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Title of contract/consultancy:	Technical support to develop a monetary and multidimensional poverty study in Belize
Type of engagement:	Consultant
Workplace of Consultancy / Location:	Remote Based
Duration:	2 months (Eight weeks)
Start Date:	7/1/2021
End Date:	8/31/2021
Requesting Section:	Programme Section – Social Policy
Supervisor:	Social Policy Specialist

Fields containing an asterisk (*) will be used to advertise the consultancy

BACKGROUND (*)

Context

There has been a growing recognition around well-being and poverty being multidimensional.

The concept of multidimensional/ non-monetary poverty has gained importance over the years. Multidimensional poverty is translated into deprivations in the sense of non-access to basic rights, which are nationally defined and typically include, but are not limited to housing, water and sanitation, education, health or participation. UNICEF made the commitment to address poverty affecting children and families in all dimensions (UNICEF, 2016).¹

In Belize, families and children are confronted with high levels of poverty.

In 2002, children showed the highest rate of *monetary poverty* compared to other age groups (39 percent), meaning that two out of every five children did not have their basic food and non-food needs met. The 2009 data showed that the situation of children did not improve, with increased levels of monetary poverty for all age groups of children and youth. Half of people under the age of 15 were classified as indigent or poor (21 and 29 percent, respectively), which is high compared to the overall national average of 42 percent.²

Further, *multidimensional child poverty* was extremely high in 2006 and decreased in 2011 yet remained at high levels, meaning that children were confronted with multiple deprivations.³ In 2011, 58 percent of children aged under 18 in Belize were recorded as living in poverty and 31.8 percent in extreme poverty. Geographical disparities were significant, with 70.3 percent of children living in poverty and 41.8 percent living in extreme poverty in rural areas. In urban areas, these percentages were 39.2 percent and 16.3 percent, respectively. Similarly to monetary poverty, multidimensional

¹ UNICEF, 2017. Program Strategy Note. Child Rights Monitoring and Multidimensional Poverty.

² GOB, 2009. Country Poverty Assessment.

³ ECLAC-UNICEF 2014. Child poverty in Belize.

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child poverty rates are higher for young children (aged 0 to 5); and extreme poverty tends to decrease with age.

The COVID-19 outbreak has exacerbated poverty in Belize.

The COVID-19 pandemic had direct repercussions on households' livelihoods and access to essential services such as education, health, and protection. According to a World Food Program (WFP) survey in June 2020,⁴ disruptions in livelihoods affected three out of five respondents in Belize. In addition, three out of four respondents reported job loss or decline in salaries in their households, and one out of ten respondents expressed the need to resort to secondary or alternative activities. The availability of fresh food items and essential medicine remained low, and food security deteriorated. Besides, approximately 108,000 children remain out of school due to school closure in March 2020.⁵

Rationale for the poverty analysis

Experience shows that data on poverty/ child poverty is scattered and outdated. The most recent available data on poverty in Belize dates back to 2009 (Country Poverty Assessment). In 2014, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in collaboration with UNICEF, developed a study on multidimensional poverty in Belize, based on the 2011 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Another multidimensional child poverty study was initiated more recently by UNICEF, based on the 2015 MICS. However, there exists no compilation and overview of available knowledge, including recent collected data on COVID-19 and effects on children.

There is a need for updated analysis on poverty, with a child lens. Evidence and knowledge are instrumental to monitor the situation of children and their families, as well as to support the formulation of adequate policies and implementation of programmes and initiatives for children, especially in times of COVID-19. It is critical to understand how COVID-19 has impacted poverty levels to better respond and advocate for increased investments for children.

PURPOSE/SCOPE OF ACTIVITY/ASSIGNMENT (*)

The consultancy will provide **technical and analytical support** to the preparation of the Belize child poverty study. Annex I provides the content of the study; the consultant will provide technical support for identified sections, will also provide feedback/ quality assurance on the final consolidated report.

The scope of the consultancy will include two components -monetary and multidimensional- and will rely on secondary data source:

Component	Data Source
Monetary	• Labour Force Survey : the Labour Force Survey is conducted twice a year, in April and September. The scope of the survey includes the working age population (14 years old and beyond). Data collection was maintained during COVID-19;

⁴ WFP, 2020. Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey, BELIZE Summary Report. The survey was conducted in April and June 2020, and targeted 370 respondents (55 % female, 45 % male).

⁵ UNICEF, 2020. End of Year Results Summary Narrative 2020.

