**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**INIDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT**

**UNICEF CHINA**

**Subject / Title:** Senior Consultant – Social Policy for Children

**Expected start date**: 24 June, 2019

**Duration:** 4 months, 80 working days

**Supervisor:** Deputy Representative, UNICEF China

**1. Background / Context**

China has led the world in poverty reduction, but rapid growth has been accompanied by inequities in wealth and well-being. Twenty-five per cent of children live in remote, mountainous and economically underdeveloped regions. These areas are characterized by high poverty incidence, in the western and central provinces. Urbanisation hides deep pockets of poverty from view. The most disadvantaged children face multiple and overlapping deprivations. They are disproportionately young (aged 0-4 years), belong to ethnic minorities, live with disabilities and may not live with parents. Structural drivers of inequity, notably China’s household registration system and uneven public investment, underpin limited access to education, health and other services for disadvantaged groups. As a result, large numbers of children have development outcomes comparable with children growing up in low income countries.

UNICEF’s social policy programme aims to influence policy to adopt a child-rights based approach by bringing new knowledge and evidence into policy-making processes, along with a global dimension on what works in social policy for children. It works with government and academic partners to build evidence of practical ways to put the most disadvantaged children first in policy and budgets. Specific goals include improved measures to track child poverty; improved understanding of social sector budgets and providing evidence for increased investment in services that benefit children; and promoting effective and equitable finance for and governance of essential public services across all sectors.

UNICEF China Office is now seeking a committed candidate to advise the office on the development of the social policy agenda in China.

**2. Objective**

Under the guidance of the Deputy Representative, the incumbent will advise the social policy team on implementing the current two-year work plan agreed with the Government and engage in strategic planning and formulation of the new country programme document (CPD) (2021-2025).

This encompasses working closely with relevant government and other key partners, as well as linkages and support to teams working on education, health, child protection, M&E and Communication.

##### 3. Major Tasks, Deliverables & Timeframe

* Guidance and strategic advice
* Advise on priorities and targets, and support in monitoring work progress to ensure results are achieved with quality according to the Rolling Work Plan
* Support in the establishment of clear objectives and goals, timely direction and guidance, and support to enable the team members to perform their duties responsibly, effectively and efficiently

##### Strategic planning and formulation of the new CPD

* Advise on priority setting within the team, and guide the team on inter-sectoral and government consultations to endorse future direction of the social policy work in the next programme cycle
* Advise on social policy engagement with the different CPD development milestones – including consolidating and distilling information and strategies.
* Interact, negotiate and advocate programme goals and strategies on behalf of UNICEF’s social policy team with senior government officials and other key partners

##### Technical advice and guidance

* Advise on the roadmap of child poverty alleviation strategies, policies and programmes, especially for the national post -2020 poverty reduction agenda
* Advise on social protection policies, legislation and programmes with attention to strengthening the integrated system of social protection to enhance the impacts on children
* Advise on Public Finance for Children (PF4C) activities especially ways to integrate sectoral evidence generated within UNICEF with domestic financing space
* Provide technical guidance to integrate multi-dimensional poverty results into upcoming five-year-plan and the national plan of action for children in China
* Advise on the use and dissemination of social policy commissioned research to inform overall policy advocacy

**4. Methodology**

The consultancy is office-based, with occasional travel within the country for project assurance purposes.

**5. Timeframe**

The consultancy will begin 24 of June, 2019 and end on 24 of Sept, 2019.

**6. Supervision / support**

The consultant is expected to work independently, but closely with the Social Policy team, other programme teams, Communication section and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation section. The consultant will be reporting to the Deputy Representative.

**7. Consultancy Requirements**

Required Qualifications:

* An advanced university degree in Development Studies, Social Policy, Social Sciences, Sociology, Economics or other relevant technical field
* A minimum of 10 years of professional experience in programme planning, management and/or research in poverty, social protection, financing at the international level
* Experience and understanding from working in a UN system agency or organization is considered an asset
* Work experiences with governments in developing countries, particularly in higher middle-income countries would be an asset
* A demonstrable level of experience in strategic planning and team leadership
* Strong leadership and coordination skills in a complex multi-organizational setting
* Strong advocacy and partnership engagement skills
* Fluency in English, knowledge of other UN languages, particularly Mandarin is an asset,
* A Drive for results, setting high standards for the quality of work
* Interpersonal and motivational skills; capacity to build team spirit and bring diverse teams to deliver on shared results
* Compelling communication skills, fluently and confidently gathering and expressing and writing opinions and information
* Sensitivity to cultural nuances