervision of the Chief of SBC in UNICEF Country Office and in close collaboration with the Chief of Field Office of Aden, SBC specialist in Aden, and the WHO communication team at national and Aden level, and Health Offices’ Extended Programme on Immunization and Health Education Centres.

The SBC Polio Consultant (International, P3) will be the key liaison between the global and regional team and the country team (including government partners) on Polio SBC strategies, plans and budgets, requiring prior international experience and exposure to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The SBC Polio Consultant will ensure the response is:

1. Aligned with the global SBC Polio Eradication guidelines and standards, through direct liaison with MENARO Polio team and Global Polio Eradication team
2. Aligned with government’s Ministry of Health – the Health Education Centre (in the South) and governorate plans and strategies, and
3. Aligned with the latest outbreak response SOPs and SBC plans.

Background/ Scope of Work:

Yemen is facing a continued outbreak of variant poliovirus, with 273 cases reported over the past three years amid a humanitarian crisis and declining vaccination rates, according to WHO and UNICEF. Once polio-free, Yemen’s immunization coverage dropped from 58% in 2022 to 46% in 2023 due to a fragile health system and ongoing conflict.

In response, WHO, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Health have launched immunization campaigns, reaching over 1.3 million children in 2024. They are also implementing the Big Catch-up initiative to restore routine vaccinations. Despite challenges, especially in areas controlled by De-facto Authorities, health partners are expanding primary health care services through the Health Emergency Expansion Response (HEER) initiative.

WHO and UNICEF stress that polio eradication in Yemen is possible with collective action, urging cooperation with local authorities, health professionals, and community leaders to ensure every child is vaccinated.

Scope of Work:

The International SBC Polio Specialist will accomplish the following specific tasks:

1. Coordinate and provide assistance for the implementation of Polio Supplementary Immunization activities scheduled, tailored to the current Polio situation in the country in consideration of GPEI guidelines and standards.
2. Facilitate the development of essential communication and social mobilization plans, including training plans, monitoring strategies, social mobilization microplanning, and crisis communication plans, to meet the necessary criteria for the forthcoming Polio campaign, and support the liaison with MENARO and GPEI for approvals and resource mobilization .
3. Continue to offer comprehensive technical assistance aimed at enhancing polio vaccination rates within recently identified low-performing or priority districts (41 districts). This requires providing technical guidance to analyze pertinent data tools and offering direction on the development of robust social mobilization plans tailored to target these specific areas.
4. Provide technical support to plan activities for the GAVI Equity Accelerator Fund activities aimed at addressing zero dose children in 40 prioritized districts in the country.
5. Supporting in the formulation of a strategic plan to effectively address refusal issues identified in all targeted districts after the last Polio campaign, through active engagement of local influencers and religious leaders.
6. Support the development/adaptation of the parenting package manuals and tools.

<p>7. Develop a comprehensive training modules based on the positive parenting package tailored for specific community cadres aimed at raising awareness about Polio and Routine Immunization, as well as facilitating the organization of sensitization sessions within communities exhibiting vaccine refusal due to religious beliefs.</p> <p>8. Review and finalize the remaining components of the National Immunization Strategy and the following revisions.</p> <p>9. Support in reviving and maintaining social mobilization and/or communication working groups/taskforces and other coordination platforms as well as expansion of existing ones at sub-national levels.</p> <p>10. Based on national and global best practices in similar context, finalize community engagement and information dissemination strategies to promote polio and routine immunization in the country.</p> <p>11. Ensure that polio micro plans (at least in priority areas) include social data and information on social mobilizers and leaders are developed and regularly revised.</p> <p>12. Support the national and field offices to undertake in-depth reviews of potential areas and cases of refusals of vaccines or issues of mistrust to be addressed.</p> <p>13. Provide technical direction for regular analysis of independent monitoring data and other available resources to identify priority areas and devise social mobilization micro-plans targeting those areas.</p>			
<p>Budget Year: 2025</p>	<p>Requesting Section/Issuing Office: SBC Section</p>	<p>Reasons why consultancy cannot be done by staff: With Yemen planning to conduct a series of Polio campaigns (currently focused on the IRG areas) in 2025, the SBC team has no staff capacity to dedicate time for campaign planning and management. Additionally, the consultant should come with specific technical knowledge and expertise in Polio and immunization campaigns, including liaison with GPEI structures which in itself is a full time engagement. Recognizing this, the GPEI funds short term capacity through surge budgets to cover these capacity gaps as it is common for countries not to have dedicated staff and expertise to focus on Polio campaigns. This consultancy is already fully funded for 2025.</p>	
<p>Included in Annual/Rolling Workplan: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, please justify: SBC support to immunization demand generation activities as well as outbreak response is a key activity in SBC Rolling workplan.</p>			
<p>Consultant sourcing: <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International <input type="checkbox"/> Both</p> <p>Consultant selection method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive Selection (Roster) <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive Selection (Advertisement/Desk Review/Interview)</p>		<p>Request for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New SSA <input type="checkbox"/> Extension/ Amendment</p>	
<p>If Extension, Justification for extension:</p>			
<p>Supervisor: Dennis Chimanya- Chief of SBC- Sana'a Country Office</p>	<p>Start Date: April 1, 2025</p>	<p>End Date: December 31, 2025</p>	<p>Number of Days (working) 9 months</p>

