

TERMS OF REFERENCE

National expert to support UNICEF Kazakhstan Climate and Environment Programming

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	Astana, Kazakhstan – Office based
DURATION OF CONTRACT	16 months

Purpose of Assignment

The purpose of consultancy is to provide expert-level technical and policy support to UNICEF Kazakhstan and its national partners in mainstreaming child rights and child-centered resilience into climate and environmental governance frameworks. This includes ensuring that national strategies—such as the updated NDC 3.0, NAP, and related cross-sectoral policies, such as Children of Kazakhstan, Roadmap for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060 etc. — explicitly consider the vulnerabilities, needs, and potential contributions of children and young people. The consultant will play a pivotal role in aligning Kazakhstan’s climate agenda with UNICEF’s global priorities on environmental sustainability and intergenerational equity. This involves integrating child-sensitive indicators and safeguards into monitoring systems (Children of Kazakhstan, national climate and environmental statistics, EMIS, Sanitary and Epidemiological Monitoring System); supporting the development of inclusive climate financing proposals that address children’s risks and rights; and embedding climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability into the education system through conceptualization of "green schools" and climate literacy initiatives. By strengthening policy coherence, supporting intersectoral coordination, and promoting evidence-based advocacy, the consultancy aims to provide technical support to the Government of Kazakhstan in ensuring that children and adolescents are not only protected from the adverse effects of climate change but are also meaningfully engaged as agents of change in building a more sustainable and resilient future for Kazakhstan. Expert support will be also critical during and after Regional Ecological Summit 2026 to be held in Astana on 22-24 April 2026, as well as to the UNICEF local level climate and environmental programming (Kyzylorda and Mangistau etc. regions).

Scope of Work

Under the supervision of the Child Rights Monitoring Specialist, the consultant/expert will undertake the following tasks and produce the specified deliverables. This assignment requires close consultation and collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Water resources and Irrigation, Bureau of the National Statistics, Ministry of AI and Digital Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture and Information, regional Akimats and other government and development partners, UN, and UNICEF relevant colleagues to ensure all tasks are completed by end of December 2026.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline (in weeks/months) and input days to complete the deliverable
Support the National TWG on Children of Kazakhstan Yearbook led by the Bureau of National Statistics to streamline the climate and environmental indicators.	Deliverable 1 – Child-sensitive climate and environmental indicator framework proposed for mainstreaming under the Children of Kazakhstan Yearbook and relevant national databases.	31 st May 2026
Provide technical inputs to national policy reviews and climate strategies (e.g., NDC 3.0 investment plan, National Adaptation Plan, Green school standards framework or others).	Deliverable 2 – At least 2 action plans/investment plans of the national policies/strategies revised to include child-sensitive costed measures.	30 th June 2026
Contribute to the Regional Ecological Summit’s follow up actions, especially after the High-level round table discussion on “Children, Youth, and Climate” in coordination with the Summit’s Project Office and UNICEF colleagues.	Deliverable 3 – Action plan of the Summit’s session recommendation s/proceedings developed and implemented aligned with UNICEF’s work and Final documents (Resolution, Declaration, Regional Green school platform concept etc.) provided and agreed with the Summit’s project Office with consideration of the stakeholders and UNICEF colleagues’ inputs.	30 th June 2026
Based on the energy audit and sustainability assessment outcomes in three schools and on the rapid assessment of a representative sample of the schools in Kazakhstan results facilitate the stakeholder discussions on green school model	Deliverable 4 - A concept note for the Green School model in Kazakhstan developed based on findings of energy audits and sustainability assessments, results of a rapid assessment of selected schools in Kazakhstan, and inputs collected through stakeholder consultations. The concept should outline key components, standards, implementation pathways, and monitoring and evaluation	31 st August 2026

	<p>mechanisms.</p> <p>Consultations with relevant national stakeholders organized to initiate policy-level dialogue on integrating climate and environmental considerations into the education sector. Inputs provided to the PEFA on Climate country strategy led by WB and ADB and action plan from the education and school infrastructure perspective.</p>	
<p>Provide technical support for child- and youth-sensitive proposals development to Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, NDC Partnership, MDBs. Contribute to the Regional Ecological Summit’s follow up actions, especially after the High-level round table discussion on “Children, Youth, and Climate” in coordination with the Summit’s Project Office and UNICEF colleagues.</p>	<p>Deliverable 5 - At least 3 high-quality child-inclusive climate finance proposals developed in coordination with the NDA - Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>31st August 2026</p>
<p>Expert support for adapting the regional concept note on climate change education to the Kazakhstani context and contributing to the development of a framework for regional Green School standards.</p>	<p>Deliverable 6 - Rapid national review of existing policies and standards of adaptation of climate change and environmental issues within education system (5 pages).</p> <p>Draft adapted concept note aligned with national education and climate strategies, “Green school standards” developed by National Education academy and UNICEF regional framework of Green schools (5– 10 pages) prepared.</p> <p>Final version submitted after</p>	<p>31st October 2026</p>

	integration of partner feedback	
Expert support in rolling out of the Child climate and environmental risk index (CCRI) for Kazakhstan in coordination with the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Digital Development	Deliverable 7 - CCRI is validated with the Government and prepared for the launch based on the global CCRI adaptation to Kazakhstan and integrated with the national information systems	31 st December 2026
Technically support the local level climate programming in Mangystau region in: 1) testing the sub-national model of the Climate and Environmental Risk Index for Children 2) promoting and developing green skills for green jobs among children and youth.	Deliverable 8 - Guidance note/ policy brief on child-and youthinclusive climate policy integration produced	31 st January 2027
Technical support to conduct the Testing state systems in Mangystau region jointly with Akimat to respond to emerging crises through simulation exercises (sandboxing)	<p>Deliverable 9 - The draft agenda for the simulation workshop.</p> <p>Developed detailed crisis scenarios to be used during the simulation (e.g. flooding, service stress situations).</p> <p>A final summary report of the simulation exercise (5–10 pages), including workshop agenda, scenarios used, key findings, identified vulnerabilities, and recommendation s for strengthening Mangystau region’s crisis response systems.</p>	31 st January 2027

Payment Schedule:

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant.

Important Notes

- 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 for ensuring that the health insurance (and visa if applicable) 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.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

- Education: Advanced degree in climate change, environmental science and social sciences
 - Work Experience: At least 5 years of experience working on climate change or on environmental issues, with a focus on children and youth or social services.
 - Skills:
 - Strong understanding of child rights and development.
 - Proven experience in developing and implementing climate change policies and strategies.
 - Excellent analytical, writing, and communication skills.
 - Ability to work independently and respond to feedback in a timely and professional manner.
 - Ability to work in a team and cooperate with colleagues and partners
 - Language Requirements: Fluency in written and spoken English, Kazakh and Russian languages and ability to write quality reports on climate or other related environmental fields.
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