

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

Title	Funding Code	Type of engagement	Duty Station:
Individual Contract to Support Mapping of Life Cycle Social Protection Schemes in China	WBS: 0860/A0/06/604/002/020 Funding Source: SC180084	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultant	Remote

Purpose of Activity/Assignment:

The main objective of this mapping exercise is to provide an objective overview of social protection system in China, both contributory and non-contributory schemes, primarily at national and provincial levels. This is a joint activity by UNICEF and ILO undertaken under UN People & Prosperity Result Group employment and decent work priority.

Scope of Work:

The mapping exercise should follow a rights-based approach and life-cycle approach, covering all age groups. ILO Recommendation 202 (2012) on Social Protection Floors (SPF) and ILO Convention 102 (Social Security Minimum Standards) would be used as the conceptual framework to identify the type of benefit any identified social protection scheme/programme is providing, according to the nine classical branches of a national social security scheme and the four guarantees defined in the SPF Recommendation 202 (access to health care, income security for children, income security for the working age group, income security for the elderly).

The SPF objectives can serve as benchmarks against which all social protection provisions can be assessed.

The first guarantee, namely access to health care, aims at a situation where all residents have access to a nationally defined set of goods and services that constitutes essential health care, including maternity care, which meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality.

The second guarantee, namely income security for children, aims at a situation where all children enjoy basic income security, at least at a nationally defined minimum level, providing access to nutrition, education, care, and any other necessary goods and services.

The third guarantee, namely income security for the working age group, aims at a situation where all residents in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income enjoy basic income security, in particular, in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability.

The fourth guarantee, namely income security for the elderly, aims at a situation where all residents in old age enjoy basic income security at least at a nationally defined minimum level.

According to the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), Member States should give consideration to the following (paragraph 8):

(a) persons in need of health care should not face hardship and an increased risk of poverty due to the financial consequences of accessing essential health care. Free prenatal and postnatal medical care for the most vulnerable should also be considered;

(b) basic income security should allow life in dignity. Nationally defined minimum levels of income may correspond to the monetary value of a set of necessary goods and services, national poverty lines, income thresholds for social assistance or other comparable thresholds established by national law or practice, and may take into account regional differences.

This mapping will lay the foundation to identify any potential coverage gaps and promote a technical dialogue with relevant authorities in China to guide future UN support to strengthen Chinese social protection system and contribute to the increase in effective coverage and benefits adequacy of the overall system in China, contributing to a harmonious system and shared prosperity.

Parameters to describe a social protection programme will follow, at least the following aspects:

- Name of the scheme
- Legal framework (law that defines the scope of the programme, implementation, etc)
- Specific regulations
- Responsible body
- Target group (elderly, active age worker, children, women, people with disability, etc.)
- Eligibility criteria
- Population covered until now (annual by national and provincial)
- Benefits provided by the programme (amount in Yuan per month)
- Source of Financing (workers contribution, employers' contribution, tax financed, etc.)
- Budget/expenditure (Annual, national, provincial)
- Geographical coverage (national, provincial, local ...)
- Adequacy (as % of the average wage on the location)
- Portability (application, reimbursement modality, etc)
- Registry and MIS

Child Safeguarding

Is this project/assignment considered as "[Elevated Risk Role](#)" from a child safeguarding perspective?

YES NO If YES, check all that apply:

Direct contact role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of direct interpersonal contact with children, or work in their immediately physical proximity, with limited supervision by a more senior member of personnel:

Child data role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of manipulating or transmitting personal-identifiable information of children (name, national ID, location data, photos):

More information is available in the [Child Safeguarding SharePoint](#) and [Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates](#)

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline
A draft mapping report in English and Chinese	The draft report should be composed of three parts: 1) an overview of social protection schemes in China in a life-cycle and rights-based approach; 2) social protection policies in implementation, including the scope, type, coverage, level of benefits, etc. as described above; and 3) identified gaps.	November 30 2024
Organize a validation workshop	Consult UNICEF and ILO to organize two validation workshops on social insurance and social assistance respectively to present mapping findings by inviting relevant line ministries and experts	December 31 2024
A final report in English and Chinese	The final report will incorporate inputs received at the validation workshop	January 28 2025