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| TITLE | **National Consultant for support to early learning and preschool programme** |
| Requesting Section | Education |
| Type of engagement | Contractor Full-Time |
| Duration  *[up to 11.5 months without mandatory break-in-service]* | 11.5 months |
| Duty Station | Kyiv |
| Terms of payment | Upon completion of each deliverable according to schedule |
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| Background:  Amid the war in Ukraine, UNICEF Ukraine recognizes that many preschool children have been challenged more than older children to resume the face-to-face or distance learning. Their teachers and parents face challenges in providing support for continuity of learning of young children. The lessons from COVID-19 pandemic also point to the fact that lack of interaction among children had a great impact on their learning and well-being.  UNICEF has committed to support every child in Ukraine to have access to continuous learning and interaction with other children. A three-pronged approach is taken to create conditions for supporting every child return to learning and interact with their peers and teachers. UNICEF Ukraine and partners have launched the *Back to Learning Together* initiative that aims at contribution to the creation of opportunities for all children to engage in learning and interact with other children, supported by the School, Home and Community.  Children of preschool age are a special focus under the *Back to Learning Together* initiative, in which UNICEF works with the Ministry of Education and Science and partners to support:   * **Development of flexible preschool program that bridges learning and development provided by preschool teachers, accompanied with parental support to enable early learning at home;** * **Provision of socio-emotional learning, catch-up and socializing opportunities for children;** * **Provision of parenting programs and support;** * **Timely and reliable information that parents can trust and use to provide their young children with the best start in life;** * **Mobilization of communities for the creation of spaces for children to learn beyond schools;** * **Engaging and training volunteers to work with children as peer educators and mentors; etc.** | | | |
| Purpose of assignment:  The scope of the consultancy is as follows:   * Support to the Education section for the development and preparation of advocacy materials for promotion of ECE in Ukraine and increase the supply part of ECE in the country. * Support overall monitoring of the partnerships and reporting on programme progress including supplies and make recommendations for improvement of targeting of beneficiaries. * Support capacity building of MOES and other partners in provision of appropriate programmes in early learning during war situation. * Work with the FOs, MOES and local authorities in identifying targeted beneficiaries and facilitate supply provision and other services. * Support development of innovative interventions at home and preschools for promotion of emergent literacy and numeracy. * Support the office ECD initiative on Nurturing Care and parenting support. * Provide inputs into documents and research work and follow up action plans and activities. | | | |
| Minimum requirements: | Education *[specify disciplines]* | Bachelor's degree | Education, ECE, ECD, Pedagogy (Teaching), Social/socio-economic sciences, International relations, Psychology, Social policy, or related spheres. |
| Professional experience *[number of years, relevant to the assignment, other specifics]* | * At least 3 years of coordination of projects related formal and/or non-formal education, early child development and socio-emotional learning * At least 2 years of experience in early childhood education/development, including coordination and management * Experience of engagement with UNICEF or other UN agencies is an asset | |
| Language | Ukrainian | Proficient/Native [C2] |
| English | Intermediate [B1] |
| Skills and competencies | * Knowledge of the area of early childhood education and development, nurturing care framework, formal and non-formal education; * Strong coordination skills; * Excellent communication and ability to write concisely; * Ability to manage information, data and work with strategic documents | |

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| **Work assignment overview:** |  |  |  |  |
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| **Deliverable** | |  | **# of w/days** |
| 1. Inception report, including methodology and workplan and list of products and materials to be developed during the consultancy (7 days) | |  | 7 |
| 1. In collaboration with SBC, develop an advocacy package that would result in increasing supply part of ECE for young children and their families especially as part of early recovery efforts. (17 days) | |  | 57 |
| 1. Conduct at least 5 field monitoring visits (2 per month) to monitor progress of partners’ implementation and submit 5 reports (10 days) | |
| 1. Support monitoring of the supply component of the ECE programme and provide 3 reports on the status of supplies (8 days) | |
| 1. In collaboration with partners, develop the materials, including for online modality and contribute to capacity building of preschool teachers’ activities within the projects implemented with UNICEF support (10 days) | |
| 1. Provide support and recommendations to the Education Section for the development of the cross-cutting plan on ECD (12 days) | |  | 15 |
| 1. Participate in discussions with stakeholders and potential IP, provide inputs and contribute to the development of at least 3 new partnership documents (15 days) | |  | 25 |
| 1. Provide inputs and recommendations into the KAP study and other research work related to early childhood education and development (10 days) | |
| 1. Report on field monitoring visits (at least 6) to monitor progress of partners’ implementation (12 days) | |  | 36 |
| 1. Report on monitoring of the supply component of the ECE programme, including lessons learnt, status of supplies, recommendations on improvement of targeting of beneficiaries etc. (8 days) | |
| 1. Contribute to capacity building of preschool teachers within the projects implemented with UNICEF support (16 days) | |
| 1. In collaboration with SBC and other sections, contribute to the development of actions in response to the KAP study findings related to early childhood education and development, and parenting (12 days) | |  | 12 |
| 1. Support in the development of online materials for children, teachers and parents for early childhood education and development and continuity of learning from early years (35 days) | |  | 35 |
| 1. Report with compiled data on the findings from the projects in the field, recommendations for improvement of targeting of beneficiaries, including through new partnerships (15 days) | |  | 15 |
| 1. Provide support to the ECCD Cluster work as per direction from the Education Officer (12 days) | |  | 12 |
| 1. Final report, including lessons learnt and recommendations for further steps to support ECE strengthening (9 days) | |  | 9 |
| **Sub-total:** | | | **208** |
| **Lumpsum for travel** | | | |
| **Grand total:** | | | |

\*Reports under the consultancy will be provided to UNICEF in English and where relevant in Ukrainian.

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| **\*Travel plan:** |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Destination** | **Period** *[month, year]* | **Costs for living** | | **Round trip ticket, USD** | **Total, USD** |
| **Days** | **Amount, USD** |
| Zhytomyr | tbd | 3 |  |  |  |
| Chernihiv | tbd | 3 |  |  |  |
| Lviv | tbd | 3 |  |  |  |
| Kropyvnytskyi | tbd | 3 |  |  |  |
| Sumy | tbd | 3 |  |  |  |
| Poltava | tbd | 3 |  |  |  |
| Kharkiv | tbd | 2 |  |  |  |
| Other (to be defined) | tbd | 5 |  |  |  |
| **Total:** | |  |  |  |  |

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.

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.