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| **Individual Consultant (National) for Lessons Learned Study** **on National Social Protection Response (Social Cash Transfers) to COVID-19** **Section in Charge in UNICEF**: SPCRM**How does the consultancy relate to work plan (MYWP):** **Outcome reference**: Improved policy environment, budgets and systems for all children, especially the most excluded, guided by improved knowledge and disaggregated data**Output reference**: Enhanced capacity and improved systems to implement inclusive and integrated social programmes and social protection**Key relevant activity:** 2.4 Evidence Generation on child-sensitive social protection particularly MCCT (engagement in the design and roll out of the M&E frameworks, tools and approaches, impact evaluation/complementary assessments) |
| 1. Context:

The role of social protection in reducing poverty, vulnerabilities and deprivations among children is crucial. Myanmar has in the last few years made significant efforts to introduce a human rights based approach to social protection. A National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP) was endorsed 2014, identifying eight Flagship Programmes along the life-cycle, suited to the poverty and vulnerability profile of the country. The NSPSP endorses the principles of universality (reinforcing social protection’s status as a human right), life-cycle and integrated approaches (maximizing linkages with other social services such as education and health). Out of the proposed eight flagship programmes, four are social cash transfers. Myanmar’s Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) also recognizes the opportunity to raise overall capacity of human capital and contribute to social development through expansion and strengthening of social protection programmes. In line with the vision of NSPSP and MSDP, the Social Protection Costed Sector Plan (2018-2023 covering 5 fiscal years) has been developed. It intends to operationally scale-up the commitments made in the NSPSP to deliver universal social protection for people of all ages through eight flagship programmes: the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (Cash allowance for pregnant women and children to age two), Child Allowance (cash allowance for children ages 3-15), School Feeding, Disability Grant (allowance for people with disabilities), Public Employment and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET), Social Pensions, Inclusive Self-Help Groups (ISHGs) and Integrated Social Protection Services. The Costed Sector Plan lays out an expansion pathway for the NSPSP during this time, which has been validated by relevant line departments and Development Partners. The Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme is the biggest flagship in terms coverage, focused on the first 1000 days. The MCCT programme has been rolled out in five areas covering more than 240,000 mothers and children. The Chin State MCCT was the first to be rolled out in June 2017, followed by Naga Autonomous Area and Rakhine State (January 2018). All three areas have high rates of poverty, vulnerabilities and child deprivations. For example: the proportion of children under-5 who are stunted is 41% and 38% respectively in Chin and Rakhine. Kayah and Kayin State MCCT was launched in October 2018. Moreover, MCCT is planned to be launched in Shan and Ayeyarwardy (most populous state/region in the country) in July 2020 with estimate of more than 300,000 women and children beneficiaries in these two areas. The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) plans to significantly expand the programme’s coverage to six additional States/Regions by 2022/23. If implemented as planned, this will be the largest social cash transfer in the country reaching almost 1.5 million women and children in the next five years (by 2022/23).1. Background of the assignment:

While the covid-19 disease has been spreading around the world uniformly, the direct and indirect impacts associated to the disease have differed quite significantly from country to country. With the society, families and children experiencing different kind of impacts, we should also expect a range of different policy and programmatic options to be considered in order to fine-tune the response to the country context.In Myanmar, we are currently witnessing indirect impacts of Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and preventive measures associated to the containment of covid-19 to be higher than the direct impacts – a scenario that can certainly change. While further analysis is required to understand the full implications of the crisis, we have observed how the NPIs/preventive measures have targeted the slow-down/limitation to the movement of people and goods, which had a negative impact on the economy and ultimately resulting on socio-economic impact on families and children. In this situation, investment in social protection can both improve the response and also reduce the cost of COVID-response. Risk adjusted social protection response can potentially build the resilience of the households by supporting the prevention of COVID-19 and mitigation of its social and economic impacts.The Government of Myanmar has recently announced a COVID-19 Emergency Relief Package (CERP) where a vertical expansion of the existing MCCT covering 240,000 beneficiaries and Social Pension covering 200,000 beneficiaries is proposed. This will provide an additional one-off/top up of MMK 30,000 ($20) in the month of June/July 2020 as a top-up to the regular MMK 45,000 provided on quarterly basis to the MCCT beneficiaries in Chin, Rakhine, Naga, Kayah and Kayin States. In addition to this, a one-off cash grant for pregnant women around the country (except MCCT implementing states/regions), a cash grants to IDPs and Persons with disabilities is being explored and further planned[[1]](#footnote-1). In order to continue the cash transfer payments, DSW has already introduced set of risk-adjusted procedures to be implemented in conjunction with strengthened programme communication and social and behavioural change communication.  |
| 1. Objectives of the consultancy:

