

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT**  
(National)  
**AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

**1. Background:**

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does — in programs, in advocacy and in operations. The equity strategy, emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, translates this commitment to children's rights into action. For UNICEF, equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favoritism. To the degree that any child has an unequal chance in life — in its social, political, economic, civic and cultural dimensions — her or his rights are violated. There is growing evidence that investing in the health, education and protection of a society's most disadvantaged citizens — addressing inequity — not only will give all children the opportunity to fulfill their potential but also will lead to sustained growth and stability of countries.

Mongolia experiences a lengthy and bitterly cold winter . From October to March, average nighttime temperatures are -10° or lower, and with extremes reaches -40°C around December and January. Especially for young children, it is crucial to stay warm for survival and well-being. To combat the cold, most of the poor households rely on the burning of raw coal using inefficient stoves to heat their often poorly insulated homes, including the traditional home called “ger”, a tent-like structure covered with felt. This results in unprecedented levels of air pollution in many urban centres across the country where well over 60 per cent of the population resides. Air pollution affects public health, in particular children and maternal health, and resulting in an increased incidence of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

The UNICEF Country Programme Document 2023-2027 specifies that Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) & Climate, Environment, Energy, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED) programme will support children and adolescents to realise their right to safe WASH services and a healthy and sustainable environment while being better able to respond to climate, disaster and environmental risks and shocks. Within the Country programme 2023-2027, UNICEF Mongolia is aiming to reduce impacts of climate change and air and environmental pollution on children, pilot and scale up renewable energy systems and low carbon energy technologies at institutional and household levels and educate, engage and empower children to tackle environmental issues, bring their voices on child rights to healthy and safe environment and influence decision making processes.

Since 2019, in collaboration with the Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST) and National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, 96 low-cost air quality sensors have been installed in 67 kindergartens and 21 health facilities in Ulaanbaatar and provinces. Furthermore, UNICEF has established and supported Youth for Climate Change and Clean Air Network (YOUCCAN) and initiated the Teen Parliament project jointly with the Parliament of Mongolia to empower adolescents to learn and in climate and environmental projects and participate in the decision making processes.

## **2. Purpose of Assignment:**

The consultancy service aims to implement air quality monitoring and air pollution related initiatives within the framework of the UNICEF's green school project, enhance knowledge of schoolteachers, students and parents on climate change and air pollution and empower children, adolescents and young people to engage in climate and environmental related decision-making processes, community-based activities and initiatives via existing platforms such as YOUCCAN and Teen Parliament.

## **3. Scope of Work:**

### **Implement air quality monitoring initiatives at selected schools:**

- Conduct training of trainers to enhance knowledge of kindergarten and schoolteachers, parents and school children on climate change and environmental sustainability.
- Establish the "Living Lab for Nature and Children" in selected schools in Ulaanbaatar and Orkhon province to engage children, adolescents and young people in air pollution and air quality monitoring, energy, environmental projects.
- Implement tree planting, indoor and outdoor gardening activities in selected schools in Ulaanbaatar and Orkhon province to reduce air pollution.
- Design and coordinate the implementation of youth-led environmental, air and water quality related projects.
- Compile and carry out analysis of child-related climate and air and environmental pollution data, summarize key findings and produce communication material such as fact sheet, Op-Ed and policy briefings.

### **Youth empowerment through YOUCCAN and Teen Parliament platforms:**

- Develop Teen Parliament and YOUCCAN concept note, and programme document focused on climate Change, sustainable consumption, energy and other related SDGs and coordinate the implementation at national and subnational levels.
- Organise trainings on climate change, disasters and coping, and air pollution impacts and prevention measures to children and adolescents.
- Develop a booklet to introduce and raise awareness about the "General comments #26 of UN Committee on the Rights of the Children and the environment with a special focus on climate change" and organize a workshop.
- Coordinate with the Government (MoET) and UNFCCC national focal point in Mongolia to ensure demonstration of UNICEF's innovative climate and youth actions at the international events including the "Conference of the Parties" (COP) -the supreme decision-making body of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## **4. Contract duration (start and end date):**

- Start date: 01 April 2024 and 31 January 2025 (10 months).

**5. Type of engagement:** Deliverable based consultant.

**6. Deliverables, Timeframe and Payment Schedule:**

Deliverables	Delivery deadline	Payment Schedule and %
<b>Implement air quality monitoring initiatives at selected schools.</b> <b>By 30 June 2024:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 trainings conducted.</li> <li>- “Living Lab for Nature and Children” in 2 schools in Ulaanbaatar and Orkhon</li> <li>- Tree planting, indoor and outdoor gardening activities in 2 schools in Ulaanbaatar and Orkhon province.</li> <li>- At least 10 youth-led small-scale projects supported and implemented.</li> <li>- 1 Human interest story produced.</li> </ul>	31 July 2024	31 July 2024. 50%
<b>Youth empowerment through YOUCCAN and Teen Parliament platforms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solar energy technician skills training organized by 30 Sep 2024)</li> <li>- Teen Parliament concept, launching and implementation (31 December 2024)</li> <li>- 2 trainings on climate change, disasters and coping, and air pollution impacts and prevention to children and adolescents.</li> <li>- Youth engagement and empowerment activities are demonstrated at national events an COP 29.</li> <li>- Draft booklet “General comments #26 of UN Committee on the Rights of the Children and the environment with a special focus on climate change” is submitted for PRC review.</li> </ul>	30 November 2024	30 November 2024 40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A booklet “General comments #26 of UN Committee on the Rights of the Children and the environment with a special focus on climate change” is finalized and published.</li> <li>- Final report and all deliverables submitted.</li> </ul>	15 January 2025	31 January 2025 10%

**7. Travel plan:** The consultancy service is related to the green school initiative of UNICEF in Ulaanbaatar and Orkhon province. Therefore, the consultant may be requested to travel to Orkhon province 3 times (3 days approx..) during the period of consultancy. S/he is



responsible for arranging her/his own travel and should submit all invoices to UNICEF for payment.

**8. Project Management:**

Direct supervisor: Climate change and clean air specialist.

Frequency of performance review:

- Monthly-based progress updates and if needed adjustments into the initial plan of work.
- Deliverable-based performance review and reporting.

**9. Qualifications and competencies:**

- Minimum qualifications required: Bachelor's degree in environment, energy or social science.
- Relevant working experience: 2 years of work experience.
- Knowledge of air quality related data analysis and experience is an asset.
- Fluency in Mongolian and English.
- Competencies: Demonstrates ethical awareness, works collaboratively with others and team-orientation; builds and maintains partnerships and drive to achieve results.