

Terms of Reference - **TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT**

Title & Level	Public Finance for Children (PF4C) Specialist, P3
Location	Freetown – Sierra Leone
Duration	364 days
Reporting to	Chief Evidence, Policy and Social Protection

I. BACKGROUND

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does — in programmes, in advocacy and in operations. 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. UNICEF and cooperating partners and stakeholders work to secure the rights of each child and the surrounding families, communities and nations.

The Sierra Leone Country Programme 2020-2023 has been extended for one year until the end of 2024.

II. PURPOSE OF THE TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT (TA)

Under the general guidance of the Chief of Evidence, Policy and Social Protection, the incumbent is responsible for providing technical support to the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all stages of social policy programming and advocacy related to public finance for children (PF4C)

In the context of Sierra Leone, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, high levels of inflation and the ongoing food and fuel crisis have negatively impacted households' economic situation and hampered the government's ability to deliver social services for children. The ongoing strain on families has demonstrated the importance of prioritising social sectors such as Health, Education, Nutrition, Child Protection and Social Protection within the country's limited fiscal space, prioritising children in public spending through the state budget, while taking care to minimize the negative implications of the debt situation on the most vulnerable strata. The PF4C Specialist will advise and influence evidence-based decision making by stakeholders, to establish more protective fiscal policies for the most vulnerable groups, taking them into account in an equity-based manner in public spending.

III. SUMMARY OF KEY FUNCTIONS/ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Improving data on child poverty & vulnerability for increased use for policy and budgets:

- Supports the collection, analysis, and user-friendly presentation of data on multidimensional and monetary child poverty, including strengthening national capacity to collect routinely, report and use data for policy decision-making.
- Provides timely, regular data-driven analysis for effective prioritization, planning, and development; facilitates results-based management for planning, adjusting, and scaling-up specific social policy initiatives to reduce child poverty.
- Analyzes the macroeconomic context and its impact on social development, emerging issues, and social policy concerns, as well as implications for children, and proposes and promotes appropriate responses in respect of such issues and concerns, including government resource allocation policies and the effects of social welfare policies on the rights of children.

2. Improving use of public financial resources for children:

- Undertakes budget analysis to inform UNICEF’s advocacy and technical assistance to Ministries of Finance, planning commissions and social sector ministries to improve equitable allocations for essential services for children. Works with sector colleagues to build capacity to undertake costing and cost effectiveness analysis on priority interventions to help inform policy decisions on child-focused investments.
- Supports the identification of policy options for improved domestic financing of child-sensitive social protection interventions.
- Undertakes and builds capacity of partners for improved monitoring and tracking of public expenditure to support transparency, accountability, and effective financial flows for essential service delivery, including through support to district level planning, budgeting and public financial management as well as facilitating community participation

3. Strengthening capacity of local governments to plan, budget, consult on and monitor child-focused social services.

- Where national decentralization processes are taking place, collaborates with central and local authorities to improve policies, planning, budgeting, consultation and accountability processes so that decisions and child-focused service delivery more closely respond to the needs of local communities.
- Collaborates with the central and local authorities to strengthen capacity on quality data collection, analysis for policy development, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring of essential social services, with emphasis on community participation and accountability.

4. Strengthened advocacy and partnerships for child-sensitive social policy:

- Supports correct and compelling use of data and evidence about children and coverage and impact of child focused services – in support of the Social Policy Programme and the Country Programme overall.
- Establishes effective partnerships with the Government, bilateral and multilateral donors, NGOs, civil society and local leaders, the private sector, and other UN agencies to support sustained and proactive commitment to the Convention of the Rights of the Child and to achieve global UN agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Identifies other critical partners, promotes awareness, and builds capacity of partners, and actively facilitates effective collaboration within the UN family.

5. UNICEF Programme Management:

- Manages and coordinates technical support around child poverty, public finance and local governance, ensuring it is well planned, monitored, and implemented in a timely fashion to

adequately support scale-up and delivery. Ensures risk analysis and risk mitigation are embedded into overall management of the support, in close consultation with UNICEF programme sections, partners, and government.

- Supports and contributes to effective and efficient planning, management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the Country Programme. Ensures that the Social Policy Programme enhances policy dialogue, planning, supervision, technical advice, management, training, research, and support; and that the monitoring and evaluation component strengthens monitoring and evaluation of the social sectors and provides support to sectoral and decentralized information systems.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

Education

An advanced university degree in one of the following fields is required: Economics, Public Policy, Social Sciences, International Relations, Political Science, or another relevant technical field.

Experience

- A minimum of five years of relevant professional work experience is required.
- Knowledge of public finance concepts including value for money in social sectors, budget cycle and processes, and costing methods
- Good analytical skills, especially applied to economics and public finance.
- Advanced quantitative analysis and capacity to synthesize large data sets and information in a clear and user-friendly manner.
- Strong experience in providing technical assistance to national and local government, including through participatory approaches is desirable.
- Familiarity with Public Financing for Children
- Excellent computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office Package, particularly Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Experience working in a developing country is considered as a strong asset.
- Background and/or familiarity with emergency is considered as a strong asset.

Language requirements

Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language or a prominent language of the duty station is an asset.

V. COMPETENCIES OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

Core Values

Care
Respect
Integrity
Trust
Accountability
Sustainability

Core Competencies

Nurtures, Leads and Manages People
Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness
Works Collaboratively with others (1)
Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1)
Innovates and Embraces Change (1)
Thinks and Acts Strategically (1)
Drives to achieve impactful results (1)
Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)