LACRO TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY

LAC SCHOOLS AS ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

##### Background

Though diet-related Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) often manifest themselves in adulthood, they have their origin early in life. Overall, families from disadvantaged households and their children bear the highest burden of obesity and other NCDs as well as having less chances to access preventative and treatment services. Childhood overweight and obesity affects a child’s immediate health and wellbeing, peer relations e.g. through bullying and discrimination, and opportunities to participate in educational and recreational activities.

Children spend a high proportion of their time in schools both for academic and extracurricular activities. Healthy growth maximizes children’s ability to make the most of educational opportunities. Unhealthy feeding practices, lack of sufficient physical activity, and low nutritional and health literacy are barriers to healthy growth and development. One of the primary locations for children´s food and beverage purchases for school consumption and to conduct physical activity is within school premises and surrounding areas. At the same time, food and beverage (F&B) marketing to children through practices that include child-appealing advertising, promotion, sponsorship and branding, such as pop ups and cartoon characters, located in or around school premises may be instrumental for the industry´s marketing strategies.

Schools should foster a protective and enabling environment for children to reach their full potential. Given the high burden of overweight and obesity borne by schoolchildren in Latin America and the Caribbean, the school environment provides excellent prevention opportunities.

UNICEF is a key advocate for the protection of child rights, including the right to a healthy growth, and the right to quality education.

##### Objectives of the study

General objective: Develop a panoramic review of regulation, guidelines and practices in schools in LAC related to schools as enabling environment for health and nutrition including literacy, physical activity and education, access to healthy food and beverage and protection from marketing to children.

Specific objectives:

* Review national legislation, regulations, guidelines in schools in LAC, including provisions for health and nutrition literacy, physical activity and education, availability of healthy food and beverage and protection from marketing to children.
* Obtain primary qualitative data on current standards and practices on the above themes from national education authorities, school administrators and teachers, parents and pupils in selected schools and countries.

##### Deliverables

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| **Product** | **Description** |
| **Deliverable 1:** Methodological proposalDelivery date: 29/09/17 | * Draft study design, planning and implementation calendar, including proposed methodology and stakeholders to be consulted. Innovative participatory research methodologies i.e Photovoice, are encouraged.
* Outline of a tentative final report index.
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| **Deliverable 2:**Literature review and review of national regulations, legislation and guidelines Delivery date: 27/10/17 | * Desk review of national legislation, regulations and guidelines in schools in LAC, including provisions for health and nutrition literacy, physical activity and education, availability of healthy food and beverage and protection from marketing to children.
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| **Deliverable 3:** Draft findings report Delivery date: 24/11/17 | * The draft findings report will include data content (graphs, tables, images) as well as data-driven narratives, messages, potential areas of intervention and recommendations.
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| **Deliverable 4:**Final Report and draft scientific articleDelivery date:15/12/17 | Compilation of the above including observations from UNICEF to previous drafts in a final report that also includes areas of intervention and recommendations to improve nutritional and physical environment in schools in LAC. The final report will include:* + A final complete report for UNICEF (in either Spanish or English)
	+ A final summary document for wider dissemination (20 pages max, in both Spanish and English)
	+ A final executive summary for the public (2 pages max, in both Spanish and English)

Draft scientific article for submission to a peer reviewed journal. |

##### QUALIFICATIONS AND SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Individual with relevant experience and/or peer-reviewed publications in one or more of the following fields: non-communicable diseases, child obesity, food and beverage regulation and legislation, marketing to children, nutrition, public health. Innovative participatory research methodologies i.e Photovoice, are encouraged.

Fluency in English and Spanish required.

The duration for the contract is estimated to be of no more than 3.5 (three and a half) months starting on the date of the signature of the contract, 8th September (expected).

##### FEES:

Qualified candidates are requested to submit a financial proposal. Proven past experience and financial proposal will be taken into consideration during selection process.

**CLOSING DATE:**

**3 September 2017**