

TERMS OF REFERENCE

International Consultancy: Cost Estimation of Key Social Interventions in the First Decade of Life for El Salvador

Purpose of the consultancy

To develop a cost estimation of key interventions for the first decade of life designed by Global TIES for Children for UNICEF, using current trends in demographics, income and multidimensional poverty, fiscal and social expenses allocations, among other key variables. The consultant will also provide a welfare analysis with estimates of the proposal implementation on employment generation, as well as earnings and poverty.

1. Background

El Salvador is the smallest, but also the most densely populated country in Central America. Though El Salvador is roughly the same size as Belize (its land mass is about 10% smaller), its population is 18 times larger, and almost 70% live in urban settings. While 34.9% of the general population lives below the poverty line, 48.2% of the population under 18 years of age lives in poverty, just one indicator of the vulnerability and need of the country's young people.

El Salvador is a young country, 2.4 million of children between 0-18 years old (35% of total population), and about 300 births occur daily. Despite this demographic opportunity, only 9 cents of each US dollar are invested in children between 0 to 6 years –the very critical moment for school preparedness and child development, whereas social spending in adults is about 60 cents, according to estimates (UNICEF, 2011). As a result, a long-term projection indicates that only 1 out of 6 children will have in their adulthood a job with a salary equal or above of 500 USD and with social security.

El Salvador's population has experienced its demographic transition, with fertility rates decreasing from approximately 4 children per woman in 1990, to 2.1 children per woman in 2016. However, other societal changes have resulted in what has been called the “crisis de cuidado” Described as a major social concern throughout Latin America, the population in need of care is increasing, but caregivers (typically women who are either entering the labor market or migrating) are decreasing.

At least 20% of El Salvador's population lives abroad; in 2016, a third of all households received remittances, (17.1% of GDP). Migration and violence also influences family structure and patterns for caregiving. The country has the world's highest homicide rate among children below 19 years age. 36.8% of children under 18 lives without one or both parents, and the 28.8% are abandon by one or both parents.

The effects of gang related violence are acute. In late-April 2016, the Central Bank estimated that the total cost of violence has increased from 10% of GDP in 2005 to 16% of GDP in 2014 –public social expenditure in 2014 represented approximately 15% of GDP. The Ministry of

Education has reported in 2015, that 24.2% of the enrolled students were not assisting to school (most of them due to violence) and that gangs are present in 64.8% of the schools.

Table 1. includes recent national indicators on child development, beginning in the prenatal period. Antenatal control are fewer than the recommended number for nearly 10 percent of births. Nearly one in five infants do not experience complete vaccination schedules in their first year. For children 0-3 years of age, only 1.5% access either public or private child care services. Stunting is present in 13.6% of children under 4. Three quarters of children 3 to 5 years old do not have access to early childhood education.

More than a third of age appropriate children do not attend early education programmes, 3.5% don't attend primary school, and 12.4% do not attend secondary school. Of the adolescent population aged 15-24, 26.5% neither worked nor attended school. Nearly a third of the population above 16 is unemployed.

Table 1. Selected Early Childhood Development Indicators, El Salvador:

Indicator	Value	Year and Source of Data
No antenatal care	3.9%	2014, ENS
Less than 4 antenatal visits	9.9%	2014, ENS
Pregnancy rates among women under 19	17.3%	2014, ENS
Lack of exclusive breastfeeding in first 6 months of life	53.3%	2014, ENS
Incomplete Vaccination, first year of life	19.8%	2014, ENS
Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15	2016, World Dev Indicators
No access to public or private child care	98.5%	2016, EHPM
No early education, 3-5 year olds	75.2%	2014, ENS
Living without one or both parents, 0-17 year olds	36.8%	2016, EHPM
Living without one or both parents due to abandonment, 0-17 year olds	28.8%	2016, EHPM
Experience physical punishment, 1-14 year olds	39.4%	2014, ENS
Not attending school (initial level, ages 4-6)	34.4%	2016, EHPM
Not attending school (primary, 7-12 year olds)	3.5%	2016, EHPM
Not attending school (secondary, 13-15 year olds)	12.4%	2016, EHPM

These statistics show the challenges affecting children in El Salvador, in particular in the access to early health and nutrition services; early care and education. Research on ECD indicates that these factors may influence the whole life cycle. Work to address these challenges must take a broad view, incorporating families.

