**CONTENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS/INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS**

**Contractor for Youth Climate and Environmental Action**

**PS:** *Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures, and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.*

1. **BACKGROUND / RATIONALE**

Climate change is an ever-increasing presence in our daily lives, with human-induced global warming already having caused ‘multiple observed changes in the climate system’ since the relative benchmark of the pre-industrial period, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In the 2015 Paris climate agreement, participating countries of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) therefore agreed to implement interventions that will hold the rise in global average temperature to ‘well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.” However, according to the Carbon Brief, from 2020, emissions would have had to fall 15% a year to stay below the safeguard of the 1.5°C cap, which was seen as a safer ceiling to measure our efforts against.

India, according to GermanWatch, is the 7th most vulnerable to climate change globally. According to its index assessment, it lost nearly 37 billion dollars due to climate change in 2018 alone, which was nearly twice than what it lost between 1998-2017. Heat stress will ‘force India to lose 5.8% of its working hours by 2030…equivalent to slashing 34 million out of the 80 million full-time jobs worldwide…agriculture and construction sector in India will suffer the most.” Yale’s Environmental Performance Index ranked India at 177 out of 180 countries overall based on 4 performance indicators measured in 2018. This is indicative of the need for national sustainability efforts addressing various vulnerabilities, from poor drinking water supply (often affected by equally poor wastewater treatment) and air pollution mitigation to significant biodiversity and habitat damage and loss.

However, one of the long standing challenges is the ability to sway the mindset of today’s populations into appreciating the urgency of acting on the information provided above. Environmental action is still an issue that remains on the distant horizon, even though many scientists would agree that there is not much time left to mitigate its effects, and would need to start addressing these consequences in a concerted manner now. The most influential population would therefore be the younger generations who will have to become the behavioural models for the future.

Today there are ‘over 1.8 billion young people in the world, and 1.2 billion of them live in lower-middle income countries’.[[1]](#footnote-2) India currently has its largest ever adolescent and youth population[[2]](#footnote-3), and by 2022, its media age will be just 28 years[[3]](#footnote-4). They have the right to full access to not just adequate healthcare and quality education but also employment opportunities, participation in public life and social equity. All of these factors are being increasingly affected by the negative outcomes of climate change. It is therefore important to start improving India’s resilience against the worst aggravations now in order to provide the opportunities that its young population will be requiring to join the workforce and lend its collective voice for change.

UNICEF is committed to addressing these critical symptoms of climate change and inputs into building climate resilience to mitigate future challenges experienced by children everywhere. UNICEF’s global climate and environmental sustainability strategy3 is anchored around four pillars: 1) make children a focus of environmental strategies, 2) empower children as agents of change, 3) protect children from impacts, and 4) Reduce emissions and pollution[[4]](#footnote-5).

Given that the strategy is centred around children and youth, youth advocacy is planned to be a major component of UNICEF’s work going ahead, in part through collaboration with other UN agencies such as WHO, UN Environment Programme, UNDP, and others. Under the new global Strategic Plan (2022-2025), climate change and youth engagement are made major streams of work that have to be both streamlined across our customary programmes while also converging with one another. In 2021, a mapping exercise was conducted to better understand the landscape of stakeholders engaged in youth-inclusive climate action activities, and a strategy was developed for UNICEF India’s approach to the same based on it. Going forward, especially in the run-up to and commencement of UNICEF India’s new country programme, there is a need to implement the strategy and monitor the schedule of activities to assess impact, scalability, and lessons to be learned.

1. **PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT**

To support UNICEF India in implementing its strategy for scaling-up and sustaining youth engagement related to climate action at the national and state levels.

**3. OBJECTIVE/S**

UNICEF India aims to recruit a contractor who can provide the following support:

* Provide mentorship support to selected youth leaders, on leading climate and environment related projects
* Organize workshops, to connect youth with professionals in the environmental sector and each other, and provide them with resources to participate in national and global events
* Coordinate with Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) teams to help converge various youth engagement initiatives
* Support coordination of youth engagement on climate action across UN agencies e.g. UNICEF, UNEP, UNDP

**4. MAJOR TASKS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED**

* Develop ongoing communication and publicity products to highlight youth-led and youth-inclusive climate action opportunities and initiatives supported by UNICEF and its partners
* Collaborate with programmes to provide youth-inclusive recommendations for updating key and strategic government, UN and partner policies
* Organize 2nd annual green jobs series for youth to connect with professionals in environmental sectors
* Organize two peer-to-peer workshops encouraging climate action, on World Environment Day and Earth Day
* Collaborate with UNEP and UNDP to update package of resources for youth interested in climate action, including compendium of youth champions across India
* Work with ADAP, WASH and DRR to mentor a cohort of YuWaah young leaders during a 3-month fellowship aimed to build soft skills for taking climate action and engaging youth networks in local communities
* Provide technical assistance to updating key UNICEF strategies or guidelines to ensure that they are youth-inclusive and reflect youth voices and aspirations related to climate action
* Support youth engagement and attendance at COP27 in November 2022, which includes developing package of communication materials and arranging for national and international government engagements
* Support climate change and environmental sustainability (CCES) initiatives led by WASH, DRR, ADAP, Health and Education sections where youth engagement and skill is relevant
* Develop and finalize advocacy notes for key youth-inclusive CCES programmes led by WASH, Health and Education teams
* Support WASH field offices (supporting 15 states) in establishing CCES linked youth networks