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	<p>questionnaires have been adapted and two rounds of the survey (Sept 2020 and April 2021) contain COVID-19-related information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Poverty Study: This study is based on a Household Budget Survey from 2018-2019. The objective behind the study was to cover the gap in data on poverty, the methodology is close the one used in the 2009 CPA (food basket...). The study only captures the situation pre COVID-19, looking at expenditure data, household consumption data...with no specific module on children.
Multidimensional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MICS 2015-based multidimensional child poverty estimates: the analysis is based on a guidance paper developed by UNICEF, exploring six deprivations (overcrowding, water, sanitation, nutrition, health, and education), translated into two levels of poverty, severe and moderate. • MICS Plus. To advance UNICEF's goal of ensuring countries have high-quality tools to generate robust data rapidly and easily, a new survey initiative, MICS Plus was launched. Sub-samples of respondents from MICS surveys are contacted via mobiles phones on a range of topics to extend MICS indicators and generate specific longitudinal data on emerging country needs. In Belize, 10 waves of MICS Plus have been completed in two regions of Belize City South Side and Toledo, including modules on nutrition, education, child protection, child labour, health, WASH.

Activities:

Monetary component:

- Conduct secondary data analysis of the Labour Force Surveys dataset;
- Extract the main trend regarding monetary poverty, and recent impact of COVID-19 on key variables;
- Triangulate results and findings with upcoming Poverty

Study; Multidimensional component:

- Elaborate on a method to build upon the multidimensional poverty based on preliminary 2015-MICS estimates; using MICS plus waves dataset;
- Extract the main findings with regards to deprivations;
- Extract the effects of COVID-19 on deprivations (especially in key sectors such as health, education, nutrition).

The analysis will answer key questions:

- What is the current situation of monetary poverty in Belize for children and families? What are the gender, rural/ urban, and regional disparities?
- What are the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 on poverty for children and families? (job loss, income changes, education, health and nutrition...).
- What are the mechanisms put in place by the households to cope with the loss of income due to COVID-19 (resort to child support/ child labour)?
- What is the current situation in terms of deprivations?
- What are the sectors/ deprivations affected by COVID-19?

The consultant will work in collaboration with the UNICEF Social Policy Consultant based in Belize, and under the supervision of the Social Policy Specialist and M&E Specialist.

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The annex provides a draft outline of the final report and a breakdown of roles and missions.

KEY EXPECTED RESULTS (*)

- Monetary poverty results from Labour Force Survey dataset analysis, including technical files, statistics, tables and charts for LFS secondary analysis;
- Multidimensional poverty results based on 2015-MICS and MICS Plus datasets; including statistics, tables and charts for multidimensional poverty;
- Main findings in the form of a short report that will be integrated in the study as presented in annex I.

Timeline

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Complete the Inception Report								
Development of method for the multidimensional analysis; Review of available secondary data; Selection of modules/ variables to request;								
Data processing; Analysis of monetary and multidimensional poverty. Preliminary results and storyline ;								
Final/ revised tables/ results/ main findings (short report) for inclusion in the report								
Review/ quality checking/ feedback of the consolidated report								

WORK ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Key Activities/Responsibilities/ Tasks (*)	Deliverables/Outputs (*)	Date
Complete Inception Report	Inception report	July
Review of available secondary data. Selection of modules/ variables to request; Refinement of method for the multidimensional analysis	Method for the multidimensional analysis	July
Data processing; Analysis of monetary and multidimensional	Preliminary Report	August

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poverty. Preliminary results and storyline		
Final/ revised tables and results for inclusion in the report.	Second draft Report	August
Presentation to Technical and Steering Committee	PowerPoint Presentation	August
Amend draft Report to include recommendations	Final Report	September

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS*

This assignment will require travel outside Belize Duty Station to: *NO, remote consultancy*

The consultant is responsible for arranging his/her own travel, including bearing the costs visas and travel insurance.

Accommodation, meals and incidentals costs must not exceed the UN daily subsistence allowance rates. The costs for approved travels will be reimbursed by UNICEF Belize upon submission of receipts and based on applicable UN DSA rates. All approved travels to be conducted in accordance with UNICEF travel rules and regulations.

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE / QUALIFICATIONS (*)

Education: Masters Disciplines: Social Science, Economics, Econometrics, Statistics. Years of Experience: 5 years	Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required: Strong quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills; Knowledge of STATA, R and/or SPSS or similar advanced statistical software required; Experience in child poverty assessment; Relevant working experience with UNICEF;
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CONDITIONS OF SERVICE (*)

Before commencing work, a consultant or individual contractor shall submit a statement of good health and take full responsibility for the accuracy of that statement, including confirmation that he or she has been informed of the inoculations required for the country or countries to which travel is authorized. Consultants and individual contractors shall assume all costs that may occur in relation to the statement of good health.

Consultants and individual contractors are required to certify that they are covered by medical/health insurance.

RECOURSE (*)

UNICEF reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs is incomplete, not delivered or for failure to meet deadlines. Performance indicators against which the satisfactory conclusion of this contract will be assessed include: timeliness/quality of submission and responsiveness to UNICEF and counterpart feedback.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

UNICEF shall hold all property rights, such as copyright, patents and registered trademarks, on matter directly related to, or derived from, the work carried out through this contract with UNICEF.