**Summary**

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| **Title** | Consultant – Socio-economic analysis and financing equity-oriented policies |
| **Purpose** | Provide technical support and advice on financing for social protection, particularly priorities under the SDG Fund on Social protection |
| **Location** | Viet Nam |
| **Duration** | February - December 2021 ( 11 months) |
| **Start Date** | 22 February 2021 |
| **Reporting to** | Mizuho Okimoto-Kaewtathip, Chief of Social Policy and Governance |
| **Type of consultancy** | National (VNM3) |
| **WBS/PBA Expiry Date** | SC200021, SDG Fund |
| **Project and activity codes** | WBS 5200/A0/05/882/001 |

1. **Background**

Viet Nam is at a critical juncture in socio-economic development. In spite of COVID-19, Viet Nam’s economy is demonstrating resilience, with GDP growth rate of 1.8 percent in the first half of 2020, projected to reach 2.8 percent for the year. Meanwhile, the socio-economic context is likely to undergo dramatic change due to demographic transition, pockets of widening disparities, urbanization and employment sector. Moreover, many more children have been affected new forms of vulnerabilities, namely the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and climate change. As such, regular update of socio-economic and poverty analysis with implications on children is crucial to inform adjustments in the course of the GoV-UNICEF cooperation in an evidence-based manner.

In parallel, investment and allocation of budget in equity-oriented policies and ultimately identifying options for expanding them to address new forms of vulnerabilities are urgent. Among the priority policies is the social protection / social assistance reform. Under the One UN Strategic Plan and with the financial support from SDG Fund for Social Protection, UNICEF has been working closely with the UN agencies in social protection reform in Viet Nam over the past years. The *Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform and Development in the period 2017-2025 with vision to 2030*” (MPSARD) approved by the Government in April 2017 is a key outcome of the joint advocacy and technical support. A key aspect of the reform now is to enhance social spending and expand cash assistance to more children with a vision to achieve universal child benefit. Expanding child benefit has increasingly become an important focus of the Government, IFIs and other development partners given the potentially deepening poverty and vulnerabilities due to intensifying climate change-related natural disasters and COVID-19 coupled with economic crisis. In such context, UNICEF plays a crucial role in providing financing options for social assistance and other equity-oriented policies in light of the changing nature of poverty and vulnerabilities.

1. **Purpose and objective**

The purpose of the consultancy is to provide technical support to update socio-economic analysis and social assistance-related work supported by UNICEF Viet Nam, particularly to strengthen evidence and policy design to inform policy decisions around budget allocation. This assignment requires specialized expertise and close working relationship with the relevant GoV partners as well as the UN agencies.

1. **Scope, methodology and technical approach**

This assignment involves technical review and input to assessments and studies (including formulation of research methodology and design, review and edit of reports, and development of policy briefs), development of TORs, proposals, preparation of programme and background documents, and technical contribution to relevant consultation meetings. A workplan with monthly deliverables will be developed upon onboarding of the incumbent.

