

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SHORT TITLE OF ASSIGNMENT

ECD CONSULTANT SOLOMON ISLANDS

BACKGROUND

With UNICEF support, Solomon Islands has finalized and endorsed its national and multi-sectoral ECD Policy and costed action plan, with plans to finalize an M&E framework that would support the government's timely implementation of the policy. Simultaneously, Guadalcanal Province has recently finalized a provincial action plan, incorporating and supporting ECD activities across its overall plan. The government has established a multi-ministry coordination mechanism, chaired by the Ministry of Education and including relevant social sector ministries and the ministry of finance. Both streams of work at the national and provincial level have been supported by two UNICEF grants – Building Better Brains from MFAT and ECD in Guadalcanal from UNICEF Australia, both of which end on 30 June 2023. This consultancy helps UNICEF and Solomon Islands government in laying the groundwork for proper implementation of the recently developed policy tools for ECD and facilitating multi-partner dialogues to help shape the next phase of support for ECD in the country.

OBJECTIVE / SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of the consultancy is to support the strengthening of Solomon government's institutional capacity to develop and implement multi-sectoral ECD policies, which is the main output focus of ECD in the current MCP and is in line with all activities in the AWP with government. The consultant will provide technical support to Solomon Islands government in implementing the national and multi-sectoral ECD policy, and simultaneously support Guadalcanal province in taking the necessary steps to institutionalize ECD activities into its regular provincial activities. The consultant will be supervised on a day-to-day basis by the Education Specialist of UNICEF Solomon Islands, with additional technical supervision by the ECD Specialist of UNICEF Pacific in Suva.

ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES, PLUS BUDGET PER DELIVERABLE

The below activities are to be completed in close collaboration and coordination with Solomon Islands government and UNICEF.

ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE	PAYMENT
Consult with government and UNICEF on status of ECD in country and determine 4-month workplan to complete deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to take up assignment Inception report detailing outcomes of consultations and a workplan to fulfill the remainder of the deliverables 	16 days	20%
Support to finalization and implementation of National ECD policy and costed action plan, including M&E framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final policy, action plan and M&E framework Launch of National ECD policy with an accompanying communication approach to generate broad awareness Review of ECD policy implementation, using M&E framework (as documented in meeting minutes) 	40 days	10% 10% 10%
Support to Guadalcanal Province in finalizing and implementing provincial ECD action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of provincial ECD action plan and M&E plan Review of ECD action plan implementation (as documented in meeting minutes) 	30 days	10% 10%

ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE	PAYMENT
Foster multi-stakeholder engagement to accelerate progress on ECD in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-stakeholder dialogue/workshop on ECD, including follow up to commitments made at the 2023 Pacific ECD Forum Partners Roundtable to foster harmonized support to ECD policy and next phases of support (e.g., parenting, climate change, etc.) 	30 days	10% 10%
Support documentation of results achieved for ECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donor report contribution due May 2023 (Building Better Brains and ECD in Guadalcanal) 	5 days	5%
Technical recommendations for next steps on ECD in Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-of-consultancy report detailing lessons learned and recommendations for next steps on ECD policy implementation 	5 days	5%
			100%

QUALIFICATIONS, SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AND ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

Bachelors Masters PhD Other

- A post-graduate qualification in education, health, development or a related field.
- A minimum of 8 years of relevant experience in policy and service delivery in the early years, with knowledge of Solomon Islands and similar projects considered an advantage
- Proven experience engaging a range of stakeholders on social sector issues and fulfilling complex deliverables promptly
- Good written and oral communication skills, knowledge of local language an asset
- Previous experience with UNICEF or the UN an asset

CONDITIONS OF WORK AND CLARIFICATION ON SUPERVISION

The daily supervisor would be the Education Specialist in Honiara, with technical supervision from the ECD Specialist in Suva and with the support of Chief of Field office, Chief of Education and other programme colleagues.

The consultancy is office-based in Honiara in order to carry out the technical support and regular dialogues with government counterparts and UNICEF. The office will provide a space for the consultant, meanwhile the financial proposal of the consultant should include all related travel, including in-country travel to complete the deliverables.