**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Consultancy for Child Protection Situation Analysis in the Gambia**

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| **Title:** | Consultant for Child Protection Situation Analysis in the Gambia. |
| **Purpose:** | Provide technical support in the realization of an in-depth analysis on the situation of child protection issues in The Gambia |
| **Suggested Duration:** | 14 weeks |
| **Suggested Timeframe:** | April 2021 – May 2021 |
| **Reporting to** | Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW),the Protection and Inclusion of Children Manager of UNICEF |
| **Remark** | International |

1. **Context:**

Protecting all children and ensuring special protection to the most disadvantaged children such as victims of violence, extreme poverty, all forms of exploitation, migration, and children with disabilities is a state’s responsibility. Universal and regional legal instruments set clear and attainable standards to protect children from all kind of violence and exploitation. In particular, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States to provide measures of protecting children against neglect, abuse and sexual exploitation, and to provide child victims with special help to recover and reintegrate into society. The Gambian government has signed, ratified, and/or accepted a number of international instruments on child protection, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2010), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2000), and the International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions on Child Labor, and the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. As a result, protecting children is an obligation for the Government of The Gambia.

The concept of “child protection” refers to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labor and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. To reach this objective, UNICEF has chosen to work towards the building/strengthening of a national child protection system. A **national child protection system** seeks to address the full spectrum of risk factors in the lives of all children and their families. Along with partners, including governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society actors and the private sector, UNICEF promotes the strengthening of all components of national child protection systems - human resources, finances, laws, standards, governance, monitoring, evaluation and services provision. Depending on the country context, child protection systems may cut across part of the social welfare, education, health, and security sectors. It is only through the concerted efforts of individuals and groups, adults as well as children, that child protection systems can become effective and sustainable.

The analysis of the child protection related situation is a very powerful tool in building or strengthening a system, and it provides essential elements to guide the development of child protection interventions. In addition, it generates valuable information on the situation of children as well as the structures in place to address them and informs strategic planning and is a preliminary exercise to develop evidence-based recommendations.

The task requires the analysis of national and sub-national data, government’s strategies and plans for child protection and child rights; the laws directly associated with children, laws with provisions addressing issues facing children, research findings and reports of local civil societies, local and international NGOs; UNICEF and other UN agencies. The analysis should also take in account the voice of children who are currently or could be beneficiaries of the Child Protection Strategy and Costed work plan to reflect their concerns, needs and expectations.

1. **Objective:**

It is in this regard that the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare – with the support of UNICEF The Gambia – is seeking to carry out a **Child Protection Situation Analysis** tohave an in-depth description of the extent to which children’s rights to protection are being fulfilled, and an analysis of the obstacles to, and enablers of, their realization. The Child Protection Situation Analysis will also explore the structures in place to protect children, with a deep analysis of their strengths and weaknesses.

The Ministry in charge of Women, Children, and Social Welfare was instituted last year and recently the Children’s Directorate, responsible for all matters regarding the protection of children, has also been established within the Ministry.

The **Child Protection Situation Analysis** will provide the Ministry with the information to design a Gambian Child Protection Strategy and Costed plan of action.

In particular, the **Child Protection Situation Analysis** should:

* Identify child protection issues and their prevalence;
* Identity root causes of child protection issues;
* Identify groups of children who are particularly vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, neglect or other forms of violence
* Identify and map the systems that are in place to protect children;
* Collect and analyses data on strengths and gaps in the child protection system;

Document the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on protection rights of children in The Gambia. The findings of a **Child Protection Situation Analysis** will provide the foundation to:

* Develop a national child protection strategy which guides child protection programming in the country;
* Create stronger understanding of the child protection system among local programs and partners.
* Support national and decentralized advocacy and planning to influence policies, strategies, budgets, and national laws;
* Strengthen national and sub-national capacities to monitor the situation of children and women, principally regarding vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and how their specific rights are being met;
* Engage development partners and donors - including UNICEF and the UN - in support of New Child Protection Strategy and Costed work plan.
* Mainstream child protection matters in all relevant polices in The Gambia.