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

Deliver

Work Assignment Overview			
Tasks/Milestone:	Deliverables/Outputs:	Timeline	Estimate Budget \$
Provide technical support during the implementation of Polio Supplementary Immunization activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide technical support in the planning and implementation of the 1st round of Polio Campaign in the South. - Support the implementation of SBC microplans for all priority districts - Attend weekly and bi-weekly meetings with the relevant task force teams including internal and external polio team meetings, and regional and global meetings - 1st Round Polio campaign implementation report 	April 30 , 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide technical support to the planning and implementation of the upcoming round of IORs under IRG areas . - Support with technical direction to the government, partners, national and field office teams to conduct regular analysis of independent monitoring data of polio campaigns to identify priority areas for follow up social mobilization micro-plans targeting those areas. - Integrated Outreach Rounds implementation report 	May 31, 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure technical support to the development of community engagement and information dissemination strategies to promote polio and routine immunization following the campaigns and IORs. - Alongside the team, provide overall guidance and support to develop and tailor health information products for various target populations/audiences based on careful assessment of community knowledge, practices, and behaviours. -Intra-campaign and IORs SBC Implementation Plan 	June 30, 2025	

<p>Provide technical support in roll-out the parenting package and the community health worker strategy (with focus on components under routine immunization and zero-dose children) for frontline health workers, community mobilizers, and volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the development/ Revision of the parenting package manuals and tools and its roll-out in the south. - Provide technical support during the finalization and implementation the community health worker strategy - Provide technical support to the implementation of strategy and plan for reduction of zero-dose children - Progress report on implementation of zero-dose strategies and contribution to parenting package implementation 	<p>July 31, 2025</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning and Implementation of the 2nd round of Polio Campaign in the South supported -Technical support provided to the Ministry on Analyzing and developing microplans and Monitoring tools. - Support with technical direction to the government, partners, national and field office teams to conduct regular analysis of independent monitoring data and other available resources to identify priority areas for follow up social mobilization micro-plans targeting those areas. - Attend weekly and bi-weekly meetings with the relevant task force teams including internal and external EPI team meetings, and regional and global meetings -2nd Round Polio campaign implementation Reports 	<p>August 31, 2025</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide technical support to plan activities for the GAVI Equity Accelerator Fund activities aimed at addressing zero dose children in 40 prioritized districts in the country - Develop and implement evidence-based SBC strategies to address polio vaccine hesitancy and improve demand for immunization. -Attend weekly and bi weekly meetings with the relevant task force teams 	<p>September 30, 2025</p>	

	<p>including internal and external polio team meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report on implementation of GAVI Equity Accelerator Fund and zero-dose strategies 		
Review and finalize the remaining components of the National Immunization Strategy and provide technical support during its implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and finalize the National Immunization Strategy components for North Yemen - Develop a comprehensive training module tailored for specific community cadres aimed at raising awareness about Polio and Routine Immunization in line with NIS objectives - SBC inputs into National Immunization Strategy completed 	October 31, 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the development of a digital engagement strategy (media and social media) focused on Polio and routine immunization in line with NIS prioritization - Facilitate the organization of sensitization sessions within communities exhibiting vaccine refusal due to religious beliefs - Digital engagement Strategy completed 	November 30, 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the national and field offices to undertake in-depth reviews of potential areas and cases of refusals of vaccines or issues of mistrust to be addressed. - Compile Final Report with recommendations for consideration in 2026 - Assignment Report 	December 31, 2026	
Estimated Consultancy fee			
Travel International (if applicable)			
Travel Local (please include travel plan)			n/a
DSA (if applicable)	Only when applicable and as per Unicef policy.		

		consultant	
Total estimated consultancy costsⁱ			
<p>Minimum Qualifications required:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Masters <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>Master's degree with 5 years of relevant experience or a University degree with 8 years of relevant experience in the social/behavioural communication sciences. Knowledge about communication interventions for outbreaks, and routine & supplementary immunization. Experience in polio outbreak responses internationally is essential.</p>	<p>Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proven successful experience of 5 – 8 years of dealing with Polio outbreaks in similar context as well as in strategic communication processes for behavior change and development and working in emergency settings. - Demonstrated understanding of current developments in the field of communication for development theory and research, behavioural and social sciences, participatory planning and processes, media, strategic communication planning, behavior analysis, formative research and evaluation of communication interventions. - Technical knowledge of quantitative, qualitative and participatory research methodologies and analysis desirable. - Experience in inter-disciplinary approaches in strategic communication with knowledge of UN and/or UNICEF's work in health and polio eradication. - Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of Arabic will be an added advantage. 		
<p>Administrative details:</p> <p>Visa assistance required: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Transportation arranged by the office: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Costs associated with the visa, airline ticket, economy class, and R&R premium, will be covered by the office.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Home Based <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office Based:</p> <p>If office based, seating arrangement identified: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>IT and Communication equipment required: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Internet access required: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>Request Authorised by SBC Section Head</p> <p><i>Dennis Chimanya</i></p>	<p>Request Verified by HR:</p>		
<p><i>Approval of Chief of Operations (if Operations):</i></p> <p>_____</p>		<p><i>Approval of Deputy Representative (if Programme)</i></p> <p>_____</p>	
<p><i>Representative (in case of single sourcing/or if not listed in Annual Workplan)</i></p> <p>_____</p>			

ⁱ Costs indicated are estimated. Final rate shall follow the “best value for money” principle, i.e., achieving the desired outcome at the lowest possible fee. Consultants will be asked to stipulate all-inclusive fees, including lump sum travel and subsistence costs, as applicable.

Payment of professional fees will be based on submission of agreed deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant