

Terms of Reference – Individual Contractor

UNICEF in Ghana

Title	International Individual Contractor – Youth Policy, Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Purpose	To support UNICEF’s engagement on Youth Policy, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Digital Public Goods especially in collaboration with the business sector through shared value partnerships that leverage results for young people.
Location	Accra, Ghana
Duration	11.5 months
Expected Start Date	October 2020
Expected Fee	TBD
Reporting to	UNICEF Deputy Representative
Budget Code/WBS No	1620/A0/05/880/031 - Output 31: Cross sectoral approaches & convergence (NON GRANT GC)
Project and activity codes	<i>GL Account Code: Contractual Services (0007090910)</i>

Background & Justification

Ghana is a lower middle-income country experiencing a period of sustained political stability and economic growth. However, significant disparities in development outcomes continue to impact disproportionately on vulnerable groups, including on about 10 million young people (10-24 years), who are reliant on equal and expanded opportunities for quality education and training, employment, entrepreneurship and engagement to break age-related and other socio-economic barriers.

UNICEF continues to partner with the Government of Ghana and development partners to strengthen social systems that can advance results for children and young people. Under the framework of the UNICEF-Government of Ghana Country Programme of Cooperation (2018-2022), UNICEF is supporting programmes for children in health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, quality basic education, the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation, and social protection. It does so by leveraging national and international capacity, knowledge, and experience in priority areas for children. Over successive programme cycles, UNICEF Ghana has also supported multisectoral programmes advancing the wellbeing and rights of adolescent girls, and the second decade of life more broadly.

Notable progress for young people in Ghana has been made in recent years. Ghana introduced the Free Senior High School (SHS) policy in 2017 and initiated TVET programmes to support young people attend SHS, technical school, or vocational institutions, and participate in the economy with strengthened skill sets. The country also embedded youth commitments in the Ghana Beyond Aid Charter, and Ghana’s Medium-Term Development Framework, “An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All” (2018-2021), and other key strategies which were geared towards improving the quality of post-basic education skills training; developing young people’s employability skills; and strengthening the links between education and the labour market. In 2020, the country also updated its 10-year National Youth Policy (NYP) for the period 2020-2030 placing the economic empowerment of young people, education and skills development, youth participation and governance at the center of the youth agenda and the targeted policy and programme efforts undertaken across government institutions. The implementation of the NYP is led by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and its implementing Agency, the National Youth

Authority (NYA). Institutions such as Ghana's Education Service, the TVET Council, and Ghana's Youth Employment Agency have also played key roles. However, inherent political and institutional challenges continue to temper progress and delivery on the youth agenda. Strengthened institutional vision, coordination, capacities and resources are required from state bodies as well as better collaboration between government and non-government actors to realize a transformative progress on outcomes for young people.

UNICEF is now seeking to accelerate initiatives that support an enabling environment for young people specifically in terms of their engagement, empowerment and future employability. Through the global GenU initiative, UNICEF is advancing opportunities to accelerate positive outcomes for young people and leverage overall support from diverse stakeholders in shaping and mobilizing and leveraging existing resources and new investments for young people needed to increase empowerment, education, training, and employment opportunities, and to identify and support the acceleration of high-impact and transformative initiatives which can reach young people at scale. UNICEF is also seeking to support positive policy and programme initiatives by government, development partners, private sector, civil society and young people respectively. UNICEF is advocating for greater coordination and information exchange among all stakeholders on investment programmes for young people, while also seeking to build on and strengthen existing coordination mechanisms for young people, such as the Private Sector Working Group (chaired by Ministry of Trade and Industry), the Employment Working Group (chaired by the World Bank), as well as its subgroup on skills development and TVET, under the Ministry of Education.

UNICEF is also exploring several prospective pathways for meaningful, innovative and shared-value partnerships with the business sector in Ghana that can leverage resources for young people. For example, within the GenU initiative, UNICEF is exploring several opportunities to work across multiple sectors including the technology sector and related startup ecosystem. Through the UNICEF Startup Lab, UNICEF is actively engaged in supporting a growing portfolio of early-stage, social-impact startups working on innovative, solution-oriented businesses in areas impacting young people, and provides a six-month entrepreneurship and incubation programme for young entrepreneurs along with networking, mentorship and access to investment opportunities. Ghana also recently joined the Digital Public Goods¹ Alliance (DPGA)² as a Pathfinder Country, and UNICEF will support the discovery, development, use of, and investments in DPGs of high relevance to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such initiatives provide entry points for wider business sector engagement and investment for young people, including through policy commitments and scaled investments.

Purpose and Objectives

The overall purpose of the contract is to strengthen the contribution of UNICEF to youth policy, employability and entrepreneurship in Ghana and to accelerate the development, management and implementation of partnerships and with key stakeholders that leverage political and economic support for results for young people through the GenU and DGA initiatives. The contractor will serve as a focal point and resource for UNICEF on second decade programming, and specifically on youth policy, employability and entrepreneurship (GenU) and DPGs.

¹ Open source software, open data, open AI models, open standards and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable best practices.

² Pathfinder countries pilot initiatives that aim at a) meeting demand for DPGs; b) supporting supply/creation/strengthening of DPGs; c) supporting the related policy environment and d) supporting entrepreneurship ecosystem for DPGs.