

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTORS

TITLE	National Consultant to support the Justice for Children component as part of the Better Care reform and EU accession process.	
Requesting Section	Child Protection	
Type of engagement	Consultant	
Selection method	Competitive selection [advertisement]	
Start/End date	01-Dec-23	15-Oct-24
Duration <i>[up to 11.5 months without mandatory break-in-service]</i>	11.5 months	
Duty Station	Kyiv	
Number of working days	200 days	
Terms of payment	Upon completion of each deliverable according to schedule	

Background:

UNICEF's child protection programme focuses on the the Better Care agenda which bridges immediate response for children who are currently in residential and alternative care affected by the war through case management and humanitarian support while also looking at the prevention of increased institutionalization as a consequence of the war through family- and community-strengthening.

Justice is an essential component of the Better Care ensuring children's access to child friendly justice procedures and services. Specifically, it is focused on developing the capacity of justice professionals about the priority of cases related to child status, adoption and ensuring the right of the child to a family. Another important component is children's interaction with justice and administrative systems as victims/survivors or witnesses of a crime, when accused of an offence, or because an intervention is needed for their care, custody, and protection. The legal empowerment of these groups of children is also a principal focus underpinning this work.

Before the war, the Government of Ukraine made steps to reform the justice system, shifting the focus to enhancing adherence to international standards on the rights of all children in contact with the law, inclusive of those who are victims or witnesses of crimes, children who are suspected in committing a crime and other categories of children, who come in contact with the law for different reasons.

The Government of Ukraine is adopting the National Strategy on Justice for Children for 2024-2028 to ensure a child-friendly environment and effective justice for children in accordance with international standards and recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

One of the key priorities of the Government is now the European Union (EU) accession. A vital component of the EU integration process is ensuring that the rights and welfare of children are upheld to the standards set by the EU. This requires harmonizing legislation and providing guarantees for child rights protection.

Purpose of assignment:

To support the Child Protection Team, focusing on Justice for Children pillar, as the Better Care Programme develops, and UNICEF strategically position itself in the area of the justice system reform as a part of the EU accession process.

The Consultant's scope of the work will include:

More specifically, the consultant will support the Child Protection Team, with main focus on Justice for Children pillar in the following areas:

- Technical support to the Ministry of Justice and the Inter-Agency Co-ordinational Council on Justice for Children (ICCJC) co-chaired by UNICEF to ensure comprehensive stakeholder engagement and coordination;
- Operationalization of the National Strategy on Justice for Children for 2024-2028 to ensure strategic positioning of UNICEF;
- Facilitation the harmonization of laws and regulatory framework providing guarantees for children in line with the EU standards, including national regulatory framework on child friendly justice;
- Technical support with implementation of specialization of professionals working in the justice sphere, including specialization of for judges in family cases;
- Support capacity building of justice for children professionals in child rights protection and child-friendly justice based on the EU standards;
- Facilitation the development of services for children in contact with the law, including child-friendly criminal, administrative and civil procedures and support the implementation of specialized child protection services/models;
- Facilitation the capacity building of social service workers to provide the service of mediation to families with children for effective conflicts resolution;
- Technical support Child Protection personnel and experts on reporting in the spheres of access to justice, child rights protection

Implementation of tasks will require a close collaboration and coordination with national core stakeholders, including Inter-Agency Co-ordinational Council on Justice for Children, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Supreme Court, Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Ministry of Health of Ukraine, National Police of Ukraine, the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision, civil society organizations – UNICEF implementing partners.

The consultant will work closely with and under direct supervision of the UNICEF Child Protection Officer, NOB and overall guidance of Child Protection Specialist, P4 and Chief of Child Protection, P5.

