### Terms of reference for A NATIONAL consultant

### in the area of violence against children

Summary

* Purpose: Consultancy to support Romania define and achieve its target within the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
* Location: Bucharest
* Duration : 7 months
* Start date: September 4, 2017
* Reporting to: Communication for Social Change officer

Background

Violence against children (VAC) has been of increasing concern in the world in the last decade. In Romania, as in every other country, violence against children takes a range of forms (psychological abuse, physical violence, sexual abuse, verbal violence etc.) and can occur in all settings (family, school, community, residential institutions, health care facilities etc.).

While over 10,000 cases of violence against are registered every year (with over 7,500 cases registered only in the first six months of 2016) in Romania, very few are prosecuted. It is estimated that the actual number of cases of violence against children is many times higher. Studies show that there is a fairly high tolerance towards violence against children. Social norms and expectations also reproduce unequal gender power relations at other various levels: girls and women represent 90% of the victims of sexual assault, and show a higher vulnerability to trafficking, especially for sexual exploitation. However, there are more boys than girls in the child protection system (53% boys vs. 47% girls). There is also empirical evidence stressing that girls from rural areas, Roma communities, poor families or girls with disability are more vulnerable to gender discrimination, violence and exclusion.

Some progress has, however, been noted in recent years: Romania ratified the Istanbul Convention on Preventing Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and is in the process of aligning its legislation with the Convention. Debates on violence against children are taking place in the media, and several information campaigns, mostly by civil society and UNICEF, seem to have raised at least the awareness of the general public. One of the four pillars of the 2014-2020 National Strategy for Child Rights focuses on violence against children.

The challenge has been to translate this increasing political and public commitment into concrete progress for children. Legislation needs not only to be strengthened but also to be accompanied by standards, norms, methodologies, human and financial resources, and mechanisms that will ensure its implementation. Children (and often their families) need to be empowered and awareness should be raised to change social norms around violence against children, create demand for services and increase reporting. New services are required, and they should be closely coordinated across sectors and levels of administration.

Current context

In 2016, Romania became a pathfinding country for the Global Partnership to End Violence (Global Partnership) against Children. The Global Partnership brings together governments, foundations, the UN, civil society, the academia, the private sector and young people to achieve the new global target to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2). There are 11 pathfinder countries of this Global Partnership, committed to providing comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services for preventing and responding to violence.

As a pathfinding country, Romania has committed to three to five years of accelerated action to strengthen the national legislation to protect children against all forms of violence and exploitation, bring all sectors together in a movement to end violence, and provide children with a meaningful role in this movement. Romania will also support global efforts to address violence against children by exchanging relevant expertise and carrying out advocacy actions.

For further information about the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, please visit: <http://www.end-violence.org/>

In Romania, the leading actor is the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, through the National Authority for Child Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA). A significant role is played by the National Agency for Equal Chances (ANES), Save the Children, World Vision and the Federation of NGOs for Child Protection (FONPC) representing the civil society and UNICEF, as international organization. These players are also part of the Working Group for the Global Partnership.

During the first meetings of the Working Group for the Global Partnership, stakeholders were proposing the following strategic directions/priorities for Romania’s commitment as Pathfinding Country:

* Strengthen norms and values that support non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive and gender equitable relationships for all children and adolescents which actually overlaps one of the four objective of the National strategy for promotion and protection of children’s rights;
* Improve access to integrated community-based support services for all children who need them – including for reporting violence – to reduce the long-term impact of violence;
* Strengthen accurate measures to prevent and combat violence against children to plan strategies and interventions, measure their impact and continuously improve them to ensure success, including improving data collection and strengthening monitoring systems;

Purpose of the Consultancy

In order to support Romania to define and achieve its target within the Global Partnership, UNICEF in Romania is seeking for a consultant to assist the Working Group for the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

The major duties and responsibilities of the Consultant will be to:

* Provide needed assistance to the working group in order to map out national and local initiatives addressing norms and values that support non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive and gender equitable relationships for all children and adolescents
* Assist the working group to identify national existing promising practices in the field of integrated community-based support services for all children to prevent and combat violence against children and domestic violence;
* Assist the working group in defining targets and indicators related to accurate measures of violence against children (including strengthening current data collection and monitoring systems) corresponding to i) national legislation, strategies and policies (including communication strategies), together with the respective operational plans with provisions on violence against children and on domestic violence; and ii) European and international (European Union Commission, Council of Europe, United Nations) policies and legislation with respect to violence against children and on domestic violence;
* Ensure support to the working group to develop operational plans for the above defined targets and to promote these plans among the national stakeholders and international members of the Global Partnership;
* Ensure support to the National Authority for Child Rights and Adoption and to the leading Ministry to prepare Romania’s participation in the Global Partnership Summit to be organized in February 2018: input for documents, presentation, and other materials.

Timeframe of consultancy: September 2017 – March 2018

Expected Deliverables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deliverables | Deadline |
| Mapping of national and local initiatives addressing norms and values that support non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive and gender equitable relationships for all children and adolescents | November 2017 |
| Inventory of national existing promising practices in the field of integrated community-based support services for all children to prevent and combat violence against children and domestic violence | November 2017 |
| Report on current measures of violence against children, data collection and monitoring systems including recommendations for strengthening monitoring and evaluation system based on an inventory of national legislation, strategies and policies and international and European legislation and policies with respect to violence against children and on domestic violence | November 2017 |
| Input to and presentation of the operational plans developed by the working group | December 2017 |
| Input, presentation and documentation for Romania’s participation in the GP Summit in February 2018 | January – February 2018 |

Qualifications of the consultant:

* Minimum of Master’s degree (or equivalent degree) in governance related field (or equivalent work experience) including: Social Science, Public Policy, Public administration.

Experience:

* At least 7 years of experience working in the social sector in relation with the development of national policies and legislation
* Previous experience in contributing to the development of- and operationalization of legislation in social sector
* Experience of drafting research papers, methodologies, analytical documents, policy papers and notes, project and program documents, studies, etc. is an asset.
* Knowledge of child rights policy framework and legislation
* Ability to analyze and write analytical documents
* Ability to work in a team and to negotiate with partners
* Fluency in Romanian and English

General conditions

Working conditions. Consultant will work in her/his own premises, with travel to project sites and counterparts’ offices. The contract is determinate for the period September 2017 – March 2018.

Reporting. Consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Communication for Social Change Officer and will work closely with the Child Protection Specialist and other UNICEF colleagues and consultants, as well as with counterparts, partners and experts.

Fee. This contract includes no other benefits. Travel costs to project sites and attending project meetings (situations when consultant is authorized to have access to UNICEF transport) will be covered by UNICEF outside this contract. Payments will be made monthly, based on the number of days actually worked and on activity report signed by supervisor.

Note: consultant will sign health statement prior to taking the assignment and the designation form will be completed. The Consultant will be responsible for paying income taxes and any other due taxes as per applicable national legislation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prepared by: | Approved by: |
| Raluca Zaharia  Communication for Social Change Officer  Voica Pop  Child Protection Specialist | Eduard Petrescu  Knowledge and Policy Coordinator |