



CONSULTANCY - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Giga Connectivity Solutions Specialist

Division: UNICEF Office of Innovation, Switzerland

Duration: 12 months

Duty Station: Remote

Advertising summary

We are seeking a capable Connectivity Solutions Specialist to join Giga, an initiative to connect every school in the world to the Internet and every young person to information, opportunity, and choice. The consultant will work closely with the Giga Country Engagement, Tech and Mapping, Partnerships and Contract teams to develop the methodology for enhancing the adoption and impact of Giga products, extracting the needs for adaptation, providing key insights and best practices, and techno-strategic recommendations for Giga products and work-streams such as the connectivity data measuring and ingestion tools, contract management platform, improved market access and telco industry partnerships. In addition, the consultant will provide techno-strategic support across the Giga teams for engagements with internet service providers and other key connectivity sector implementors.

Child Safeguarding

Is this project/assignment considered as "Elevated Risk Role" from a child safeguarding perspective? YES NO

If YES, check all that apply:

Direct contact role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of direct interpersonal contact with children, or work in their immediately physical proximity, with limited supervision by a more senior member of personnel:

Child data role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of manipulating or transmitting personal-identifiable information of children (name, national ID, location data, photos):

More information is available in the [Child Safeguarding SharePoint](#) and [Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates](#)

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfill their potential.

Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone.

And we never give up.

For every child...innovate

UNICEF has a 70-year history of innovating for children. We believe that new approaches, partnerships and technologies that support realizing children's rights are critical to improving their lives.

The **Office of Innovation** is a creative, interactive, and agile team in UNICEF. We sit at a unique intersection, where an organization that works on huge global issues meets the start-up thinking, the technology, and the partners that turn this energy into scalable solutions.

About Giga

Giga, a joint initiative between UNICEF and ITU, aims to connect every school in the world to the internet, addressing the global digital divide. The lack of internet access deprives half of the world's population, including millions of children, of digital skills and opportunities. Giga uses schools as anchor points to extend connectivity to surrounding communities, promoting economic growth and sustainability. Mapping school connectivity levels using machine learning and satellite images is the first step in identifying areas in need. So far, over 2.1 million schools in 136 countries have been mapped. The cost of connecting every school is estimated over \$400 billion, and Giga works with governments and private investors to secure funding.

By partnering with various stakeholders, Giga facilitates internet access, implements competitive procurement processes, and develops real-time payment mechanisms. The initiative has already connected schools in 19 countries, including remote regions and refugee camps. Giga's work supports UNICEF's Reimagine Education initiative, which aims to connect every child and young person to digital learning solutions by 2030. Through collaborations with financial and technical partners, Giga advances its mission. You can read more about Giga's work at <https://giga.global/> and by following us on twitter @Gigaglobal.

How can you make a difference?

We are seeking a capable Connectivity Solutions Specialist to join Giga, an initiative to connect every school in the world to the Internet and every young person to information, opportunity, and choice. The consultant will work closely with the Giga Country Engagement, Tech and Mapping, Partnerships and Contract teams to develop the methodology for enhancing the adoption and impact of Giga products, extracting the needs for adaptation, providing key insights and best practices, and techno-strategic recommendations for Giga products and work-streams such as the connectivity data measuring and ingestion tools, contract management platform, improved market access and telco industry partnerships. In addition, the consultant will provide techno-strategic support across the Giga teams for engagements with internet service providers and other key connectivity sector implementors.

Giga is developing and refining its products to incorporate practices, needs and opportunities within the connectivity sector. This is in a context where (i) sector practices across different jurisdictions vary significantly, (ii) connectivity implementers and enablers are diverse, and (iii) where standard practices have significantly contributed to the disparity in internet connectivity. Giga's objective for universal school connectivity faces a dual challenge of adapting to the connectivity sector's needs, as well as addressing some of its imbalances. It is out of these challenges that this consultancy arises.

Under the supervision of the Country Engagement Adviser, the consultant will conduct interviews, workshops and desktop research with the various Giga teams, and where

necessary key stakeholders in the UNICEF and connectivity sector eco-systems to develop the Data Methodology and key deliverables described in these Terms of Reference.