2. Justification

A Consultative Group on Children, with the participation of key influencers and stakeholders in the country, is promoting the development of a Child-Centred Social Policy, focusing on maximizing children's development potential and preventing poverty and violence from their early start in life. UNICEF initiated a partnership with Global TIES for Children of the New York University, which is a leading excellence centre for the evaluation of programmes and policies and the design, advise and development of key interventions for early childhood and adolescent development globally.

The UNICEF-Global TIES partnership has two phases. The objective of the first phase is to identify the most critical interventions for early childhood and best practices for El Salvador. In a current second phase, a policy and program proposal and implementation strategy will be elaborated focusing on the first decade of life, combining the maximum quality with financial feasibility, considering the limited financial resources available. The program proposal will provide guidance on key questions, such as:

- Provider: which institution should be responsible of this key intervention?
- Inclusion, i.e. which children should be the target? Universal coverage or only for particular groups?
- Financing, i.e. Full public funding? Parental co-payments (if yes, how much?), Will some groups of children be granted free access? And which elements of the system will be financed by the government and which by families' parents (such as meals).
- Staff, i.e. minimal skills and pedagogical training required; number of staff per child:
- Curricula of pre-school activities, i.e. the balance between cognitively enriching activities (reading, guided playing etc.) versus behavioural learning (e.g. discipline, sociability, empathy, tenacity, etc.)

To complement this process, it is important to develop a cost estimation under different scenarios (coverage, provision, financing, etc.), using current trends in demographics, income and multidimensional poverty, fiscal and social expenses allocations, among other key variables. It is also important to determine the effects of this key interventions on employment generation, as well as earnings and poverty. It is critical for advocacy purposes to provide the authorities with a costing to obtain public investment and budget allocations in 2019.

To further develop a Cost-Estimation for a Child-Centred Social Policy and promote policy discussion, UNICEF El Salvador requires the technical assistance of a senior expert with extensive knowledge and expertise in child-specific social interventions, costing methodologies, as well as strong knowledge and experience in economic and welfare estimations.

3. Specific objectives

1. To conduct an in-depth review of the data required to perform cost estimations and welfare impact analysis of key interventions for the first decade
2. To estimate the cost of the proposed key social interventions for children under different scenarios. (coverage, etc).
3. To estimate the positive effects of the implementation of these programmes on employment, workforce, earnings, and poverty.
4. To provide recommendations on possible fiscal adjustments to ensure fiscal sustainability of interventions for children and adolescents.

4. Methodology

The consultant will work under the supervision and with the support of the Social Policy Specialist of UNICEF El Salvador.

The consultant is required to develop a custom-made methodology using Salvadoran demographics and relative prices, based on costing methodology used by Chaudry A. et al, in “Cradle to Kindergarten: A New Plan to Combat Inequality” or other similar upon agreement with the Social Policy Specialist.

The consultant will develop cost estimations based on the interventions design by Global TIES for Children. Estimate and assumptions for investments in each component and intervention of the proposed plan must be coordinated with Global TIES for Children Principal Investigator, Hirokazu Yoshikawa PhD.

This is a remote assignment and the consultant will be expected to report progress to the supervisor every two weeks via online meetings. Also, two one-week visits to El Salvador are required. The first visit will seek to gather information, meet with key Government officials and institutions with statistical data production. During the second visit, the consultant will present the results to a broader audience, including Consultative Group on Children, Government officials and stakeholders from political parties.

5. Products

Product 1: Report on methodology, key data and assumptions for cost estimation in El Salvador

This deliverable will include a detailed methodology adapted to the case of El Salvador, addressing the key assumptions and data source that will be used for costing estimates.

Product 2: First draft of costing estimations of social interventions for children in El Salvador cost estimation of Child-Centred Social Policy interventions in the first decade of life.

