

UNICEF OMAN COUNTRY OFFICE

Terms of Reference for Consultancy (Individual/Institutional)

SUMMARY

Title of consultancy	Delivery of Training Workshop on Contemporary Practices in Early Childhood Intervention
Purpose	Enhancing national capacities in early intervention for children with disabilities
Location	Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Nature of assignment	In-country and remote
Duration of the assignment	6 working days
Reporting to/ supervisor	Programme Manager

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The Sultanate of Oman is a high income country of 4.2 million people. Over the past 40 years economic stability and income growth have gone hand-in-hand with rapid reductions in child and maternal mortality, universal child immunization, universal primary education, and strong political will to address the rights of women and girls. Despite the rapid pace of growth with a high degree of equity, there are significant disparities across the country's 11 Governorates and emerging vulnerabilities that affect the rights of children.

Available disability census data indicates that around 1% of children below the age of 15 or 7,500 children have a disability. Oman has a range of specialized and mainstream services for children with disabilities. However, most are limited to major cities, require fees, and are provided by NGOs or private services of variable quality. As costs are the main barrier to expansion of specialized services into areas outside the main cities, the Government of Oman (GoO) is exploring new options to expand public services for children with disabilities and to prevent, identify and intervene as early as possible. Indeed the current situation often leads to serious delays in the identification of disabilities and the provision of effective early interventions. These are essential to assist children with disabilities and their families to overcome the numerous barriers they face to quality, inclusive services and to help them reach their full potential.

This was recognised as a critical area requiring attention and improvement in the Situation Analysis of Children 2015, and reflected in GoO requests made during the Mid-Term Review (2013). This also falls within the emerging goals of the 9th National Development Plan 2016-2020, the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and the GoO and UNICEF Joint Country Programme 2017 – 2020 which has identified inclusion of children with disabilities as one of its key priorities. Accordingly, with the aim of building national capacity in early intervention, UNICEF and the GoO have agreed to work together to establish an *Accredited Early Intervention Programme* to produce a cadre of trained Omani professionals that can be assigned to posts across Oman for wider coverage of services.

This consultancy serves as a pre-cursor to that work and calls for a training workshop on the Contemporary Practices in Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), which will serve as a first introductory step toward familiarizing professionals and government counterparts to the basics of ECI. The workshop will thus allow for informed discussions on the development of the accredited programme going forward.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this consultancy will be introduce participants to the essential elements of early childhood intervention and provide them with procedures, documents, and strategies to facilitate implementation of these essential elements once the training has been completed.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Key Activities	No. of days (estimated)	Deliverable
1. Develop training materials and presentations for the workshop 2. Creating a detailed session schedule; including detailed description of sessions. 3. Assist the UNICEF Oman Country Office (OCO) to organize the workshop (e.g providing lists of training material requirements, needed spaces, etc.)	1 day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training material and detailed session schedule shared with UNICEF • List of training material requirements shared with UNICEF
4. In-country delivery of training workshop. 5. Use a variety of daily feedback mechanisms to assess progress and make adjustments to the learning material or sessions as needed.	4 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant feedback forms shared with UNICEF • Workshop report shared with UNICEF. The report is to highlight recommendations as to how to move forward with the development of an Accredited Early Intervention Programme in Oman.
6. Development of Workshop report	1 day	
Total	6 days	

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Expected places of travel, insurance, per diem, payments and responsibilities between UNICEF and the consultant team:

- Based on an agreed travel schedule, UNICEF will cover airfare of the consultant to Oman in Economy class via the most direct and economical route
- When in-country, the consultant team will be required to report on a daily basis to the UNICEF Supervisor.
- For long stays in-country, the consultant will be entitled to the same weekends and UN holiday schedule as UNICEF staff.
- Transportation upon arrival and departure is to be arranged by the traveller, terminal expense will be provided by UNICEF.
- For in-country stays, UNICEF will provide a DSA not exceeding the UN DSA rate.
- Any in-country travel related to the consultant's assignment will be arranged for and covered by UNICEF.
- The consultant needs to arrange their own insurance (life, health and other forms of insurance) covering the term of the contract while in Oman, and need to provide proof such insurance prior to travel.
- UNICEF will arrange for booking accommodation under UNICEF corporate rates, unless the consultant wishes to make their own arrangements. Settlement of any accommodation will be made directly by the consultant with the hotel.
- UNICEF will not provide the consultant with any equipment, unless it is requested by the consultant and approved by Operation Unit with appropriately completed form.

QUALIFICATION & SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE

A consultant is sought for this assignment with specialized knowledge in:

1. Knowledge of and experience in delivering Early Childhood Intervention Programmes.
2. Excellent facilitation and training skills.

3. Knowledge of the Omani culture vis-à-vis children with disabilities is an asset.
4. English is required for all UNICEF communication.
5. Working knowledge of Arabic is an asset.

SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

Interested parties are requested to send their offers by email **no later than 10 September 2017** to **zrashid@unicef.org**, with the subject heading: **“SSA – Delivery of Training Workshop in Early Childhood Intervention”**

The Offer should include:

1. A proposed training plan;
2. Brief background, including existing experience and expertise that will be of benefit to the proposed assignment;
3. Names and contact information of referees for the 3 most recent and relevant projects;
4. Expectations of UNICEF in terms of logistical, technical, and other forms of support for the work.
5. Proposed daily rate in United States Dollars.