

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SHORT TITLE OF ASSIGNMENT

Child Protection Strategic Partnerships consultant

BACKGROUND

UNICEF Pacific’s multi-country Child Protection Program for 2023–2027 aims to strengthen child protection systems across 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The program seeks to invest in three interlinked areas—child protection systems and data, workforce capacity and service provision, and family and community behaviour change—and is explicitly aligned with regional and national development frameworks. Implementation is supported through a mix of regional and subregional institutions (including CROP agencies such as the University of the South Pacific, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and SPC), national governments, civil society and faith based organisations to ensure localization, reach and sustainability.

The Pacific context presents acute child protection challenges that the program must address including very high prevalence of violence against children and women, entrenched social norms that justify violence, disproportionate risks for children with disabilities, and emerging stressors from climate change, labour mobility and digital harms. Significant gaps remain in sex-, age- and disability disaggregated data, coordinated referral pathways, and a trained, gender responsive workforce able to deliver inclusive services in both development and climate related displacement settings. UNICEF’s program emphasizes strengthening formal and informal systems, improving quality and accessibility of services, and empowering families and communities to prevent and respond to violence.

To operationalize these aims, the Child Protection Strategic Partnerships consultant will design an approach that maps existing capacities, identifies gaps and entry points, and proposes practical modalities for collaboration with CROP agencies, national ministries, CSOs, faith actors and organizations of people with disabilities (OPDs). These partnerships are crucial to enhance the reach, scope, and effectiveness of UNICEF’s child protection program.

OBJECTIVE / SCOPE OF WORK

Overall objective of the assignment:

The consultant will play a key role in facilitating and coordinating UNICEF’s overall strategic partnerships to advance the delivery of the regional child protection program. Specifically, the consultant will:

- Convene Government and other partners to identify key issues of concern for collective action to prevention and respond to child protection concerns grounded in Pacific context.
- Engagement with UNICEF partners for strategic advocacy, based on the identification of different entry points and options for influence across the Pacific.
- Communicate and design strategic engagement on key thought leadership topics and research gaps to ensure child protection and child wellbeing issues are better understood across the Pacific by policy makers and donors alike.
- Facilitate regional convening to foster the development of strategies and plans on key emerging topics such as child online protection.
- Provide advice to UNICEF and partners on program partnership in the Pacific context, for example with Faith Based organizations, national committees, and CROP Agencies such as Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and University of South Pacific.

ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES, PLUS PAYMENT PER DELIVERABLE

ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE	PAYMENT (%)
<p>Inception report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft an inception report identifying the scope of the work, the list of stakeholders to be engaged during the process, the methodology to be implemented, and the expected timeline, among others. • Present the draft written inception report in a meeting with UNICEF and incorporate any feedback from UNICEF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 1: inception report. 	8 working days	10%
<p>Research and gaps for elevation on the impact of labour mobility on children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide progress reports on convening of partners for round two of the study on the impacts of labour mobility on children left behind. • Review labour mobility findings with development of key recommendations at country and regional level • Provide updates on other relevant work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 2: Progress report on labour mobility study • Deliverable 3: Report of key recommendations for labour mobility study 	60 working days	20%
<p>Convening toward strategic planning and action on adolescent well being and harm minimization from substance misuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing preparation on adolescent substance misuse in the Pacific. • Support for regional meeting with partners and stakeholders on adolescent substance misuse in the Pacific. • Report based on regional convening of Government and partners to discuss reducing harm from substance misuse policy and program recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 4: Adolescent substance misuse briefing prepared (paper and presentation) • Deliverable 5: Report of regional convening on adolescent substance misuse 	60 working days.	20%
<p>Child protection and faith based organizations (FBOs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing for convening regional partnership for knowledge exchange on faith based organizations engagement, good practices and learning. • Convening workshop on child protection and FBO partnership, practice and learning. • Report for FBO workshop with recommendations for donors and policy makers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 6: Briefing prepared for regional FBO meeting • Deliverable 7: Report from child protection and FBO workshop, with recommendations for way forward. 	60 working days	20%
<p>Identification of emerging topics for child protection in the Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing preparation for key emerging topic TBD in coming 18 months for child protection in pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 8: Briefing prepared on emerging child 	60 working days	20%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop convened with key partners on identified topic. • Report based on regional convening of Government and partners to discussion child protection key emerging topic with policy and program recommendations 	<p>protection topic in the Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 9: Report from workshop on key emerging child protection topic, with recommendations for way forward. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report documenting what has been carried out in the consultancy, including summarizing lessons learned and information gained, highlighting any remaining gaps, and recommending next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 10: Final report 	7 working days	10%
			TOTAL 100%

QUALIFICATIONS, SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AND ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

Bachelors Masters PhD Other

- An Advanced University degree in international development, human rights, international law, or other relevant field is required.
- A minimum of 10 years of professional experience in child protection and/or other related areas at the international level, some of which preferably were served in a developing country, is required.
- Relevant experience working with an international organization, NGO, or Government in the Pacific, or a similar context, is required.
- Understanding of partners and established network for child protection in the Pacific is highly desirable
- Relevant experience in child protection program and project management in the Pacific, or a similar context, is required.
- Experience working in the UN system agency or UN organization is an asset.
- Experience in Pacific regional convening is highly desirable
- Proven ability to work independently under difficult conditions.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

CONDITIONS OF WORK AND CLARIFICATION ON SUPERVISION

The consultant will be based in Suva, Fiji, with access to the UNICEF office. Periodic travel to other Pacific countries will be required, such as 10 days each in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The consultant will be managed by the Suva, Fiji Pacific Multi Country Office. All work-related costs will be included in the contract remunerations. The daily follow up and supervision will be conducted by the Chief of Child Protection.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- 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 to ensure that the visa (applicable) and health insurance 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.
- No contract may commence unless the contract is signed by both UNICEF and the consultant/ contractor.
- Consultant/Contractor will be required to complete mandatory online courses (e.g. Ethics, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Security) upon receipt of offer and before the signature of contract.

GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

- Please submit a **separate financial offer** along with your application. The financial proposal should be a **lump sum amount for all the deliverables** and should show a break down for the following:
 - Monthly / Daily fees– based on the deliverables in the Terms of Reference above
 - Travel (economy air ticket where applicable to take up assignment and field mission travel for 10 days in Samoa, 10 days in Solomon Islands, 10 days in FSM, and 10 days in Kiribati))
 - Living allowance where travel is required
 - Miscellaneous- to cover visa, health insurance (including medical evacuation for international consultants), communications, and other costs.