1. **Specific objectives**

**Child Protection Situation Analysis** will provide the data (quantitative and qualitative) and analysis in the following areas covering the last three years:

1. **Child protection issues:** 
   * Identify and describe what are the priority child protection issues and their root causes in The Gambia. This should include an analysis of trends and patterns.
   * Identify any particular group(s) of children more vulnerable than others to abuse, exploitation or neglect
2. **Laws, policies, standards and regulations:** 
   * Analyze policies, regulations and systems put in place by the country, if and how they are known and understood in the community;
   * Describe when and how policies, regulations and systems are implemented.
   * Identify the barriers to effective implementation of the child protection laws and regulations
3. **Services and service delivery mechanisms:** 
   * Describe the formal and non-formal mechanisms and services for child protection and the linkages between them;
   * Map the existence and effectiveness of the elements of the child protection systems in the community;
   * Identify the processes or mechanisms (formal or informal) that are normally used by families
   * Analyze if children and their families who are vulnerable or have been affected by abuse, violence or exploitation have access to these services.
4. **Capacities:** 
   * Analyze if relevant formal and informal actors have the capacity to perform their child protection roles for prevention and response to child abuse, neglect and exploitation.
   * Analyze if service providers such as teachers, health workers, police, social workers or counsellors have the capacity to identify, report and respond to cases of abuse, violence and exploitation.
5. **Cooperation, coordination and collaboration mechanisms:** 
   * Identify key actors in the national child protection systems as well as their relationships and power dynamics.
   * Identify key weaknesses in the national child protection systems and implications for the systems functioning at community level.
6. **Roles, responsibilities**

The Consultant will work under the supervision of the Director of Children Affairs, in collaboration with UNICEF.

The expected key deliverables are as follows:

1. An inception report with work schedule
2. Produce interim reports on child protection and the child protection system
3. Produce document with clear outlines of a strategic plan to address child protection issues and the strengthening of the child protection system
4. Prepare and conduct a validation meeting
5. Produce final document of Child Protection Situation Analysis.
6. **Deliverables and payment schedule**

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| **DELIVERABLES** | **Duration** | **PAYMENT SCHEDULE** |
| Approved Inception Report and work schedule | 1 week | 10% of the payment |
| Interim report identifying and describing the priority child protection issues and their root causes in The Gambia. | 4 weeks | 20% |
| Interim report presenting analysis of the situation of the current child protection system including Laws, policies, standards and regulations, as well as Services and service delivery mechanisms, Capacities, Cooperation, coordination and collaboration mechanisms | 4 weeks | 20% of the payment |
| Produce draft **Child Protection Situation Analysis** and validate in a stakeholder’s workshop | 3 weeks | 20% of the payment |
| Final version of the validated Child Protection Situation Analysis | 2 weeks | 30% |

1. **Scope of the work**

The Consultant will be at the Ministry every working day during working hours and will be allocated an office space. The consultant can also require and obtain teleworking in agreement with the Ministry

This assignment will be undertaken in country through:

1. Literature review
2. Consultations with all relevant stakeholders.
3. Identify strategic issues and help in generating possible strategic actions and/ or strategic directions the Ministry can take to strengthen the existing child protection system.
4. Organization and running of a validation workshop
5. Submission of final report inclusive of feedback from validation workshop
6. **General Conditions: Procedures, Logistics, and Ethics**
7. It is an office-based assignment. The Consultant will be provided an office space in the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare in The Gambia. The consultant can also require and obtain teleworking in agreement with the Ministry
8. During the first few weeks, the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare will introduce the Consultant to the relevant stakeholders and public institutions.
9. The Consultant is held by strict confidentiality rule regarding all aspect of his work with UNICEF
10. The Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare reserves the right to retain payment and to terminate the consultancy upon unsatisfactory deliverables at any point of the consultancy
11. **Minimum Requirements:**

* Qualified social researcher with an advanced university degree in Social Sciences or other relevant disciplines.
* Demonstrable expertise and at least 5 years of relevant experience working in The Gambia, or countries with similar development challenges.
* Have a knowledge and skills in using both quantitative and qualitative research methods including research with children.
* Capacity to lead discussion with the Child Protection partners
* Proficient working knowledge of English

1. **Reporting**

The Consultant will report to the Director of Children’s Affairs and to the Child Protection Specialist in UNICEF. However, all reports must be validated by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare who will approve all reports before final approbation. UNICEF will technically support the revision and finalisation of the reports.