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Consultancy – Child Sensitive Social Protection

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfil their potential.

Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone.

And we never give up.

For every child, a better future

UNICEF Thailand Country Office works to ensure the rights of all children in Thailand. This means the rights of every child living in this country, irrespective of their nationality, gender, religion or ethnicity, to:

- **survival** – to basic healthcare, peace and security;
- **development** – to a good education, a loving home and adequate nutrition;
- **protection** – from abuse, neglect, trafficking, child labour and other forms of exploitation; and
- **participation** – to express opinions, be listened to and take part in making any decisions that affect them

How can you make a difference?

UNICEF Thailand Country Office (TCO) is seeking an individual consultant to provide technical support and coordination of the UNICEF supported program portfolio related to equity monitoring of key national social policies for children. In particular, these include support to UNICEF Thailand's Social Protection programme with a focus on strengthening the implementation of child-sensitive social protection schemes (Child Support Grant and Disability Grant) and as well capacity building of government officials. It focuses on activities under the workplans with Department of Children and Youth and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to ensure that all children and advantage children have access to social protection schemes. Moreover, the consultant is expected to maintain day-to-day communication to those organizations and relevant partners.

Background:

Country programme (2017-2021)

The overall goal of the UNICEF country programme 2017-2021 is to contribute to national efforts to enable all children and adolescents in Thailand, especially the most disadvantaged, to have their rights progressively fulfilled and develop to their full potential in an inclusive and protective society respectful of their voice. As such, the country programme contributes to the Government's vision enshrined in the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) and the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF).

Social Protection is a key area of this country programme and it aims to provide a more equity-focused approach to ensure that all children aged 0-6 years benefit from child-sensitive social protection policies.

a. Child Sensitive Social Protection Programme in UNICEF TCO

Child-sensitive social protection addresses the age-specific and multidimensional vulnerabilities that children face – which differ from those of adults and have more serious consequences – while also factoring in the broader vulnerabilities of their caretakers and communities. Child-sensitive social protection systems mitigate the effects of poverty on families, strengthen them in their child care role, and enhance access to basic services for the poorest and most marginalized.

UNICEF and partners have worked heavily on the policy advocacy for the expansion of the Child Support Grant to children under six since 2018. It is expected that the new proposal on the CSG will be adopted by the Cabinet at the beginning of 2019. The next step is to ensure that the new policy will be translated into actions effectively and efficiently. ***UNICEF and partners have agreed to focus its effort to strengthen the monitoring and implementation of the Child Support Grant to ensure that no child is left behind from basic social protection.*** Thus, UNICEF has planned to provide technical support and coordinate with partners regarding the Child Support Grant in the following areas:

- **Effective monitoring of the CSG implementation:** To ensure that the revised monitoring framework is used for regular reporting to management and the National Child and Youth Committee and the rules and regulations are revised based on the recommendations.
- **Effective program communication.** To ensure that relevant officials and beneficiaries have clear understanding on the rules and regulations of the CSG as well as have access to the update information and are able to communicate this clearly to the potential beneficiaries. This can be carried out through the development of communication strategy, capacity building of staff and identification of proper communication instruments to targeted population.
- **Strengthened program linkages to other social services.** To ensure that the CSG beneficiaries have access to social services. Through the policy discussion on the CSG policy, identification of specific services as well as pilot in the selected provinces.
- **Ensuring that existing child sensitive cash transfers for specific vulnerable groups in Thailand have the maximum uptake ensured.** Schemes such as the Disability grant currently enjoy a very low uptake rate for various reasons. Thus, the work under this program portfolio aims to ensure that all barriers that prevent children from achieving their outcomes are addressed.

Besides, UNICEF and its partners have also expanded its focus to disadvantage children, specially, children with disabilities. ***This year, UNICEF and its partner started with evidence generation through the Assessment of policy and implementation of the Disability Grant in partnership with Thammasat University with technical support from two international experts in order to understand the current situation and laminations of this***

group of children. The preliminary results are expected to be shared and discussed in late 2019 which will lead to the revision of the policy to improve access to basic social protection for children with disabilities in 2020.