This deliverable will include the first set of estimates using the methodology of deliverable. It will also include estimations for different scenarios of coverage and mix of interventions¹

Product 3. Final report: Cost estimation of Child-Centred Social Policy interventions in the first decade of life including labour, wages and poverty effects (welfare analysis)

The final report will include the final estimates of cost of the implementation strategy. It will also include the short, medium and long-term effects on labour, wages and poverty. The final report will also contain policy recommendations to El Salvador, and will be presented during a visit to the country.

All documents should be drafted with Microsoft Word. Is also required to submit Microsoft Excel and STATA do files for all costing estimations and data mining. All files should be submitted by email.

6. Estimated duration of contract

7 months after signing the contract.

7. Conditions of work

UNICEF will provide all information necessary for the analysis, including existing studies and statistical data. If specific information is needed, the consultant should report to the Social Policy Specialist.

The consultant should visit El Salvador two times. All travel expenses including flights, transportation from the airport to hotel and hotel expenses should be included in the consultancy budget. UNICEF will support with local transportation to attend meeting.

This is a consultancy service contract and the selected candidate will not hold an international civil servant status, nor is he/she a “staff member” as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations. Since this contract does not provide health insurance and any other fringe benefit, the successful candidate will be asked to submit a valid medical insurance certificate before signing the contract.

8. Qualifications

- a. Postgraduate degree (Ph.D) in economics, public policy, finance, or other relevant social science field.
- b. At least 15 years of professional experience in children development research and public policy consultancy. Experience in emerging countries, is an advantage.

¹ It will be discussed with Hirokazu Yoshikawa.

- c. Extensive experience in methodologies to develop costing estimates for child-specific interventions.
- d. Strong analysis skills of quantitative data.
- e. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Excel and other statistical software.
- f. At least 10 years of experience in promoting policy dialogues with diverse groups of stakeholders, including the fiscal authorities, is desirable.
- g. Fluency in English. Working knowledge of Spanish is an asset.
- h. Knowledge of UNICEF's priorities and initiatives to promote social inclusion and the rights of children.

9. Estimated budget

The total expected amount of this consultancy will be established based on price proposals received during solicitation process, which will be paid in three instalments in accordance with the submission of the deliverables mentioned below, and the approval of the Social Policy Specialist.

Deliverables	Payment (%)
Deliverable 1: Report on methodology, key data and assumptions for cost estimation	30%
Deliverable 2: Draft version: cost estimation of Child-Centred Social Policy interventions in the first decade of life	30%
Deliverable 3: Final report: Cost estimation of Child-Centred Social Policy interventions in the first decade of life including labour, wages and poverty effects (welfare analysis)	40%

10. Confidentiality of information

All information obtained through this consultancy, including both qualitative and quantitative data, and output documents are property of UNICEF and cannot be used for any other purpose unless authorised.

11. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria will be a split between technical and commercial (price proposal) scores (a 70/30 split).

The technical evaluation will have a maximum of 70 Points. Only Proposals which receive a minimum of 60 points will be considered further. The technical evaluation will be performed under the following criteria.

Technical aspect	Value (points)
PhD in economics, public policy, finance, or other relevant social science field.	7 points
At least 15 years of professional experience in children development research and public policy	21 points

consultancy. Experience in emerging countries, is an advantage.	
Extensive experience in methodologies to develop costing estimates for child-specific interventions.	21 points
At least 10 years of experience in promoting policy dialogues with diverse groups of stakeholders, including the fiscal authorities, is desirable.	14 points
Knowledge of UNICEF's priorities and initiatives to promote social inclusion and the rights of children.	7 points
Total	70 points

12. How to participate

Interested consultants, please present the following documents:

- * Technical proposal, which should also include: Updated CV and P-11 form attached, duly signed.
- * Financial proposal, which should reflect competitive prices, tax exempt.

Deadline: Friday, March 2, 2018. At 5:00pm (El Salvador's time)

Proposals will be received by e-mail, address to: esl-licitaciones@unicef.org , indicating in the subject, the name of the consultancy. All attached documents must be in non-editable format (PDF, JPEG, etc). Please present Technical and Financial Proposals in separate documents.

Questions will be received before 2 March 2018, addressed to: esl-licitaciones@unicef.org. These will be answered as soon as possible by e-mail to all participants.