

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title: National Consultant on Child Poverty Measurement and Social Policy Data and MIS

Duty Station: New Delhi

Contract Duration: 13 months

Closing Date: 21 November 2023

1. PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY/ ASSIGNMENT:

In recent years, global efforts to alleviate poverty have evolved significantly, with increasing recognition of the multifaceted nature of deprivation and the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, particularly children. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the forefront of this paradigm shift, emphasizing a comprehensive approach to poverty eradication. SDG 1, which aims to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere," places a strong emphasis on reducing poverty including children. The goal is not just to alleviate monetary poverty but also to address its multidimensional aspects, ensuring a holistic approach to improving children's lives. Specifically, Target 1.2 under SDG 1 calls for a significant reduction in the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions. Child poverty, therefore, stands as a crucial component in the global poverty agenda, demanding targeted strategies and indices for assessment.

In the global landscape, children bear a disproportionate burden of poverty. Recent estimations from the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP and OPHI highlights this disparity, revealing that the number of children living in extreme poverty or multidimensional poverty is double that of adults. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) [2022] indicates that nearly one in three children globally lives in poverty, with India being home to the largest number of multidimensionally poor children globally, totalling 97 million. In 2021, the Decade of Action for SDGs began, but the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global progress, pushing an additional 150 million children into multidimensional poverty (Richardson et al., 2020). The latest estimate from (UNICEF and World Bank, 2023) indicates that due to COVID-19, we lost three years of progress, leading to 30 million more children remaining in extreme poverty than projected without pandemic disruptions. Post-COVID-19, India is reported to have 52.2 million children living in extreme poverty.

Governments worldwide have recognized the imperative of addressing child poverty. In this context, India's National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) introduced the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) initiative, which assesses poverty not merely by income but also considers multiple dimensions such as health, education, and living standards. This initiative has laid the groundwork for innovative strategies to reduce child poverty and improve overall well-being.

UNICEF India has placed a significant focus on addressing child poverty through its various programs and initiatives. In its new country program, UNICEF India sets out a practical agenda for mobilizing action to end child poverty nationally, sub-nationally and locally. It is also recognized that child poverty has long-term implications for human development and strives to incorporate child-focused development indices approaches into its work.

2. SCOPE OF WORK:

UNICEF India is committed to achieving SDG target 1.2, with the aim of reducing poverty among men, women, and children. The global progress towards this goal was disrupted by the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly impacting child poverty. UNICEF India has been actively dedicated to addressing child poverty through a range of programs and initiatives. The consultant will support the new country program on its Social Policy and Social Protection (SPSP) Section in outlining a practical agenda to mobilize efforts at national, sub-national, and local levels, recognizing the multidimensional nature of child poverty, consultative workshops with children, adolescents, and young people to capture their perspectives on child poverty, multiple deprivations, vulnerability, and child well-being. Mapping of strategies to address child poverty and foster child-focused development within the broader context of poverty eradication and human development.

Further, supporting social policy data systems, MIS and registries including Civil Registry and Vital Statistics

The consultant will support UNICEF India's work toward development of a child deprivations framework relevant nationally, build capacity and evidence around child deprivations and interconnected outcomes as well as strengthen the communities of practice on child deprivations measurement and solutions. Technical support on Strengthening social policy and social protection data systems, MIS and registries are a key components of the portfolio.

