

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

Title		Duty Station:	
Quantitative researcher on social protection/cash transfers in Sudan		UNICEF Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, Florence (Italy)	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home Based <input type="checkbox"/> Office Based	
Start date:	End date:	Type of engagement	Estimated total working days: 83
14 October 2024	31 March 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Contractor Part-Time <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Contractor Full-Time	
Purpose of Activity/Assignment:			
The main purpose of the assignment is to support research activities for the assessment of quantitative impacts/outcomes of the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Plus (MCCT+) programme in Sudan as well as provide technical assistance on programme and post-distribution monitoring.			
Scope of Work:			
Background			
The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Sudan is implementing Maternal and Child Cash Transfers Plus for the first 1,000 days of Life (MCCT+). The MCCT+ is an integrated social protection programme that provides vulnerable pregnant women and lactating mothers with regular cash assistance together with skills and access to basic health, nutrition, and protection services. The programme first started in Red Sea and Kassala States with potential expansion to the following States: Blue Nile, White Nile, Al Jazirah or River Nile. UNICEF Innocenti is collaborating with the UNICEF Sudan on mixed-methods evidence generation on the MCCT+. This includes the analysis of the impacts of the MCCT+ and technical assistance on programme and post-distribution monitoring.			
Objectives of the consultancy			
The objective of this consultancy is to support the quantitative component of the above-mentioned research activities in Sudan, particularly activities related to the undertaking of the baseline data collection, report, and brief. The consultancy will support the finalization of study design, training of enumerators, supervision of initial data collection (if feasible), quality assurance of field data, data analysis of the quantitative data as well as contribute to drafting of reports and briefs.			
The present Terms of Reference covers work that needs to be completed to produce the baseline report and brief and strengthen programme and post-distribution monitoring.			
The preferred Econometric Software is STATA.			
Major areas of work and responsibility			
The areas of activities for the consultant are specified as follows:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the finalization of study design including research protocols and ethics, data collection tools, testing of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) design for consistency for baseline data collection. • Support the training of enumerators, supervision of initial data collection (if feasible), data quality checks, and cleaning of raw data. • Data analysis using difference-in-difference estimation techniques to assess the programme impacts on child-level, women, household, community indicators and Primary Health Centers Indicators as well as draft report and non-technical policy brief writing with findings. 			

- Support the dissemination of research findings through online and/or in-person validation workshops.
- Finalize the draft baseline report and policy brief by incorporating feedback from the validation workshop, feedback from research team at Innocenti, and two external peer-reviewers as part of quality assurance process.
- Technical assistance on the development of quantitative questionnaires for post-distribution monitoring and output assessment.
- Exploration of administrative and management information system data to determine possibilities of integration with MCCT+ data.
- The incumbent is expected to participate in planned and ad-hoc meetings related to this research activities.

Minimum Qualifications required: Bachelors Masters PhD Other

Enter Disciplines: Economics, Statistics, public/social policy, public health, or related field.

Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:

Essential skills:

- Master’s degree in economics, statistics, public/social policy, public health or related field.
- At least 3 years of professional experience in conducting quantitative research.
- Experience with impact evaluations methodologies including quasi-experimental research designs.
- Experience with panel data analysis using STATA.
- Experience with quantitative research fieldwork.
- Ability to organize own work and to carry out a research project with limited supervision according to deadlines.
- Ability to speak and write fluently in English.
- Availability to travel to Sudan for research purposes.

Desirable qualifications:

- PhD in Economics, Statistics, public/social policy, public health or related field.
- Experience and familiarity with social protection literature.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment and establish harmonious and effective working relationships both within and outside the organization.

Core Values

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability
- Sustainability

Competencies

- Builds and maintains partnerships
- Demonstrates self-awareness and ethical awareness
- Drive to achieve results for impact
- Innovates and embraces change
- Manages ambiguity and complexity
- Thinks and acts strategically
- Works collaboratively with other

Deliverable/Output:	Estimated n. working days (indicative)	Expected by:
<p>Baseline – Deliverable 1: <i>Support finalization of study design</i></p> <p>The following tasks are expected to be undertaken to achieve deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing in-house quantitative survey instruments to prepare the final instrument for the MCCT+. • Test for consistency and overall quality of the CAPI designed survey instrument. • Finalize enumerators and supervisor’s fieldwork manual in collaboration with data collection firm. • Support the finalization of research protocols and ethical clearance request. 		30 November 2024
<p>Baseline – Deliverable 2: <i>Support enumerators training and fieldwork activities</i></p> <p>The following tasks are expected to be undertaken to achieve deliverable 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the in-person training of fieldworkers. • Supervise the pilot testing of instruments and initial data collection (if feasible). • Perform data quality checks of raw data and support final data cleaning. • Mission travel to Sudan to support activities. 		31 January 2025
<p>Baseline – Deliverable 3: <i>Data analysis and draft baseline report</i></p> <p>The following tasks are expected to be undertaken to achieve deliverable 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate indicators for analysis. • Perform econometric analysis using appropriate technique. • Draft baseline report (about 20,000 – 25,000 words), inclusive of executive summary, introductions, results chapters, conclusions, and policy recommendations. 		31 March 2025

<p>Baseline – Deliverable 4: <i>Report finalization and draft policy brief</i></p> <p>The following tasks are expected to be undertaken to achieve deliverable 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and/or in-person validation workshop to present findings to key stakeholders. • Incorporate feedback from validation workshop into the final baseline report. • Incorporate feedback from research team at Innocenti and two external peer-reviewers. • Draft baseline policy brief (about 3,500 words). 		<p>30 June 2025</p>
<p>Deliverable 5: Quality assurance of PDM quantitative instruments</p>		<p>31 December 2024</p>
<p>Deliverable 6: Review administrative and MIS data to check for gaps and explore possibilities for integration with MCCT+ primary data for analysis.</p>		<p>30 March 2025</p>