unicef for every child

Title of Consultancy:	WBS	Type of Engagement	Workplace of Consultant (duty station, ICT equipment)
Individual consultancy for report writing and data analysis for COVID 19 Impact Monitoring Survey in Sierra Leone (CIMS)	3900/A0/08/885/001/007	☒ Consultant ☐ TA ☐ Individual Contractor	Remote work

Grant: SC190368; SM200185		GL Account:		Fund ID: SC & SM

Budget Year: 2020	Requesting Section/ Issuing Office Evidence, Policy and Social Protection	Reasons why the assignment cannot be done by a staff member: The section does not retain staff capacity for analytical report writing

Purpose of Activity/Assignment:

1. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic was first announced by the World Health Organisations (WHO) as a public health crisis of global proportions on 30 January 2020. The first case of COVID-19 in Sierra Leone was reported on 31 March 2020. Even before the first case was reported, a state of emergency was declared on the 23 March 2020, demonstrating that infection risk was taken seriously from the outset. Inter-district travel was restricted between late March and July, and a night-time curfew was announced. Two rounds of three days-long full lockdowns were held in April and May respectively. Schools were closed from late March, re-opening only for students in exam classes to sit their exams in July.

As of 1 August, in Sierra Leone, a total of 1,843 cases had been reported, with more than half of these in the Western Area. All districts have reported cases. Out of 1,843 total confirmed cases, 64 (3%) are children under 5; 136 (7%) are children aged 5-14; and 269 (15%) are youth aged 15-24. A total of 67 deaths had been reported as of 1 August.

The pandemic does not only entail infection risk for households and communities, but also introduces a wider range of socio-economic impacts caused by border closures, lockdown and interruptions to social services. The country depends heavily on trade with neighbouring countries, and border closures affected the communities in border areas, as well as placing the wider population at risk of price hikes and limited access to certain goods. Particularly the informal sector has been affected, and traders have faced challenges with movements of goods, access to markets and loss of customers. Also sectors such as the hospitality sector have been affected by reduced demand for services.

Due to national school closures from late March, 2.6 million school children from pre-primary to senior secondary found themselves out of school. Their ability to continue their education is highly at risk. While education provision has continued through radio education programmes, school closures could result in interruptions to schooling, with some children missing out on grade promotion or not being able to return to school in the longer term, which could hamper skills development and future employability. School closures also give rise to concerns over appropriate childcare for the younger school going children, as well as children having to go out to work with their parents to contribute to household income generation activities.

Due to the scale of the COVID health crisis, there are concerns of disruption in access to regular health services including antenatal care and immunization, as communities may be hesitant to approach health centres due to concerns over

infection. Moreover, health staff could be diverted from routine healthcare activities to focus on COVID prevention and treatment.

Furthermore, a pandemic of this scale could cause major child protection concerns. Lessons from the Ebola outbreak in 2013-2015 showed that adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the socio-economic impact of outbreak of epidemics. At the time of Ebola there was a rise in teenage pregnancies, which had negative implications for these girls' future, and attention is focused on avoiding a repeat of this incidence during the time of COVID.

National COVID response has been coordinated under the Government's Emergency Operation Centre, organized under its respective emergency pillars. Furthermore, the Quick Action Economic Recovery Plan (QAERP) was developed to respond to the economic impact of COVID. The social protection pillar is one of the five pillars under the QAERP, coordinating the social protection response to economically affected households.

With the onset of COVID, the World Bank and UNICEF partnered with Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL) to undertake a household survey to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID on the situation of households across the country. Because of the importance to adhere to strict infection prevention guidelines, it was decided to administer the survey by phone.

The sample for the COVID Impact Monitoring Survey (CIMS) was made up of two parts. The first was households interviewed for the 2018 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey, totalling 4,573 phone numbers. The second part of the sample consisted of a random sample of currently active mobile phone numbers, mostly from the companies Africell and Orange. The total expected sample was 10,000 numbers, while as of end July 2020 around 7,200 completed interviews had been achieved.

The survey questionnaire covers: basic information on the household; knowledge of COVID 19; infection risk behaviour; access to medicine, staple foods, financial services; education; child protection; employment; income loss; food security; and coping strategies.

Initial analysis of data and production of tables will be done by Stats SL, World Bank and UNICEF. A consultant is needed for producing the final tables and writing up the report.

While the first round of data collection is implemented in July 2020, the second round will be implemented in September/October 2020. Further rounds will be subject to discussion.

2. **Justification**

A consultant is needed for data analysis and report writing for the first two rounds of CIMS. Some initial tabulation will be done by the Stats SL supported by the World Bank and UNICEF, however a consultant with experience in survey data analysis will be needed to finalise the tabulation and write reports.

The first round report will be descriptive of the situation at the time of the first round of data collection, while the second round report will discuss trends and differences in situation from the first round. While the survey is a panel survey intended to study trends as the pandemic progresses, particularly the education section of the questionnaire will be amended to reflect the situation of school reopening.

The survey data and reports will be used by government, UN and other development partners to inform and adjust COVID response plans.

3. Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the assignment is to lead the production of reports for the CIMS phone survey in Sierra Leone.

Specific objectives are:

- Producing high quality reports and analysis of data from the CIMS survey, conveying the impact of COVID 19 on households and children

- Presenting and discussing the trends in impact as the pandemic progresses.

4. Methodology and Technical Approach

The World Bank / Stats SL will provide the cleaned dataset, including appropriate survey weights and imputed household welfare level.