The main objective of the consultancy is to conduct lessons learning study of the national social cash transfers particularly MCCT and Social Pension’s one-off payments managed by DSW/MSWRR. This is also in line with the recommendations from the recently conducted formative evaluation of the MCCT in Chin and Rakhine States suggesting to further strengthen M&E systems to generate timely feedback requiring adjustment in the design and implementation aspects of the cash transfer. The learning study will develop a knowledge products for UNICEF and DSW/MSWRR emphasizing: i) review on implementation process, feedback mechanism; ii) assess effectiveness of the additional cash in backdrop of COVID-19 challenges, also considering gender and age differential needs are considered in the additional support; iii) document best practices, iv) suggest operational and strategic lessons for shock-responsive social protection programming which will include adjustments and adaptations to the MCCT and will provide inputs for the proposed Child Allowance and Disability Grants.1. Scope of Work/Key Specific tasks:

The Consultant will be responsible for the following key specific tasks:* To review implementation process and feedback mechanism for the MCCT and Social Pension with view to gather feedback on effectiveness of the risk-adjusted procedures and provide further recommendations to strengthen the process
* To assess the effectiveness of additional top-up in terms of boosting the purchasing power of beneficiaries in critical time of the COVID-19 restrictions/measures.
* To extract and analyze the data (including admin and post-distribution monitoring data) and produce lessons learnt and to provide specific, practical and actionable recommendations for further improvement of the risk informed and flexible implementation.
* To generate a briefing paper on learning from national social protection (MCCT & Social Pension payment) in responding to the needs of vulnerable populations in backdrop of COVID-19.
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| 1. Approach:

The Consultant is expected to adopt the following approach:1. Prepare an inception report on the methodology of the learning study - covering tools, key questions/learning areas and process to support the Lessons Learned Study on National Social Protection Response (Social Cash Transfers) to COVID-19 in close consultation with UNICEF and DSW/MSWRR.
2. Conduct interviews (mainly telephonic interviews) with key informants/stakeholders/relevant government agencies/implementing partners of the MCCT;
3. Telephonic interviews with beneficiaries;
4. Carry out analysis of admin data to analyse the coverage of the MCCT beneficiaries
5. Analyse post distribution monitoring data (collected telephonically) and generate narrative section of PDM in the overall learning report
6. The consultant should ensure systematic collection/collation of Age and Sex Disaggregated data including data on cross-cutting issues including gender, persons with disability to monitor programmatic response.
7. Develop knowledge product/briefing note with key findings, learning and recommendations
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| 1. Justification:

This consultancy assignment is temporary and one-off study about Government responses (especially cash transfer programmes supported by DSW) to COVID-19 crisis. The consultant will provide the document as an evidence to promote efficiency and effectiveness of Shock Responsive Social Protection and Cash transfer programmes. 1. Geographic Area:

The consultancy assignment is based in Nay Pyi Taw and will require telephonic/zoom interaction with the key implementing agencies and partners. The consultant will have face to face meeting with Government department and agencies. The consultant is expected to be in Nay Pyi Taw for at least 30 working days with at least 3 trips to MCCT areas (Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Kayah) if situation allows for travelling and meeting with states/regions level Government departments and partners. For the field travels (elsewhere from Nay Pyi Taw), the actual expense will be reimbursed, and consultant should get prior approval from both DSW and UNICEF before travelling. If consultant is not from Nay Pyi Taw, he/she is expected to come and stay in Nay Pyi Taw for 30 working days with at least 4 round trips to Nay Pyi Taw.  |
| 1. Duration (including potential extension):

The consultancy will be 30 working days spread over 4 months. The consultancy is expected to start by 10th August 2020. The consultant will be required to use his or her own laptop.  |
| 1. Supervisor and Types of Supervision:

