Consultancy: Technical assistance for the child protection response to COVID-19 during transition and recovery in East Asia and the Pacific

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfilling their potential.

Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone.

And we never give up.

For every child, a better future

UNICEF works to ensure the rights of all children in the East Asia and Pacific Region. This means the rights of every child living in this country, irrespective of their nationality, gender, religion or ethnicity, to:

- **survival** – to basic healthcare, peace and security;
- **development** – to a good education, a loving home and adequate nutrition;
- **protection** – from abuse, neglect, trafficking, child labour and other forms of exploitation; and
- **participation** – to express opinions, be listened to and take part in making any decisions that affect them.

How can you make a difference?
The Child Protection section, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) is seeking an individual consultant to provide technical support for the child protection response to COVID-19 during transition and recovery in East Asia and the Pacific.

Purpose of Assignment:
The East Asia and Pacific region was the first to be impacted by COVID-19 and every country in the region has been affected by cases and/or containment measures to prevent the spread. While the global epicenter has now shifted, the impact on children in the region has been and continues to be significant.
As the virus is contained in some countries, containment measures are starting to be lifted, and children are starting to go back to school. While in other countries, with cases still rising, measures have been extended.

Although in the region, children have not borne the direct brunt of the virus, the secondary impact on children and families has been and will continue to acute. During containment, children have been at risk of violence, abuse, of increased online abuse, of witnessing domestic violence and of being detained for violations of curfew and movement measures. Vulnerable children and adolescents have been cut off from support and services, which have stopped or have been disrupted in many countries and communities. And containment, bereavement, fear and anxiety have impacted the mental health of under-18s.

While containment measures are starting to ease in a number of countries in the region, it is envisaged that the economic impact on families will intensify and risks of exploitation, harmful practices, family separation, trafficking, institutionalization and young offending will increase. And children may be affected by rapid migration as borders reopen. Already overstretched child protection and GBV services will be faced with increasing cases, potential access to children who have suffered abuse and violence during periods of containment and potentially shrinking budgets.

While the focus has been on the immediate response, ensuring the protection and well-being of children during the recovery phase is critical and urgent. UNICEF EAPRO is therefore recruiting a consultant to provide technical support at regional and country level for the transition and recovery period.

Work Assignment:
- Technical support to the regional office and country offices specifically for transition and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to child protection systems.
- Technical support for protection of children affected by the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, with a focus on key issues, such as migration, trafficking, exploitation, family separation, child justice and child rights.
- Research and analysis on the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child protection issues, and on child protection systems and systems strengthening.
- Knowledge management, including documenting lessons learned and case studies.
- Technical contributions made to country, regional and global webinars and knowledge exchange platforms.
- Potential missions to COs to support the bridge between the emergency response and development and for research.

Work Schedule:
Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 crisis and response, the below monthly activities are tentative and will need to be revisited at the beginning of and during the contract.

June 2020 (half month)
Outputs:
1) All RO and remote requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
2) Rapid review of key child protection issues arising from the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the region;
3) One case study on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phase;
4) Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms.
July 2020
Outputs:
1) All RO and remote requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
2) Webinar held on transition and recovery;
3) Briefs on two key child protection issues as a result of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19;
4) Outlines of research on socio-economic impact on child protection of COVID-19 in the East Asia and Pacific region and the impact of COVID-19 on child protection systems strengthening in East Asia and the Pacific;
5) Two case studies on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phase;
6) Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms.

August 2020
Outputs:
1) All RO and remote requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
2) Brief on one key child protection issues as a result of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19;
3) Draft paper on socio-economic impact on child protection of COVID-19 in the East Asia and Pacific region;
4) Two case studies on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phase;
5) Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms;
6) Potential mission to one country to support transition from emergency to development.

September 2020
Outputs:
1) All RO and remote requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
2) Brief on one key child protection issues as a result of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19;
3) Final paper on socio-economic impact on child protection of COVID-19 in the East Asia and Pacific region;
4) First draft paper on the impact of COVID-19 on child protection systems strengthening in East Asia and the Pacific;
5) Two case studies on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phase;
6) Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms;
7) Second webinar on socio economic impact of COVID-19 on child protection.

