**UNICEF Gulf Area Office**

**Terms of Reference**

**Consultancy support to UNICEF UAE Programme**

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| **Section** | **Content** |
| **Location and Duration** | Location: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  Duration: 11 months  Estimated Start Date: ASAP  Reporting to: Saji Thomas, Chief Child Protection |
| **Background** | UNICEF Gulf Area Office (GAO) supports the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and its line ministries and authorities to advance the rights of children under the framework of a Gulf Area Programme (2019-2023). Through this framework, UNICEF GAO signed AWPs with its partners in the UAE, the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC) and SCFO to work on key areas in collaboration with different authorities (both public and private) to implement programmes on ECD 1000 days, CP, Data, and CFCI.  With COVID19 pandemic that impacted children and adolescents worldwide, UNICEF expanded its programming engagement in the country, to include child protection related issues such as child protection online, mental health and psychososcial support, social work force strengthening and overall strengthening of child protection systems. The programme also seeks to support overall policy reforms and capacity in the area of early childhood development and data for children. Other key partners that UNICEF is currently engaged with include Ministry of Education, Ministry of Healh, Ministry of Interior, Department of Community Development among others.  On the other hand, since the recongnition of Sharjah as CFC in May 2018, UNICEF GAO has supported the Sharjah Child Friendly Office (SCFO) in the implementation of actions plans developed to meet the CFCI standards outlined in organizational guidance. These action plans were endorsed by the government of Sharjah which expressed the commitment to attaining the goals and results outlined in the action plan. This political commitment has translated into direct results for children and their families in the Emirate of Sharjah. The work in Sharjah is also reflected in the UNICEF GAO new Area Programme Document (APD 2019-2023) where one of strategic priorities include partnerships and leveraging commitment for children.  So, UNICEF is seeking a consultant to be based in the UAE to work with the programme team in Abu Dhabi in its work plans with key partners including sustaining and further developing strong working relationships with other key government counterparts. |
| **Objectives& Purpose** | The consultancy seeks to deepen and strengthen UNICEF’s contribution in the country towards realizing child rights and child protection. |
| **Description of the assignment** | Overall support in advancing UNICEF’s engagement in the following areas of work is envisaged.  *Early Childhood Development:* UNICEF is working on policy influencing and capacity building on ECD. In terms of ongoing work, we are working on online adaptation, strategy development and promotional campaign on ECD 1000 Days, compilation of a Training of Trainer (ToT) on ECD First 1000 days that covers several aspects including Growth and Nutrition, Early Childhood and Emotional Development, and Child Maltreatment  *Child Protection:*  The UAE became the first country in the region to join the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as a pathfinder country. UNICEF GAO provided technical support to an interministerial taskforce (convening the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of the Interior, and Ministry of Community Development) working to prepare a strategy for ending violence against children, an expected deliverable under the Global Partnership.  *Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:*  Following COVID, adolescent mental health has emerged to be an area of focus During this year, UNICEF produced an adolescent activity Kit on Mental Health with tools and resources that adolescents can access directly. The next step is to work on platform for facilitating online engagement linked to social media platforms and support the launch of the kit with a focus in limited number of schools and widespread social media presence. The ongoing work also included: developing screening tools, referral mechanisms, and ethical standards for school personnel, resources on drug addiction and smoking and holding a 2 ToTs for school persnonnel on the developed materials.  *CFCI: Coordination of the CFCI work in Sharjah*  In order to advance the implementation of the CFCI Action Plan, the Emirate of Sharjah has decided to update and contextualize current CFS standards (Arabic and English) to match existing assessment processes within Sharjah educational authorities and include standards related to health and nutrition. The purpose of Child-Friendly schools and nurseries initiative is to move schools and education systems progressively towards quality standards, addressing all elements that influence the well-being and rights of the child as a learner and the main beneficiary of teaching.  The workplan signed includes also the development of an implementation and sustainability plan for the CFCI and Urban standards, development of a framework and set of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of child friendly cities globally, and organizing a Regional Conference on Child-Friendly Cities in coordination with key ministries and partners. |
| **Deliverables/Key Tasks** | The consultant would support the programme team to ensure the following:   1. Assist in the finalization of the Multi-sectoral action plan on Ending Violence against Children and initiate processes for rolling out the same. 2. Support the development of a national framework for child protection, with clear directions on the role and responsibilities all key stakeholders. 3. Support the development of the ECD 1000 materials, the strategy to promote the online resources, and the execution of the first phase of the promotional campaign. in consulation with the Ministry of Health. 4. Support the development of a roadmap, screening tools, and referral mechanism for schools to deal with mental health. 5. Support the development of resources and tools on Mental health, smoking and drug addiction for the school community, and the TOTs on the developed tools. 6. Support the development of key communication package aimed at school children, teachers, service provders and parents. 7. Support the development of national plans and strategies on social and behavioural change. 8. Coordinate meetings and discussion with relevant stakeholders to track the implementation of AWP with SBFO on CFCI which includes: Updating the current CFS standards, development of an implementation and sustainability plan for the CFCI and Urban standards, the Regional Conference on Child-Friendly Cities, and the development of a framework and set of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of child friendly cities globally. 9. Support in the organization of relevant webinars and events of national and international nature advancing child rights |
| **Deliverables** | * - Support is provided in compilation of a Training of Trainer (ToT) on ECD First 1000 days that covers several aspects including Growth and Nutrition, Early Childhood and Emotional Development, and Child Maltreatment. * - Support is provided in the finalization of a plan of action on ending violence against children, an expected deliverable under the Global Partnership on EVAC. * - Support is provided in the development of a platform for facilitating online engagement on the developed adolescents activity toolkit on MH that’s linked to social media platforms * - Support the launch of the adolescents activity toolkit on MH kit with a focus in limited number of schools and widespread social media presence. * - Support the development of screening tools, referral mechanisms, and ethical standards for school personnel, resources on drug addiction and smoking, and the facilitation of two ToTs for school persnonnel on the developed materials. * - |
| **Reporting Requirements** | * Monthly progress reports to UNICEF on achievements and deliverables of the programmes mentioned above. |
| **Qualification requirements** | * Education: A minimum of a master’s degree in Social Sciences, social work, or another relevant field.   + Experience: Demonstrable at least 10 years’ experience in child rights, child protection and adolescent development.   + Experience with the government sector as well as UN agencies   + Perviuos experiences and exposure to the Arab/Gulf region context * Skills: Demonstrable expertise in communication and presentation skills and ability to interact professionally with government officials. Ability to work within an international and multicultural environment. * Language: Fluent in Arabic and English (written and spoken). |
| * + **Payment Schedule** | * + Upon completion and acceptance of deliverables as specified |