The consultant will work closely with Director-Social Protection Section of the DSW in NPT for day to day technical guidance. Social Policy Specialist (Social Protection) of UNICEF will provide overall oversight to the consultancy deliverables. The consultant will be provided access to key relevant documents, updated information on past, ongoing and planned work, relevant partners and key counterparts s/he is expected to collaborate with. |
| 1. Type of support provided by Social Protection Section of DSW and SPCRM team:
* Support with setting up of introductory meetings/consultations with the key stakeholders
* Review and feedback on draft documents mentioned in tasks/deliverables.
* Processing of the final report/documents for acceptance of the DG-DSW.
* Liaise with stakeholders and participants prior to the workshop (if applicable by that time) for any preparatory activity.
* Organize and facilitate logistical support for the meetings/workshops as needed.
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| 1. Description of the Tasks/Expected Outputs/Deliverables

Following are the main outputs expected from the Consultant in line with Section 3 (Scope of Work): |
| **Tasks/Expected Outputs** | **End Product/deliverables** | **Duration/****Deadline/ % of fee Payable** |
| 1. Inception report includes learning study approach and workplan
2. Preliminary findings report and validation with relevant stakeholders
3. Final report, PowerPoint presentation and a 4 pager briefing note/knowledge product which is approved by both DSW and UNICEF.
 | **Deliverable-1**Narrative report of learning includes sample, key areas of learning/key questions, semi-structure questionnaires and work plan for assignment. **Deliverable 2**Preliminary report of analysis after data collection/ interview with stakeholders, PDM data analysis and validate the information through stakeholder consultation process. **Deliverable 3**Final report of the learning study, the PPT and 4 pager briefing note for the (virtual) workshop to present the study outcome to all stakeholders (both in English and Myanmar language) | 31 Aug (30% of contractual amount) 30 Sep(30% of contractual amount)31 Oct(40% of contractual amount) |
| 1. Qualification and specialized knowledge/experience required for the assignment:

**Education:** Bachelor’s degree in Social sciences/Development study or any other relevant degree.  **Work Experience:** Three years of relevant professional work experience in data, analysis, monitoring, research and evaluations. Experience of Myanmar is essential.  **Language Proficiency:** Fluency in English and fluency in another UN language an asset. Fluency in Myanmar is highly desirable.**Additional desirable qualifications:** * Professional technical knowledge/expertise in Research activities; assessment, data collections, data analysis, reporting.
* Professional technical knowledge/expertise qualitative and quantitative data analysis.
* Professional technical knowledge/expertise in research study design, good interview skills, reporting and presentation.
* Experience in assessment, data collection, data analysis and reporting especially in capacity constraints environment/developing countries is highly desirable.
* Excellent communication skills under the challenging context.
* Ability to write clearly in plain and understandable English and Myanmar.
* Human Rights, Gender equality and diversity awareness is an asset.
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| 1. Other conditions:

The consultant will be required to use his or her own laptop. The consultancy assignment will be home based in Nay Pyi Taw and will need to attend DSW and UNICEF office for the physical meetings.  **Life and health insurance** UNICEF does not provide or arrange life or health insurance coverage for consultants and individual contractors, and consultants and individual contractors are not eligible to participate in the life or health insurance schemes available to United Nations staff members. Consultants and individual contractors are fully responsible for arranging, at their own expense, such life, health and other forms of insurance covering the period of their services as they consider appropriate. The responsibility of UNICEF is limited solely to the payment of compensation for service-incurred death, injury or illness as per the provisions detailed below.**Insurance for service-incurred death, injury or illness:**Consultants and individual contractors who are authorized to travel at UNICEF expense or who are required under their contract to perform services in a UNICEF or United Nations office shall be provided with insurance coverage, through a UNICEF-retained third-party insurance provider, covering death, injury and illness attributable to the performance of official UNICEF duties. Compensation in the event of service-incurred death, injury or illness shall be equivalent to amounts stipulated in the agreement between UNICEF and the insurance provider. **Payment:** Payments will be made based upon the satisfactory and timely presentation of deliverables (reports) approved accepted by the DG (DSW) and approved by Chief of SPCRM as outlined in section 9 at the completion of each stated deliverable. **Confidentiality:** The documents produced during the period of this consultancy will be treated as strictly confidential, and the rights of distribution and/ or publication will reside solely with UNICEF and DSW. The contract signed with the consultant will include the other general terms defined by UNICEF. |
| 1. Nature of Penalty Clause to be stipulated in the contract:

UNICEF Myanmar reserves the right not to pay the Contractor or withhold part of the payable amount if one or more requirements established for this assignment are not met satisfactorily or deadline set for the accomplishment of the tasks is missed. |

1. Exact details about these social protection measures will be provided later at the inception phase of the assignment. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)