**5. DELIVERABLES AND DEADLINES**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.**  | **Major Task**  | **Deliverable**  | **Specific delivery date/deadline for completion of deliverable (please mention as date/no. of days/month)**  | **Estimated travel required for completion of deliverable (please mention destination/ number of days)**  |
| **1** – 11 months |  As listed above | * Green jobs series
* Advocacy day workshops
* Updated guidelines and policies
* Establishing of youth networks
* COP27 support provided
* Communication and education materials developed
* Mentoring fellowship conducted, and feedback incorporated
 | Monthly report will be requested with progress updates against major tasks | Five trips, of five days each, in total |
| **0.5 months** | As above | * As above
* Final report
 | Monthly report will be requested with progress updates against major tasks |

**6. DUTY STATION**

The consultant will be working from home, with intermittent reporting to office as necessary, and will report to the CCES lead in the Delhi office.

**7. SUPERVISOR**

WASH Specialist at Delhi Office

**8. OFFICIAL TRAVEL INVOLVED (ITINERARY AND DURATION)**

Five trips will be provided for, for five days each, to any of UNICEF’s 15 state offices depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

**9. ESTIMATED DURATION OF CONTRACT (PART TIME / FULL TIME)**

This is a full time contract that will run approximately for 11.5 months. Initial contract will be issued up to Dec.2022 and extended for the remaining period depending on continuing need, funding availability and satisfactory performance.

**10. QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT (Please use as applicable)**

* Minimum education requirement of a bachelors/undergraduate degree in public health, engineering, social work, biological or chemical sciences, or public administration; masters is preferred
* In-depth expertise in climate change and youth engagement with demonstration of engagement for a minimum of 3 years is required
* Strong writing skills in English, in both technical and creative writing, is required
* Familiarity with issues affecting adolescents in India, and with key concepts and tenets promoting gender equality and equity preferred
* Existing experience in conducting qualitative landscaping analyses preferred
* background in a climate and environmental field of experience e.g. solid waste management, renewable energy, water conservation, etc. preferred
* Demonstrated fundamental analytical skills (e.g. ability to find correlations and pull out commonalities in priorities expressed by stakeholders) preferred
* Familiarity with the SDGs and the individual targets, especially those related to climate change and WASH preferred
* Existing and strong experience in working with UN agencies preferred

**Physical Labour and Accessibility**

* Majority of the work can be conducted remotely; however, there is a requirement for traveling to UNICEF supported states, up to five round trips
* UNICEF Delhi Office has a ramp to the first floor
* Candidate needs to be able to travel with laptop and relevant accessories on a daily basis

**11.     SELECTION PROCESS :**

**(A)** **QCBS (Technical Evaluation Criteria - with weights for each criteria)**

 **TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA (WITH WEIGHTS FOR EACH CRITERIA)**

**Applicants are requested to submit:**

* **Cover letter:** it needs to highlight the most relevant experience and share at least one detailed example of previous experience in developing educational material for targeted audiences, preferably for youth age brackets.
* **CV** reflecting relevant experience and including three professional references
* **The applicant is requested to submit ONE work sample developed in the last five (5) years** that is relevant to the climate and environment sector.

**Technical Score: 80/100**

* CV and cover letter demonstrate requisite experience and reflect minimum requirements (as listed in description) and whether they have preferred qualifications, as well (25/30 to qualify)
* Writing sample demonstrates strong understanding of English and clear communication skills (15/20 to qualify): This work **sample** has to be a word document, and clearly showcase the candidate’s contributions and efforts related to the area of climate and environment. If a link to an online publication is submitted, the candidate must ensure that the publication is visible to the public in full; otherwise, the candidate will be disqualified. Submitted files can be in word or pdf formats only. **Any detected plagiarism or falsification will immediately disqualify the candidate.**

Those who receive at least 40 points out of 50 on the above then are invited for an interview.

* Interview (25/30 to qualify)

**Financial Score: 20/100 points**

Those who score at least 65/80 points in the technical review and also score the minimum cut-offs in all sub-criteria will have their financial bids reviewed.

**12. PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

*Payment will be linked to deliverables as outlined in the deliverable table above.*

1. UNICEF Youth Advocate and Young Ambassador Guidelines, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. UNFPA: <http://india.unfpa.org/en/topics/young-people-12> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Asia times: <https://asiatimes.com/2019/04/india-17th-general-election-a-choice-between-demographic-dividend-and-democratic-disaster/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. More details on the four pillars found here: <https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)