The consultant will be responsible for producing basic summary statistics from the entire survey. These statistics will be at the level of the household, individual (respondent), or child.

Topics for analysis for the first round are as follows:

Household Level Statistics:

These include:

- Changes to household income from various sources (farming, paid employment, self-employment, transfers etc), and by sector (agriculture, trade, transport etc), reasons for changes.

- Access to staple foods, medicine, financial services, water and sanitation facilities. Any changes to water or sanitation facilities since last year and reasons why.

- Changes in rice planting behaviour between this growing season and the previous one and reasons why. Disruptions to agricultural activities and marking of produce and causes.

- Food security using FIES compared to regional and global values. Self-reported changes in food security and reasons.

- Use of key health and nutrition services, preventative and curative services, including by types of symptoms experienced. Changes in place of delivery for births over the past 1 year. Reasons for not using health care and nutrition services.

- Experience of lockdown, including having adequate food and psychosocial impacts.

These should be disaggregated by a) urban vs. rural, b) district or province (depending on sample size/standard errors), c) welfare level of household.

Child Level Statistics

- Child activities and wellbeing during school closure, including supervision, learning activities, risky behaviours, household work, labour activities.

- Child discipline methods, comparing with results from 2017 MICS.

- Return to school for exams (exam-year students only)

- Contact with school, methods and contents. Expectations for future school enrolment and educational progression.

These should be disaggregated by the same variables as for household level statistics, and also gender, age, previous school attendance, previous class.

Individual (Respondent) Level Statistics

- Knowledge of and utilization of various services and resources for reporting child and gender-based violence.

- Changes to employment since March 2020, including hours worked, type of employment, sector of employment, reasons for changing employment behaviour.

- Knowledge, attitudes and behaviours around COVID, prevention methods and the GoSL response.

These should be disaggregated by the same variables as for household level statistics, and also gender, age and education level.

Topics for analysis for the second round will be determined based on the exact content of the questionnaire. These will likely include many of the same topics as above, particularly looking at changes between the first and second rounds. Given the planned school re-opening, there will be changes to the education module of the questionnaire. It will also include in-depth analysis of which children return to school, and which children are promoted versus the children having to repeat the school year, by gender, age, class, household background, as well as children's activities during school closures. Second round will also include added questions on child nutrition.

Analysis will be limited to production of summary statistics and simple explanatory regressions. Results should be presented as graphs when appropriate. Where relevant, findings should be benchmarked against MICS 2017, SLIHS 2018, DHS 2019 and FSMS 2020 data as appropriate.

5. Activities, Tasks, Outputs and Deliverables

The assignment covers data analysis and report writing for two rounds of the CIMS survey. The first round is being fielded in July 2020, while the second round is expected to be fielded in September-October 2020.

The deliverables under this consultancy will be:

- Tabulation plan to be approved by World Bank, UNICEF and Stats SL

- Draft report from first round including full set of tables

- Final report from first round incorporating all comments received from UNICEF, World Bank and Stats SL

- Draft report from second round including full set of tables, discussing trends and current status

- Final report from second round incorporating all comments received from UNICEF, World Bank and Stats SL

- 3 thematic 2-page briefs based on the data from first and second round (1) education, 2) adolescents, and 3) nutrition linked with food security, social protection and access to health care)

6. Management, Organization and Timeframe

The consultant will report to the UNICEF Chief of EPSP and will be working closely with UNICEF, the World Bank and Stats SL in completion of the assignment.

A total of 25 working days over the period August – mid-December 2020 will be allocated for the assignment.

7. Reason of extension in case of Amendment

Schedule of Deliverables	Due Date	Duration (maximum # of days)
Final tabulation plan and report outline (table of content) for round 1, approved by UNICEF, World Bank and Stats SL	1 week after contract signature	**0.5**
Draft report from first round including full set of tables Final report from first round incorporating all comments received from UNICEF, World Bank and Stats SL	20 September 2020	**8.5**
Final tabulation plan and report outline (table of content) for round 2, approved by UNICEF, World Bank and Stats SL	30 September 2020	0.5
Draft report from second round including full set of tables, discussing trends and current status Final report from second round incorporating all comments received from UNICEF, World Bank and Stats SL	15 November 2020	13.5
3 thematic 2-page briefs based on the data from first and second round (education, adolescents and child nutrition)	10 December 2020	2

Duration / Timeframe/ # of working days	Expected Start Date:	Expected End Date:
25 days in the period August – December 2020	1 September 2020	15 December 2020

UNICEF recourse in case of unsatisfactory performance: Payment will only be made for work satisfactorily completed as per agreed deliverables and accepted by UNICEF.

Terms of Payment	☒ Payment, upon completion of each deliverable according to schedule.
	☐ Payment, upon completion of all deliverables at the end of assignment.
	☐ Fee advance, percentage (up to 30 % of total fee)

Condition of work
- The consultant will work remotely.
- No travel is involved in the assignment

Qualifications and Specialized Knowledge/experience required:

Minimum Qualifications required:	Years of Experience and Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:
☐ Bachelors ☒ Masters ☐ PhD ☐ Other Enter Disciplines: Statistics, Social Research, Socail Sciences, Economics, or other relevant areas;	 • At least 5 years' experience of data analysis and report writing for household surveys • Excellent analytical and writing skills; • Excellent communication skills • Advanced computer literacy, incl. STATA for data analysis; • High level of proficiency in English; • Previous experience of working with government surveys an asset.