October 2020
1) Outputs:
2) All RO and remote requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
3) Brief on one key child protection issues as a result of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19;
4) Second draft paper on the impact of COVID-19 on child protection systems strengthening in East Asia and the Pacific;
5) Two case studies on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phase;
6) Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms;
7) Potential mission to one country to support transition from emergency to development.
November 2020
Outputs:
1) All RO and remote requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
2) Final paper on the impact of COVID-19 on child protection systems strengthening in East Asia and the Pacific;
3) Two case studies on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phase;
4) Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms;
5) Third webinar on impact of COVID-19 on child protection systems strengthening (including challenges and opportunities).

December 2020 (half month)
Outputs:
1) All RO and remote requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
2) One case study on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phase;
3) Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms.

Ongoing throughout the consultancy
1) Provide ad hoc technical assistance for EAPRO and COs child protection, child justice and child rights in the context of transition and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
2) Depending on needs and travel restrictions, undertake in country missions to respond to support COs in the recovery and transition stage and carry out research;
3) Provide technical advice and sensitisation for all COs for the implementation of new guidance and tools issued by HQ on recovery and transition;
4) Collect, collate and share all new tools on COVID-19 recovery and transition, with a focus on aspects of child protection;
5) Contribute to weekly, biweekly and monthly bulletins on child protection and COVID-19;
6) Contribute to reviews of progress on child protection in the context of recovery and transition from COVID-19 pandemic;
7) Participate in regional and HQ coordination mechanisms.

End Product:
1. All RO and remote technical requests for support on transition and recovery for child protection responded to in a timely manner;
2. Research and advocacy paper on the socio-economic impact on child protection of COVID-19 in the East Asia and Pacific region;
3. Research and advocacy paper on the impact of COVID-19 on child protection systems and child protection systems strengthening in East Asia and the Pacific;
4. Briefs on a minimum of six key child protection issues relevant to the secondary impact of COVID-19 produced (including on children affected by migration, trafficking, exploitation, family separation);
5. Minimum of twelve case studies on good practice for child protection during containment and during recovery and transition phases on a range of issues in different countries in the region;
6. A minimum of three webinars on child protection in recovery and transition;
7. Potential missions to COs to support the bridge between the emergency response and development and carry out research (minimum of two countries);
8. Effective representation on the regional coordination mechanisms and on HQ coordination mechanisms.


Official Travel: Home-based assignment due to the current COVID-19 travel restriction. However, travel to the regional office and key country offices is envisaged, if travel is possible during the consultancy. Travel is envisaged to a minimum of four countries, to be identified depending on need. Possible countries are Lao PDR, PNG, Pacific, Timor-Leste (subject to change).

To qualify as an advocate for every child you will have...
- An advanced degree in social sciences, public policy, law, human rights or a related or relevant field;
- A minimum of eight years’ professional work experience in development contexts and/or emergencies/humanitarian settings;
- Proven research skills;
- Excellent written skills;
- Experience of working on early recovery;
- Excellent understanding of the humanitarian-development nexus;
- Knowledge and experience of child protection systems strengthening;
- Knowledge and experience of child protection in emergencies is an asset;
- Knowledge of the following areas, especially in emergency and/or transitional settings, is an asset: justice, migration, child rights, family separation;
- Demonstrated ability to work across country and cultural contexts on sensitive issues;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently;
- Experience in working with the UN/UNICEF an asset.

Interested candidates are requested to submit CV or P-11, full contact information of minimum 2 references, availability, and proposed monthly professional fee in USD by 19 May 2020.

For every Child, you demonstrate...

UNICEF’s values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability (CRITA) and core competencies in Communication, Working with People, and Drive for Results.

View our competency framework at


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UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles and will therefore undergo rigorous reference and background checks. Background checks will include the verification of academic credential(s) and employment history. Selected candidates may be required to provide additional information to conduct a background check.

Remarks:

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.

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.