

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTORS

TITLE	National consultant on early child development and home visiting
Requesting Section	Health and Nutrition
Type of engagement	Consultant
Selection method	Competitive selection [advertisement]
Duration <i>[up to 11.5 months without mandatory break-in-service]</i>	6 months
Duty Station	Ukraine
Number of working days	132 working days
Terms of payment	Upon completion of each deliverable according to schedule

Background:

The implementation of a universal progressive home visiting programme in Ukraine holds significant importance for the nation's future. This initiative plays a crucial role in supporting early childhood development, ensuring children receive the care and guidance they need during their critical early years. By monitoring children's health and nutrition regularly, the programme contributes to better health outcomes and reduced child mortality rates.

By strengthening maternal and child health services and complementing existing systems, the programme enhances the overall healthcare system and addresses service gaps, especially in remote and underserved areas. Early interventions through home visiting have been proven cost-effective, leading to long-term savings in healthcare, social services, and education expenditures.

Furthermore, the programme fosters family empowerment, involving parents in decision-making and advocacy for their children's well-being. This social support system nurtures a sense of community care and responsibility towards child development, fostering social cohesion and engagement.

Purpose of assignment:

UNICEF Ukraine Country Office is supporting the MoH in implementation of the universal progressive home visiting model in Ukraine.

To ensure the accessibility and excellence of medical services in primary healthcare, with a particular focus on maternal and child health care, UNICEF is updating and expanding the universal progressive home visits by patronage nurses to pregnant women and children aged below 3 years, aiming to improve overall healthcare provisions. UNICEF CO is implementing the following components:

- Training of healthcare home visiting professionals and establishment of the regional coordination platform
- Establishment of a training resource center to support continuous professional education through governmental academies and colleges
- Development of methodological and analytical materials to enhance the quality of training.
- Procurement of equipment for training centers to enhance the training environment and resources.
- Improvement of Maternal and Child Health Care (MCHC) facility-based services at specified healthcare facilities in

selected oblasts

- Creation of welcoming and comfortable environment for beneficiaries by beautification of breastfeeding rooms, child areas, and/or vaccination rooms to in the selected primary health care facilities.

Scope of work:

The programme needs the continued presence of 2 technical experts (consultants) to support the Ministry of Health of Ukraine with development of national policy and legislation for implementation of the model at national level.

Under the general supervision of the UNICEF H&N officer, the consultant will provide relevant technical support to the Medical Department of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine:

- Provide advisory and technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in the development of state policies geared towards enhancing the accessibility and quality of medical services at the primary healthcare level, specifically focusing on maternal and child health care and healthcare system recovery. This includes the implementation of the universal progressive home visiting by patronage nurses for pregnant women and children under the age of 3 by development of relevant regulatory and legal frameworks.
- To furnish expert and advisory assistance to the Ministry of Health during the process of reforming the maternal and child health care sector, incorporating the best international experiences and leveraging technical aid from both national and international partners.
- Regular (monthly) reporting on the work done in accordance with the agreed plan.
- Monthly reporting on the work done in accordance with the agreed form.

Deliverables:

Deliverables outlined below subject for discussing and agreement at the start of the consultancy:

- Preparation of the report on the comprehensive review of existing legal acts to identify areas requiring updates and revisions, updating UNICEF on a regular basis.
- Monthly reports on conducted meetings with key stakeholders, including relevant government agencies, healthcare professionals, and legal experts, to gather insights and feedback on the proposed updates to ensure alignment with current healthcare policies and practices.
- Prepare clear and well-structured amendments to the legislation that address the identified gaps, update provisions, and align with contemporary healthcare standards and practices. Prepare all necessary legal documentation, including explanatory notes and justifications for the proposed amendments, to facilitate understanding and support during the legislative process
- Deliver a finalized version of the legal act on implementation of universal progressive home visiting model with all approved amendments incorporated and ready for implementation.
- Offer guidance on the implementation of the developed act, including any necessary administrative procedures, timelines, and responsible authorities.
- Final consultancy report prepared with technical recommendations.

	<p>Education <i>[specify disciplines]</i></p>	<p>Master's degree</p>	<p>Minimum qualification is master's degree diploma from a recognized academic institution or University in one of the following areas is preferred: "Law" or "International Law", public health, maternal and child health, economic or public finance, public policy and governance</p>
	<p>Professional experience <i>[number of years, relevant to the assignment, otherspecifics]</i></p>		<p>A minimum of 3 years of experience as a practicing legal consultant, preferably experience in medical law and in the development of regulatory and legal acts or in public health sector, or analytical experience of work with governmental or private sector. One should possess a comprehensive understanding of healthcare laws, regulations, and policies, both at the national and international levels. They should be well-versed in healthcare-specific frameworks, such as medical malpractice, patient rights, healthcare administration, and compliance.</p>

		<p>Knowledge of the Fundamentals of Ukrainian legislation on health care, as well as other regulatory documents and Orders of the Ministry of Health regarding the organization of medical and public health care for children and mothers in Ukraine.</p> <p>One should demonstrate a deep knowledge of healthcare systems, including public and private healthcare structures, insurance practices, healthcare financing, and the roles of various stakeholders in the healthcare industry.</p> <p>Knowledge of WHO/UNCIEF basic provisions regarding motherhood and childhood will be an asset.</p> <p>Work experience in resource-limited settings, and risk management and mitigation will be an asset.</p> <p>Strong interpersonal communication and writing skills, with ability to lead/train a group of individuals and impart knowledge.</p>	
	Language	English	Intermediate [B1-B2]
		Ukrainian	Proficient/Native [C2]
		Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Skills and competencies	<p>Strong analytical capabilities are essential to interpret complex legal issues, identify potential risks, and propose appropriate solutions. One should be able to assess the legal implications of healthcare decisions and policies and be able to navigate complex legal challenges in healthcare while safeguarding the interests of stakeholders.</p> <p>Working with People – II lvl. Drive for results – II lvl. Technical skills</p>	

Work assignment overview:

Deliverable	Deadline	# of w/days
Preparation of the report with proposed updates for the Cabinet of Ministers act “On mandatory medical examinations of some categories of the population” with the focus on frequency of home visits to families with children from 0 to 3 according to the universal progressive model	12-Dec-23	24
Development of the comprehensive draft outlining the typical job duties and responsibilities of a home visiting nurse. The framework will define the roles, tasks, and skills required for the efficient implementation of the universal progressive home visiting tasks during patronage visits.	12-Feb-24	12
Development of the detailed paper outlining the procedure for conducting universal progressive home visits to families with children under three years of age on the level of the primary healthcare facility. The proposal will include guidelines for assessment, reporting, and follow-up actions. Additionally, all necessary accompanying documentation required for approval by the Ministry of Health will be included.	12-Feb-24	18
Organization of monthly technical coordination meetings with the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine regarding cooperation with primary health care centers to prevent non-communicable diseases among mothers, fathers, and children, as a result of which Action Plan was developed.	12-Feb-24	18
Monthly reports on the progress made related to programme implementation, relevant challenges and priority action points within the MoH work plan in written and submission to UNICEF.	12-Feb-24	24
List of recommendations, regulations, tools, and standard operating procedures (SOP) on universal progressive home visiting are prepared and accepted by the MOH	12-Feb-24	12
Reports of progress, updating UNICEF on a monthly basis	12-Dec-23	16
Final consultancy report is prepared with technical recommendations	28-Feb-24	8
	Sub-total:	132

Payment of professional fees will be based on submission of agreed 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.

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.