Minimum requirements:	Education	Master's degree	Advanced degree (Master's or equivalent) in one of the following fields is required: law, human rights, or international relations.
	Professional experience	Minimum five years of work experience in justice and child protection. Experience in the development of the national child protection system. Experience in coordination and cooperation with high-level national, and sub-national governments and with international/local CSOs working in the sphere of justice and child rights. Experience in both development and humanitarian contexts.	
	Language	Ukrainian	Proficient/Native [C2]
		English	Proficient/Native [C2]
Skills and competencies	The ability to plan, organize, prioritize, and deliver under pressure is a requisite. Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively in a diverse organization tailoring language, tone, style, and format to match the audience.		

Work assignment overview:

Deliverable	Deadline	# of w/days
<p><i>Deliverable 1.</i> Technical support to the Ministry of Justice and the Inter-Agency Co-ordinational Council on Justice for Children (ICCJC) co-chaired by UNICEF to ensure comprehensive stakeholder engagement and coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly report on technical assistance to ICCJC (Quarter 1-4, 10 days per quarter) including the following activities: weekly coordination 	<p>By 15 November 2024 (Q1 – 01 Mar 2024; Q2 – 01 Jun 2024; Q3 -01</p>	40

meeting held, up to 12 ICCJC meetings organized and coordinated, up to 10 concept papers on joint UNICEF/ICCJC key interventions drafted, up to 10 analytical papers produced by ICCJC reviewed for alignment with UNICEF child protection guidance	Sep 2024; Q4 -15 Nov 2024)	
<p><i>Deliverable 2.</i> Operationalization of the National Strategy on Justice for Children for 2024-2028 to ensure strategic positioning of UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on technical support to the National Strategy operationalization, including the following activities: up to 5 coordination meetings held ensuring stakeholder engagement and coordination; support to the development of the Action plan to the National Strategy 	By 31 December 2023	20
<p><i>Deliverable 3.</i> Facilitation the harmonization of laws and regulatory framework providing guarantees for children in line with the EU standards, including national regulatory framework on child friendly justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on regulatory framework review including the following revision: up to 5 normative acts reviewed and recommendations prepared 	By 15 October 2024	20
<p><i>Deliverable 4.</i> Support the capacity building process justice for children professionals on child rights and child-friendly justice, including specialization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on implementation of capacity building activities, including those related to specialization of justice professionals: organizing up to 15 capacity building and coordination activities held (Quarter 4), support with the development of the concept paper on judges specialization (Quarter 1), support in drafting up 5 recommendations for normative acts changes (Quarter 3); 	By 15 November 2024 (Q1 - 01 Mar 2024; Q3 -01 Sep 2024; Q4 - 15 Nov 2024)	40
<p><i>Deliverable 5.</i> Development of services for children in contact with the law including child-friendly criminal, administrative and civil procedures and support the implementation of specialized child protection services/models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on implementation of specialized child protection services/models and child-friendly criminal, administrative and civil processes, including the following activities: review up to 15 training manuals/guidelines (Quarter 4), up to 12 coordination meetings held involving UNICEF implementing partners (Quarter 4), up to 5 project proposals reviewed (Quarter 3). 	By 15 November 2024 (Q3 - 01 Sep 2024; Q4 - 15 Nov 2024)	40
<p><i>Deliverable 6.</i> Facilitation the capacity building of social workers to provide the service of mediation to families with children for effective conflicts resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on family mediation implementation, including the following activities: up to 5 family mediation training programmes reviewed, up to 5 capacity building activities held 	By 15 October 2024	15
<p><i>Deliverable 7.</i> Technical support Child Protection personnel and experts on reporting in the spheres of access to justice, child rights protection and monitoring, including final report preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on technical support to Child Protection section, including the following activities: up to 10 coordination meeting held (Quarter 4), up to 5 programme documents reviewed (Quarter 3), up to 10 analytical documents/PPTs drafted (Quarter 4) 	By 15 November 2024 (Q3 - 01 Sep 2024; Q4 - 15 Nov 2024)	25
Total # of working days		200
	Sub-total:	200

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.

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.