1. **Tasks, deliverables and workplan**

**Duration**: The timeframe for this consultancy is 81 days, between 22 Feb to 22 Dec 2021.

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| **Activities** | **Deliverables** | **Time Frames (no of days)**  **Tentative Dates** |
| **1.Macro-level socio-economic analysis**: Review and synthesis of key macro-economic and poverty data (trends, projection) analysis of implications on children | Brief and PPT | Feb- Mar 2021  **Total number of days: 6**   * Development of brief report and ppt: 5 days |
| **2.Shock-Responsive Social Protection with Child Focus**  (Technical review and comment on draft reports and presentations, technical contribution to the consultation meetings as well as synthesis of key messages for policy makers) | Technical comments that inform the final versions of full report, policy brief, presentations, commentary that meets UNICEF’s standards. | Mar- May 2021  **Total number of days: 12 days**   * Comments on 1st draft: 5 days * Consultation workshop: 1 days * Final report and policy brief: 6 days |
| **3. Feasibility study to explore the linkages between Social Insurance and Social Assistance**, including the scaling up of care policies and child benefits in workplace (including children on the move) in the national social protection system (Development and technical review of research design, workplans, draft reports and presentations, technical contribution to the consultation meetings as well as synthesis of key messages for policy makers) | Availability of TOR, technical comments that inform the final versions of full report, policy brief, presentations, commentary that meets UNICEF’s standards. | Mar-July 2021  **Total number of days: 20 days**   * Development of TOR: 6 days * Technical comments on the inception report: 2 days * Comments on 1st draft: 5 days * Consultation workshop: 1 days * Final report and policy brief: 6 days |
| **4.Fiscal space options for amended Decree 136 and other social assistance policies for children**  (Development and technical review of research design, workplans, draft reports and presentations, technical contribution to the consultation meetings as well as synthesis of key messages for policy makers) | Availability of TOR, technical comments that inform the final versions of research methodology and workplan, full report, policy brief, presentations, commentary that meets UNICEF’s standards. | Apr- Aug 2021  **Total number of days: 20 days**   * Development of TOR: 6 days * Technical comments on the inception report: 2 days * Comments on 1st draft: 5 days * Consultation workshop: 1 days * Final report and policy brief: 6 days |
| **5.Draft programme documents on social protection** including SDG Fund quarterly & annual reports, human interest stories, UN and UNICEF annual reports, donor reports and briefing notes. | Availability of all programme documents. | Feb- Dec 2021  **Total number of days: 13 days**   * Quarterly reports: 4 days * Annual report: 3 days * Donor reports: 4 days * Briefing notes: 2 days |
| **6.Technical review of social protection-related documents of GoV, UNICEF and other partners** (policy documents, studies, policy briefs) | Availability of commentary and document with technical comments. | Feb- Dec 2021  **Total number of days: 10 days** |

1. **Management**

The consultant will be supervised by the Chief of Social Policy and Governance Programme /UNICEF Viet Nam. The consultant needs to coordinate with colleagues from UNICEF SPG team, programme sections, Government counterpart, especially MOLISA as well as other UN agencies for the joint SDG fund.

1. **Payment Schedule**

Payment for the assignment will be made upon the delivery of key deliverables in three installments as follows:

* The 1st payment upon the delivery of activity 1 and 2 (30%)
* The 2nd payment upon the delivery of activity 3 and 4 (40%)
* The last payment upon the the delivery of activity 5 and 6 (30%)

1. **Performance indicators for evaluation**

* Quality of deliverables meet the standards set by UNICEF and specifications outlined in the contract.
* Deliverables are submitted in a timely manner as indicated in the contract.
* Technical assistance delivered in a contextualized and tactful manner, drawing on the inputs from UNICEF and partners.
* Performance evaluation will be completed at the end of the assignment.

1. **Qualification**

The consultant should possess the following qualifications.

* Post-graduate degree in economics, public policy or social science-related field.
* At least 8 years of experience in managing and implementing socio-economic analysis and social policies especially social protection policies.
* Experience and track record of delivery of technical advice to governments on social protection policies.
* Experience in socio-economic and policy research with good understanding of methodology and use of key findings for policy change and advocacy.
* Excellent analytical and writing skills in both English and Vietnamese.
* Previous work experience with the UN is an asset.
* Skills in synthesizing complex evidence into succinct, strategic and reader-friendly policy briefs.
* Excellent team work and communication skills.

1. **Assessment criteria**

A two-stage procedure shall be utilized in evaluating proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any price proposal being compared.

For evaluation and selection method, the Cumulative Analysis Method (weight combined score method) shall be used for this recruitment:

a) Technical Qualification (max. 100 points) weight 70 %

1. Degree Education in economics, public policy or social science-related (20 points)
2. Knowledge of socio-economic analysis and social policies especially social protection policies. (30 points)
3. Experience in socio-economic and policy research with good understanding of methodology and use of key findings for policy change and advocacy (30 points)
4. Quality of past work (e.g. understanding, methodology) (20 points)

b) Financial Proposal (max. 100 points) weight 30 %

The maximum number of points shall be allotted to the lowest Financial Proposal that is opened /evaluated and compared among those technical qualified candidates who have attained a minimum 70 points score in the technical evaluation. Other Financial Proposals will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price.

The Contract shall be awarded to candidate obtaining the highest combined technical and financial scores, subject to the satisfactory result of the verification interview if needed.