

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant on Child Online Safety in the Education System

CONTRACT MODALITY Individual Consultancy

DUTY STATION Yerevan, Armenia - Home Based

DURATION OF CONTRACT 5 months

Purpose of Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to support the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports in developing draft legislative acts and policies in the field of child online safety in and around schools, including on the use of digital devices in educational settings.

The consultant will work jointly with the Consultant on Internet Safety Standards for Industry in conducting a comprehensive gap analysis of the existing Armenian legislative and policy framework on child online protection (in the education sector) vis-à-vis international standards and best practices with recommendations and proposed legislation/policy/implementation measures. Following the joint gap analysis phase, the consultant will focus specifically on drafting legislation and regulatory policies governing the safe use of internet in the education system.

The consultant will work under the supervision of the UNICEF Access to Justice Officer, closely collaborating with the UNICEF, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Ministry of High-Tech Industries teams, Working Group on Child Online Safety and other stakeholders involved in the process.

Scope of Work

Armenia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1992 and has since progressively aligned its national legislation with international standards on child rights. Armenia is also a member of the End Violence against Children Global Partnership and the WePROTECT Global Alliance, with commitments to address all forms of violence against children, including risks in the digital environment.

Children spend a significant portion of their digital lives in educational settings. However, Armenia's current legislative and policy framework does not comprehensively address online safety within schools, digital literacy requirements, and regulations on the use of digital devices in educational institutions. This gap leaves children vulnerable to online risks in the very environments meant to protect and empower them.

This assignment will contribute to the UNICEF Armenia Country Programme Document (CPD) 2026 - 2030, specifically to the component on child protection in the digital environment, reinforcing Armenia's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and aligned international instruments.

Under the supervision of the Access to Justice Officer, the consultant is expected to:

Task 1. Together with the other two consultants, conduct a comprehensive gap analysis of the Armenian legislative and policy framework in the field of child online safety (with focus on education system), including a review of relevant international standards and best practices (the CRC General Comments, UNESCO recommendations on digital education, Council of Europe guidelines, the WePROTECT Model National Response, and EU frameworks), and benchmarked against comparative country experiences.

Task 2. Based on the findings of the joint gap analysis, develop draft legislative acts and policies establishing a comprehensive online safety framework for the education system, including online safety standards for schools, policies governing the use of digital devices and social media in educational settings, and mechanisms for reporting

and responding to online safety incidents involving children in schools.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable
<p>Review of relevant international standards and best practices, gap analysis of the Armenian legislative and policy framework in the field of child online safety with recommendations and proposed measures</p>	<p>Deliverable 1 – Report with recommendations</p>	<p>20 May 2026</p>
<p>Drafting of legislative amendments/new pieces of legislation and policy documents establishing online safety standards in schools, including teacher training obligations, and school-level online safety policies, such as on the use of digital devices and platforms in educational settings, including age-appropriate limitations, parental consent mechanisms, and safeguarding procedures</p>	<p>Deliverable 2 – First draft legislative and policy documents.</p>	<p>10 June 2026</p>
<p>Participation in the discussions, revision of draft legislative and policy documents following consultations with stakeholders and submission of final drafts and supporting document package</p>	<p>Deliverable 3 – Final draft legislative and policy documents</p>	<p>30 August 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

Education:

- Law (advanced degree at Masters level or above)
- Human rights/child rights
- Education policy

Work Experience:

- At least 5 years of professional experience in the legal/policy field
- Demonstrated experience in research
- Proven experience in drafting and/or reviewing legislative acts and policy documents
- Strong knowledge of Armenian legislation, particularly related to children, families, and education
- Knowledge of international frameworks on child online safety and digital rights in education (UNESCO, Council of Europe, EU frameworks)
- Knowledge of the CRC, CRPD and other relevant international legal instruments

- Familiarity with the Armenian education system and its regulatory environment
- Previous experience working with UN agencies, including UNICEF, is an asset

Skills:

- Strong analytical and skills
- Good communication and stakeholder engagement skills, including experience working with educational institutions

Language Requirements:

- Fluency in written and spoken Armenian is mandatory
 - Good command of English is mandatory
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