To link the above with the national reform agenda emerged in 2018, UNICEF and its partners have agreed to focus on ensuring that children with disabilities can stay with their families and receive sufficient supports from communities and eventually reduce number of the institutions in the future. In order to achieve this result, it was agreed that in 2019, ***the assessment of social services for children with disabilities will be conducted*** which will serve as a foundation for policy discussion in 2020.

Moreover, in the past few years, UNICEF has increased its visibility on social protection in Thailand and as a result there are increasing demands from the Government for technical support which led to the newly-established partnerships with the Permanent Secretary Office, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance. The two partnerships will help inform future decision of the Government for consolidation and greater cohesion, effectiveness and efficiency of Thailand's social protection schemes. The key activities under the two partnerships include (i) Diagnostic Review on Social Protection, (ii) In-service Capacity Building on Social Protection under the ASEAN Training Centre initiative, and (iii) Evaluation of Social Welfare Card.

b. Key partners

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) is the key partner and UNICEF works in close collaboration with the government at all levels from national to local level, to achieve results for children. UNICEF provides both technical and financial support to the RTG to achieve results agreed upon in the Government Work Plans. Different modalities can be used such as cash transferred to the government agencies, direct payment to vendors or third parties.

Regarding social protection, the consultant is expected to work closely with two government agencies which include:

Department of Children and Youth

Department of Children and Youth and UNICEF have been working together for years and the outcome of this strong partnership is the adoption of the Child Support Grant in 2015 and subsequently the expansion in 2016 which is currently covering children under three living in poor and near-poor family. This can be seen as a first milestone of a comprehensive and equitable social protection system for children in Thailand has been recognized as a showcase in providing basic income security for children and delegates from a number of countries have visited Thailand to learn more about this success.

The partnership in 2017 – 2018 focused on advocacy for the expansion of the Child Support Grant by using the evidence from the National Impact Evaluation and the Targeting Assessment. As a result of advocacy efforts from all partners, the Cabinet will make an important decision to expand the CSG to children under six. This policy shift immediately requires effective communication at all levels as well as the setting up of an appropriate monitoring system.

Thus, the workplan in 2019 will build on the strategic partnership between the two organizations to further strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the Child Support Grant as well as capacity building of staff to ensure that a large cohort of children have access to the Child Support Grant.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and UNICEF started its collaboration for the first time in 2017 aiming to ensure that all children with disabilities have accessed to the disability grant which is universal in nature. However, with the low coverage rate from the National Disability Survey (2012), DEPD and UNICEF had agreed to include this activity under the partnership in 2017-2018. However, this activity started in Q4 2018 since the preliminary results from the National Disability Survey 2017 was recently released in Q4 2018 with an interesting finding that only 42% of children with disabilities have received the grant. UNICEF has commissioned the Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasart University to lead the implementation of the study with close technical support from the two international experts.

Thus, 2019 workplan will build on strategic partnership between the two organizations to generate evidence and advocate for the effective implementation of the disability in order to ensure that children with disabilities are not excluded from the disability grant.

In addition, UNICEF is currently developing two partnership agreements with **the Permanent Secretary Office, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance** to work on the wider policies related to social protection. Those results include the Diagnostic Review of Social Protection System in Thailand, Capacity Building on Social Protection under ASEAN Centre Training Initiative and the Evaluation of Social Welfare Card scheme.

Work Assignment:

In support to the UNICEF Thailand Social Protection work plan, the consultant will mainly support on activities under the DCY workplan and the DEPD workplan. Key assignments include:

- Provide support and monitor activities under the workplan with DCY and DEPD (see detailed activities below).
- Ensure partnership, coordination and collaboration with partners implementing activities under the workplans with DCY and DEPD as well as develop new partnership agreements if any.
- Represent UNICEF and participate to workshops/meetings and conferences where relevant to social protection on the Child Support Grant and the Disability Grant.

In consultation and collaboration with the UNICEF and relevant partners, the consultant will be responsible for ensuring the following activities have been undertaken as scheduled.

