

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Technical Consultant – Weave Wellbeing Fund Strategy

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	New York, USA (Home-based/Remote)
DURATION OF CONTRACT	8 months

Purpose of Assignment

Safe Online – in collaboration with the World Health Organization – is pioneering Weave Wellbeing: a \$100 million collaborative fund addressing the urgent intersection of digital technologies and youth mental health. Weave Wellbeing brings together governments, philanthropy, the technology sector, and impact investors to protect and foster the mental health of children and adolescents in the digital age.

This consultancy provides the anchor technical expertise to ground the Weave Wellbeing initiative in the science, evidence, and clinical understanding of mental health challenges facing children and adolescents in the digital age. The consultant will serve as the principal technical resource within the Safe Online team, ensuring that the fund’s strategy, products, partnerships, and monitoring frameworks are rooted in the latest research and a public-health approach to child and adolescent mental health. Weave Wellbeing is at a pivotal stage: the priority through end of 2026 is to crystallise the fund’s strategy, establish its scientific credibility, develop compelling fundraising and visibility assets, and secure the partnerships and funding commitments needed to launch at scale. This consultancy will provide the scientific and technical expertise needed to deliver these priorities, working at approximately 2.5–3 days per week.

The main objective of this consultancy, managed by Safe Online, is to provide expert technical and scientific input in support of the Weave Wellbeing initiative. The consultant will contribute to four concrete workstreams: (1) Scientific & technical input to Fund strategy; (2) Science partnerships & evidence synthesis; (3) Fundraising & visibility assets; and (4) Latest developments.

The consultant will report to and work under the direction of Safe Online’s designated supervisor. Deliverables will be developed collaboratively with the Safe Online team, with Safe Online retaining approval authority over all outputs. The consultant will be expected to work proactively, manage competing priorities across workstreams, and deliver high-quality products suitable for international audiences and senior-level stakeholders.

Scope of Work

The consultant will contribute across four interconnected workstreams:

1. Scientific & Technical Input to Fund strategy

- Review, stress-test, and refine the Weave Wellbeing fund strategy and investment thesis against the scientific and policy literature.
- Provide evidence-based recommendations on the theory of change, scope definitions, granting priorities, and metrics of success.
- Help define and monitor key performance indicators to track fund effectiveness.

2. Science Partnerships & Evidence Synthesis

- Work with science partners (Welcome Trust, Galenos, WHO and others) to feed the latest knowledge into the team’s work.

- Review the latest systematic reviews and translate findings into actionable inputs for the fund strategy and fundraising materials.
- Identify evidence gaps and recommend areas where targeted scientific synthesis would strengthen fund positioning and credibility.
- Support development of a Scientific Advisory mechanism, including identification of potential members and an engagement model.

3. Latest Developments & Cross-Cutting Support

- Stay on top of the latest developments in digital wellbeing and youth mental health research; proactively flag relevant findings to the team.
- Bring expertise and experience from working across disciplines (e.g. public health, clinical practice, policy) as an asset to the broader team.
- Submit brief fortnightly activity updates to the supervisor documenting progress, inputs delivered, and upcoming priorities.

4. Fundraising & Visibility Assets

- Develop the science-grounded case for support, draft key sections of the investor pitch deck, and produce an evidence-based fact sheet.
- Review and validate all scientific and evidence-based claims in communications and fundraising materials prior to distribution.
- Prepare technical talking points and briefing notes for senior-level partner and funder meetings.

All deliverables require Safe Online review and approval prior to finalisation.

The work is primarily home-based with participation in virtual meetings; travel may be required for select convenings.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline (in weeks/months) and input days to complete the deliverable
<p>Deliverable 1: Fund Strategy – Scientific and Technical</p>	<p>Deliverable 1: 1.1 Output: Inception report Task: Review existing documentation, including landscaping evidence, draft theory of change, scope definitions, granting priorities, and metrics of success documentation to generate strategic approach to deliverables.</p> <p>1.2 Output: Fund strategy review Task: Annotated review and revised draft of the fund strategy and investment thesis with evidence-based recommendations</p> <p>1.3 Output: Metrics of success framework Task: Create proposed metrics of success and monitoring framework for the fund, with recommended indicators and data source</p>	<p>June 30 2026</p>
<p>Deliverable 2: Science Partnerships & Evidence Synthesis</p>	<p>Deliverable 2 2.1 Output: Scientific Foundations Communication Asset Task: Develop science-grounded case for support, technical content for investor pitch deck, and evidence-based fact sheet – ready for use with philanthropic, government, and tech-sector audiences.</p> <p>2.2 Output: Science</p>	<p>Sept 30 2026</p>

	<p>Partnership Progress Report Task: Document record of engagements with science partners (Wellcome Trust, Galenos, others), including status updates, agreed next steps, and curated mapping of priority scientific and institutional partners.</p>	
<p>Deliverable 3: Latest Developments & Cross-Cutting Support</p>	<p>Deliverable 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output: Evidence Synthesis & Research Priorities Document • Task: Develop and update a research priorities document defining key areas of scientific and programmatic investment, grounded in the current evidence base, including identification of knowledge gaps and recommended priority-setting criteria • Task: Brief written fortnightly updates to supervisor documenting progress, inputs delivered, and upcoming priorities 	<p>Oct 31 2026</p>
<p>Deliverable 4: Fundraising & Visibility Assets</p>	<p>Deliverable 4</p> <p>Output: Fundraising & Visibility Asset Package</p> <p>Task: Create an accessible, audience-facing document that synthesises the scientific foundations of the fund’s investment thesis, suitable for prospective funders, policymakers, and strategic partners.</p>	<p>Dec 15 2026</p>

Payment Schedule:

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of 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.

Important Notes:

- Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.
- The selected candidate is solely responsible for ensuring that the health insurance (and visa if applicable) required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected candidates are subject to confirmation of fully-vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the assignment. It does not apply to consultants who will work remotely and are not expected to work on or visit UNICEF premises, programme delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their consultancy contracts.
- UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Minimum requirements:

- **Education:** Master’s degree in clinical or organisational psychology, mental health, public health, child protection, or a closely related field.
- **Work Experience:**
 - Over 10 years relevant experience working with children and youth mental health and wellbeing
 - Demonstrated expertise in child and adolescent mental health, including knowledge of the evidence on digital technology impacts.
 - Experience synthesising scientific evidence and translating it for non-specialist audiences (funders, policymakers, senior leaders).
 - Experience working across disciplines, such as public health, clinical practice, and policy.
- **Desirables:**
 - Clinical expertise in child/adolescent mental health.
 - Prior experience at the World Health Organization or comparable multilateral/public-health institution.
 - Experience working with philanthropic partners and science funders (e.g. Wellcome Trust).
 - Familiarity with online child safety and violence prevention.
 - Track record of coordinating multistakeholder groups, including tech-industry audiences.
- **Language Requirements:** Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.