

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Bangkok, Thailand
Vacancy Announcement 2018/070

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Consultancy – Mapping on Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems in Thailand

The Social Policy Section, UNICEF Thailand Country Office is seeking an individual consultant to map the ongoing shock responsive social protection systems in Thailand. This will serve as a background document for the Office in programme planning that addresses Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and social protection to effectively respond to shocks and support resilience of children and their families as well as options with roadmaps for improving the shock responsiveness and resilience building.

Background:

The complementarity of social protection and disaster risk management (DRM) is increasingly acknowledged in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as reflected in recent agreements and declarations concerning both subjects. Social protection systems, if informed by risks and designed and operated in the ways that can be used to deliver assistance to help vulnerable population reduce risks, prepare for and recover from disasters would not only enhance effectiveness of disaster response and recovery but also reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience.

As a UN commitment under the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan for Disaster Management 2016-2020, a joint UN project has been initiated with an aim to strengthen capacity of the AMS to design, and implement risk-informed and shock responsive SP (SRSP) system in order to reduce vulnerabilities of at-risk populations; strengthen their capacity to respond to and recover from shocks and thus enhance resilience in order to mitigate the effects of and improve preparedness for further shocks.

DRM in Thailand

Since the devastating tsunami in 2004, Thailand has been strengthening its capacity to prepare and respond to shocks. The country has developed a legal framework, a national plan for DRM, and an early warning centre, and has adopted the SENDAI framework and has moved for a focus on disaster 'response' to DRM.

Thailand's capacity to respond to small-scale and recurrent floods seems to be fairly adequate. However, as shocks become larger, the capacity of the government to respond can be challenged, as it was the case in the 2016/2017 floods and the 2011 Mega Flood.

There is limited medium-term support for those affected by shocks. Current strategies involve one-off cash transfers, small-scale vocational trainings, and others. However, this is unlikely to be adequate for every case.

There seems, therefore, to be a focus on providing relief in the immediate aftermath of a shock, but less so in relation to medium-term support (from relief to recovery) which would enable people to not only cope but also to recover. This is an area where there is a potential role for social protection: existing schemes could be used as platforms to provide support for a period longer than the emergency, in order to ensure that affected households can recover from the shocks.

In particular, we identify the following areas where social protection could potentially play a role:

- Responses to large-scale shocks could be strengthened with a programme or strategy that enables the provision of large-scale and rapid support. The delivery of timely and extensive in-kind support using regular protocols can experience challenges when facing large-scale shocks.
- From relief to recovery – there seems to be a need to develop a strategy to provide longer-term support to households that are severely affected.
- Cash transfers could be used more systematically and at a larger scale in shock responses.
- Social protection could provide predictable ex-ante support to those living in high-risk locations, to enable them to enhance their coping capacity.

To understand better the above situation and gauge better the support of UNICEF for the RTG, including on central level and local level, UNICEF TCO would like to conduct an initial assessment of the shock-responsible social protection system in Thailand, following two basic instruments, suggested in that respect:

1. Template for the MPS9 from the EPR system in UNICEF; and
2. In-depth preparedness tool for EPR, used by the UN partners.

Work Assignment, Work Schedule and Deliverables:

Under the supervision of Social Policy Officer, the consultant will:

Description of task	Main deliverables	Anticipated days needed for implementation	Expected time frame
<p>8.1 Undertake a desk review</p> <p>8.1.1 Map out and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of existing regular and emergency social protection system relevant to children (policies, programmes and services as well as eligibility, delivery, financing and monitoring mechanisms) that can be deployed across the DRM cycle (preparedness, risk reduction/prevention, relief/response; long-term resilience)</p> <p>8.1.2 Undertake a stakeholder analysis to identify opportunities for strengthening accountability and coordination pre- and post-natural disasters (policy design, establishment of eligibility criteria, beneficiary identification and management, delivery, monitoring and evaluation etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed MPS 9 which is part of UNICEF EPR system Excel file - Completed in-depth preparedness tool for EPR used by UN partner (excel file) In-depth preparedness tool for EPR, used by the UN partners 	<p>15 days</p>	<p>October - November 2018</p>

Description of task	Main deliverables	Anticipated days needed for implementation	Expected time frame
<p>8.1.3 Complete two excel sheets with key data related to the organisation of the shock-responsive SP, attached to the present TOR and identify additional data gaps or need for particular interviews that could help provide the full picture</p>			
<p>8.2 Conduct a case study in selected provinces to get a quick snapshot on capacity of the existing social assistance system to effectively respond to shocks and support resilience with child lens. The study will:</p> <p>8.2.1 Analyze local mechanisms and practices in two selected provinces recently hit by natural disaster in preparing and responding to crisis and disasters, in particular: beneficiary identification, program registry, delivery etc. in the decentralized context of Thailand; local management and coordination mechanisms; frameworks for guidance of local response as well as availability of funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission report on the findings in the selected provinces 	5 days	November - December 2018
<p>8.2.2 Assess people’s perception and satisfactions associated with delivery of the emergency social assistance schemes and services in general and for children in particular at the local level</p>			
<p>8.2.3 Assess how the existing social assistance for children and their families, including policies/programs, services, and delivery system (actors, structure, rules, processes, tools etc.) mitigate vulnerabilities at various stages of DRM cycle and resilience objective in the immediate term, its potential for scaling up as a mechanism for preparedness and response to natural disasters</p>			
<p>8.2.4 Analyze institutional and capacity gaps and challenges in the social assistance systems in applying cash transfers as more effective tools for responding to children and their care takers’ needs on the onset of a shock, including building the adaptive capacity of</p>			

Description of task	Main deliverables	Anticipated days needed for implementation	Expected time frame
children and their families to climate change related risk			
8.3 Develop a draft report comprised of: a) key findings and recommendations from above mentioned tasks (desk review and qualitative study) presenting key findings; and b) roadmap with recommendations on policy options	- Draft report	10 days	November - December 2018
8.4 Present the preliminary findings and key recommendations in a technical consultation meeting with national partners for feedback	- Presentation	5 days	January 2019
8.5 Finalize the report	- Final report	5 days	February 2019
Total		40 days (Maximum)	

Estimated Duration of Contract: 40 working days over the period of October 2018 – February 2019

Official Travel: Home-based assignment with possible travel in-country in agreement with supervisor.

Qualifications or Specialized Knowledge/Experience Required:

- Advanced university degree in Social Science, Public Policy, Economics or related field.
- Minimum 8 years of professional work experience in policy, technical assistance related to social policy and/or social protection and disaster risk management.
- Proven knowledge and experience of the social protection system in Thailand.
- Prior experience in social protection systems including cash transfer in emergencies.
- Proven ability to conceptualize, plan and execute complex processes across a wide range of stakeholders, advance ability to work quickly and under pressure.
- Proven ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Experience working with the Royal Thai Government.
- Language requirement: Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Thai language.
- Thai nationality.

Interested candidates are requested to submit CV or P-11, full contact information of minimum 2 references, availability, complete the attached two templates, and proposed daily professional fee in THB by **23 October 2018**.

Only short listed candidates will be notified.

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified candidates from all religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organization.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and on any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.