**2.1 Purpose of the evaluation**

Over more than a decade there was no independent and holistic evaluation of the performance and effectiveness of UNICEF’s child protection agenda and interventions, apart from anecdotal reviews and assessments of separate interventions, initiatives or components. This evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the fifth year of an extended six-year country programme (CP) of cooperation 2016-2022 between UNICEF and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. Thus, the evaluation will be both summative and formative. The purpose of the evaluation is to generate sound and credible evidence with a focus on:

1. whether the PE programme is contributing effectively and efficiently to ensuring sustainable protective environments for the most vulnerable and marginalized children, and reasons for success or failure (accountability);
2. best practices, gaps and barriers in the applied approaches, programmatic and strategic choices made in its design and implementation and lessons to be considered for shaping the future engagement of UNICEF in Tajikistan.

The evidence and forward-looking recommendations generated by the evaluation will be used by the government and UNICEF during implementation of the remaining part of the current country programme as well as to inform the 2023-2027 CP planning process, which will commence in late 2021. It will also contribute to a more evidence-based advocacy and development of the child protection system in the country. More specifically the evaluation will help UNICEF and partners in the following:

1. The evaluation findings on the effectiveness of different PE interventions at national and sub-national level will allow dropping or scaling them up depending on the needs of those most vulnerable.
2. Generated evidence on good practices and lessons learned on the gaps, bottlenecks, barriers and challenges will enable UNICEF, government and other partners to develop a vision towards ensuring protective environment for children and to shape the child protection policy agenda grounded in national realities and context, informed by needs and preferences of those most marginalized.
3. The evaluation findings will help to define a clear vision on how to accelerate actions/progress towards reaching the child-protection related targets and commitments.

**2.2 Audience of the evaluation – stakeholders**

The evaluation may be used by a broad range of stakeholders of which some have a direct stake in the evaluation because they are involved in implementation of the PE programme, plans or strategies towards which the programme contributes. These stakeholders are referred to as Primary Stakeholders. Other stakeholders, i.e., Secondary Stakeholders, refer to rights holders and duty bearers who benefit from the contributions of the Programme, and organisations in- and outside of Tajikistan which work with similar programmes and on child rights issues for which lessons and good practices drawn from this evaluation may be relevant.

Primary stakeholders include but may not limited to:

1. State Bodies

* The main authority in charge of children’s issues is the Commission on Child Rights under the Government of Republic of Tajikistan chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan (and the Department of Child Rights Protection of the Presidential Executive Office serves as Secretary to the Commission on Child Rights). The Commission is responsible for coordinating policy on child protection at national level. The Commission is a permanent, interdepartmental, consultative body, established to coordinate the activities of state, non-governmental bodies and international organisations and bodies involved in working with children in need of special measures of protection. The members of the Commission include government ministries, agencies, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and religious figures.
* Directorate on Child Rights Protection under the Ministry of Education and Science is officially created to be custodian on implementation of Child Rights Protection Law of 2015 and child protection issues in the country. This Directorate officially created in 2019, after government’s Decree issued in 2016 appointing the Ministry of Education and Science as custodian on child protection issues.
* The line ministries and agencies responsible for child protection-related policy and services including Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population; Agency on Social Insurance and Pensions;; Department on Prevention of Delinquencies among Adolescents and Youth, Ministry of Internal Affairs; Department on Supervision of the Law on Youth and Minors, General Prosecutor's Office; Department on Juvenile Justice, Ministry of Justice; Judges Training Institute, Supreme Court; Republican Centre of Additional Education; Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment; Commissioner for Children's Rights (Ombudsman for Child Rights).

1. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). UNICEF has also collaborated with CSOs, primarily, as implementing partners and in relation to piloting and implementation of the PE Programme interveniotns. These include (but not exhaustively) the Legal Initiative; NGO Hayot dar Oila, HealthProm, Aga Khan Development Network; Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities; Caritas Germany in Tajikistan; the Red Crescent Society; Terre des Hommes; CESVI; and EHYO.

1. UNICEF stakeholders. UNICEF Tajikistan CO will be the main user of the evaluation with the aim to improve future vision on ensuring protective environments for children and formulate interventions in a strategic and comprehensive manner. It will also be used to explain the framework in which the interventions are developed, so that the different government institutions understand the integral logic pursued. The evaluation lays emphasis on learning, it will also serve to accountability purposes in terms of resources used, main areas of work, interventions sustainability or achievement of results. Other stakeholders inside UNICEF who have a particular interest in the PE programme evaluation include the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO), and senior management in UNICEF who can draw upon the evaluation findings for regional and corporate learning and accountability purposes.
2. Children and families. Ultimately this evaluation will be useful to the programme beneficiaries. To the extent possible, the engagement of the adolescence and young people will be sought in the process of evaluation (through existing platforms and representation at ERG) for their learning purpose and to ensure participation, equity and accountability.

Secondary stakeholders include but may not limited to:

1. Donors and international finance institutions. UNICEF’s multilateral and bilateral donors have a direct stake in the evaluation findings as these will account for UNICEF’s performance.
2. UN agencies