3. DELIVERABLES AND DEADLINES

Work Assignments Overview (<i>Include Major Tasks and Activities</i>)	Deliverables/Outputs	Timeline/Date for submission of Deliverable
a) Technical support to national child poverty measurement initiatives	• Policy Briefs on Child Poverty and child marriage / Nutrition (2 in number)	31 December 2023 31 July 2024
b) Data analysis and visualization on child poverty and deprivations secondary data for specific purposes at state and technical area	• Scoping papers for Interoperability Social Policy Data System Mapping (1) in number	31 January 2024
c) Mapping of data sources relevant on child poverty and deprivations	• Technical Review Documents to Two States on Measuring Child Poverty (2 in number)	28 February 2024 30 April 2024
d) Mapping of data sources and interoperability frameworks for CRVS, social protection MIS and social policy and sectoral data systems	• Knowledge Products: on Child Wellbeing methodology frameworks (3 in number)	31 March 2024 30 June 2024 30 September 2024
e) Technical support on CRVS data system strengthening initiatives	• Project Review Document: CRVS projects at state level (2 in number)	31 August 2024 30 October 2024
f) Support knowledge management activities on technical areas	• Concept Note: Youth and Child Wellbeing (1 in number)	31 March 2024
g) Provide technical assurance to state child poverty related activities	• Report review notes: on CRVS and Child Poverty technical research reports (2 in number)	30 November 2024 31 December 2024
h) Provide technical review on state CRVS related programmatic activities		
i) Support technical advocacy efforts engaging communities on framing child poverty and well-being measurement frameworks	• Data analysis reports/ presentations (2 in number)	31 December 2023 31 May 2024
j) Support finalization of child poverty and CRVS related knowledge products		

4. OFFICIAL TRAVEL INVOLVED (ITINERARY AND DURATION)

Travel - International (if applicable)	Return Flights from Home Country (If Applicable)
Travel - National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trips (air/train) = 10 trips • Number of days of outstation travel = 2 days (for estimating taxi charges)
Per Diem/DSA (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of days of outstation travel = 20 days (for estimating per diem)

5. ESTIMATED DURATION OF CONTRACT

13 months

6. QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Qualification:

PhD in Social Sciences, Public Policy, Economics, related field

Experience:

Minimum 10 years in:

- a. Experience in poverty measurement, data and methodologies
- b. Experience and knowledge of working in development sector in India, low- and middle-income country settings, and South Asia
- c. Demonstrated expertise in child poverty measurement in the context of cross cutting domains of gender, disability, climate risk
- d. Strong communication skills including academic writing and data visualization

7. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA (WITH WEIGHTS FOR EACH CRITERIA)

Technical and Financial ratio is 80:20 (technical proposal-80 points and financial proposal-20 points)

S. No.	Evaluation Criteria	Max. Marks
1.	Relevant experience: Number of years of experience in social policy data systems	20
2.	Expertise: Strong technical expertise in child poverty measurement	30
3.	Other: Published technical papers in peer reviewed publications and / or UN reports (One minimum to be submitted with the application package)	30
	Total	80

Note: Candidates who achieve a score of 64 points or higher out of 80 will be considered technically qualified.

8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant

9. IMPORTANT NOTES

- Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

- The selected candidate is solely responsible to ensure that the health insurance (and visa if applicable) required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected candidates are subject to confirmation of fully vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the assignment. It does not apply to consultants who will work remotely and are not expected to work on or visit UNICEF premises, programme delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their consultancy contracts.
- UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application to be submitted through the online portal and must contain four separate attachments, as follows:

1. A cover letter (max 2 pages) outlining understanding of the scope and activities, motivation to undertake it and demonstrating fit for the assignment **(to be uploaded online under “Cover Letter” tab)**
2. An updated Resume demonstrating all requirements stated above **(to be uploaded online under “Resume” tab)**
3. Minimum one Published technical paper in peer reviewed publications and / or UN reports **to be uploaded as one document online under “Other – Applicant”**
4. A financial proposal indicating all-inclusive amount (professional fee + travel cost as applicable) against each of the deliverable, as per the template attached. Please do not forget to specify your name in the file while saving **(to be uploaded online under “Financial Proposal” tab)**.

Important Note: Please do not indicate financials anywhere else in the online application form, please mark "n/a or 00", under the fee related questions in the online application form.

Without all the above 04 documents, your application will be considered incomplete and invalid and will not be considered further.

- Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF’s selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.
- Joint applications of two or more individuals are not accepted.
- Please note, UNICEF does not charge any fee during any stage of the process.
- Women, trans, non-binary and gender diverse candidates meeting the requirements are strongly encouraged to apply.
- UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages qualified candidates from all backgrounds including persons living with disabilities to apply.
- General Terms and Conditions for the Consultancy Contract is attached, for your reference.

For any clarifications, please contact:

UNICEF

Supply & Procurement Section

73, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003

Email: indconsultants@unicef.org