Key Outputs

- Research to understand the connectivity sector needs and opportunities
- Strategies and messaging to ensure that Giga works with a broad set of actors in the connectivity ecosystem
- Support to Giga product developers for geographical and impact scaling
- Analysis to support Giga teams in building in product features
- Support the interactions between the Giga teams and key stakeholders in the connectivity sector

Your main responsibilities will be:

Detailed responsibilities / deliverables

- Conduct research to understand the connectivity sector needs and opportunities as relevant to various Giga teams and products,
- Conduct in-depth analysis to support Giga teams in building in product features that will aid in their adoption within the connectivity sector, especially to include adoption in under-served and remote contexts,
- Support Giga product developers during ideation, design and testing to define the features, approaches and new products required to support geographical and impact scaling,
- Support the interactions between the Giga teams and key stakeholders in the connectivity sector, including as part of product testing and launches (e.g., ISP data platform)
- Develop strategies and messaging to ensure that Giga works with a broad set of actors in the connectivity ecosystem, with a special emphasis on inclusion for under-served areas and populations.

Description of assignment

	Tasks	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline	% of payment/ Estimated combined working days
1	Research to understand the connectivity sector needs and opportunities	Plan for development of methodology for enhanced adoption and impact of Giga products	Month 1	15%
		Product plan for ISP data platform	Month 2-3	10%

		Report on connectivity sector Giga needs and opportunities and best practices	Month 4-5	15%
2	Develop strategies and messaging to ensure that Giga works with a broad set of actors in the connectivity ecosystem	Strategy for working with connectivity ecosystem actors to ensure equity	Month 6-7	15%
3	Support Giga product developers for geographical and impact scaling	Workshop with Giga teams to present and collect feedback on features and approaches for Giga products	Month 8	10%
4	Analysis to support Giga teams in building in product features	Brief on features and approaches for Giga products required to support geographical and impact scaling	Month 9-10	20%
5	Support the interactions between the Giga teams and key stakeholders in the connectivity sector	Technical, organizational and strategic input to operationalize existing products, including the ISP data measurement tools, and support in liaising with connectivity sector key stakeholders	Month 11- 12	15%

To qualify as an advocate for every child you will have...

- An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) is required in one of the following fields: statistics, economics, social sciences, development sciences, and management or related degree is required. **A first University Degree in a relevant field combined with 2 additional years of professional experience may be accepted in lieu of an Advanced University Degree.*
- A minimum of 5 years of professional experience in the connectivity sector, with a focus on development, universal connectivity, and internet service provision in under-served areas.
- Experience in facilitating engagements with an array of partners at the national/regional level, i.e. international development organizations, government entities, regulators, internet service providers, civil society, etc.
- Understanding of connectivity technology, telecommunications, networks is required.
- Experience in monitoring and reporting.
- Knowledge of national policy frameworks related to technology development, implementation, and infrastructure development is desired.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills.

- Proven capacity to work with collaborative teams across different locations and with different technical skills.
- Proven experience in translating complex ideas from various fields into unified, clear guidance.
- Ability to thrive in a fast-paced and dynamic environment; proven track record working across a cross-functional team.
- Outstanding communication, teamwork, and interpersonal skills; team-first mentality
- Strong planning and organizational and time management skills.
- Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, or Russian) or a local language is an asset.

Travel:

- The consultant is expected to travel to:
 - Geneva, Switzerland 2 times – requiring a stay of 5 nights
 - Barcelona, Spain 1 time – requiring a stay of 5 nights.
- The consultant is responsible for arranging his/her own travel, including visa and travel insurance.

Payment details and further considerations

- Payment of professional fees will be based on the 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.

How to apply:

- Interested applicants are required to submit a financial proposal with an all-inclusive fee. Please see the financial proposal template.
- Financial proposal must include travel costs (economy class) and daily subsistence allowance, if travel is required as per TOR and any other estimated costs: visa, travel/health insurance, etc.
- **Applications without a financial proposal will not be considered.**

For every Child, you demonstrate...

UNICEF's values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability, and Sustainability ([CRITAS](#)).

To view our competency framework, please visit [here](#).

UNICEF is here to serve the world's most disadvantaged children and our global workforce must reflect the diversity of those children. The UNICEF family is committed to include everyone, irrespective of their race/ethnicity, age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, socio-economic background, or any other personal characteristic.

UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants/individual contractors 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.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles and will therefore undergo rigorous reference and background checks. Background checks will include the verification of academic credential(s) and employment history. Selected candidates may be required to provide additional information to conduct a background check.

Remarks:

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.

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 to ensure that the visa (applicable) and health insurance 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.

SUPERVISOR: Aditi Poddar, Advisor

PREPARED BY: Aditi Poddar, Advisor

Signature and date: _____

APPROVED BY: Marija Novkovic, Programme Manager

Signature and date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSULTANT:

Name, signature and date: _____