Results/ activities	Expected deliverables	Estimated timeline
1. Completion of the documentation of the CSG policy and its interventions		
• The CSG Documentation and its intervention finalised	• Final report in Thai and in English	April 2019
• Discussion of the selected interventions and development of roadmap for implementation organized	• Materials of the workshop • Roadmap of the implementation	May 2019
• The selected interventions piloted and monitored	• Monitoring reports in place	June 2019 onwards

Results/ activities	Expected deliverables	Estimated timeline
2. Implementation of the CSG monitoring framework and systematic reporting, including capacity building of DCY officials and relevant committee members		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of training workshops on capacity building for monitoring cash transfers for children with a focus on the CSG organized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two training workshops 	August and December 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M&E taskforce is functional and operational, regular meetings organized and minutes in place with clear recommendations for the next step 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 meetings in 2019 Minutes with clear recommendations 	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised monitoring framework and agreed indicators are used for regular reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly reports submitted to the NCYC Annual report in place 	August and December 2019
3. Development of the communication strategy, maintenance of communication tools as well as capacity building of DCY's staff		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to public communication for the implementation of the CSG (CSG website/ communication materials) and well as capacity building of staff in this respect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to development of a TOR in Q2 	May 2019
4. Assessment of the pilot project on Health Checks for Children with Disabilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination on the assessment of the pilot project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to development of a TOR in Q2 At least two meetings with DEPD organized 	May – December 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of validation workshop on key findings, key recommendations and roadmap for the next phase of implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary findings in place Policy discussion organized 	December 2019
5. Assessment of existing social services for children with disabilities with recommendations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of the Steering Committee and regular meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 meetings organized 	June – July 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further qualitative analysis of the selected findings from the National Disability Survey conducted and the preliminary results presented to the DEPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics identified in Q2 Contribution to development of a TOR in Q2 Key findings discussed by Q4 	June – December 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment of existing social services for children with disabilities conducted and key recommendations in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to development of a TOR in Q2 Preliminary findings presented to the National Committee on Disability in Q1 2020 	June 2019 – March 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy discussion on the findings of the assessment of existing social services for children with disabilities organized and the roadmap for the implementation in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy discussion organized in Q1 2020 Final report in Thailand English in place in Q1 2020 	June 2019 – March 2020
6. Assessment of the implementation of the Disability Grant with a focus on children		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of the Steering Committee and regular meetings 	At least three meetings organized with minutes in pace	April – December 2019

Results/ activities	Expected deliverables	Estimated timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment of existing social services for children with disabilities conducted and key recommendations in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary results in place in Q3 Support provided in organization and facilitation of a policy discussion with stakeholders in Q4 Key findings and recommendations presented to the National Committee on Disabilities 	June 2019 – March 2020

End Product:

- Progress report at the end of every month: Progress reports should include reference to overall progress in implementation of UNICEF-supported activities vis-à-vis the plan, constraints and challenges, recommended actions by UNICEF to ensure achievement of desired results. Report will also highlight progress in networking with partners and expansion of alliances on the related issues.
- Field trip/ workshop/ meeting and UNICEF monitoring reports.

Estimated Duration of Contract: 11 months, starting in April 2019.

Official Travel: Travel within Thailand to support the implementation of Social Protection programme and to attend meetings.

Qualifications or Specialized Knowledge/Experience Required:

- An advanced university degree in one of the following fields is required: Economics, Public Policy, Social Sciences, International Relations, Political Science, or another relevant technical field;
- Proven professional experience on social protection or related fields with a minimum of two years;
- Knowledge and understanding of social protection in particular for vulnerable children;
- Experience working the Royal Thai Government is required;
- Fluency in English and Thai is required;
- Thai Nationality.

Interested candidates are requested to submit CV or P-11, full contact information of minimum 2 references, availability, and proposed monthly professional fee in THB by **28 March 2019**.

For every Child, you demonstrate...

UNICEF's core values of Commitment, Diversity and Integrity and core competencies in Communication, Working with People and Drive for Results.

View our competency framework at

http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/files/UNICEF_Competencies.pdf

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of the organization.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks, and will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles.