**Background**

In Kazakhstan, young people aged 10-24 make up almost one-fifth of the population. With education, skills, and opportunities, these young people will help transform economies and countries. UNICEF encourages the participation of young people and children and involves them in identifying issues impacting them as well as finding solutions in various areas, such as school safety, quality of environment and climate change, youth policy, online safety emergency prepredness and other. To make Kazakhstan a world leader in promoting the youth agenda, UNICEF launched volunteering programmes in 2020 in the following areas:

- #PlasticFreeKazakhstan programme to promote positive environmental practices among children and to reduce the use of plastic;

- #Be Kind programme to prevent bullying in schools and to promote positive parenting; creating a safe environment and combating bullying and cyberbullying.

- Supporting adolescents during the COVID-19 outbreak through the online #ПайдасыБарКарантин campaign.

- #BeGreen volunteering programme aimed at eco-friendly lifestyle promotion and understanding the climate change phenomena and its impact of the environment and people.

- #Road safety volunteering programme to increase knowledge and develop safety on the road skills among school children.

In 2022-2023, volunteering programme scaled up to more regions of Kazakhstan and engaged more young people as UNICEF volunteers in the following areas:

- A mentoring programme called ‘Volunteering for Education’ to support children with homework, particularly children from rural areas, using a peer-to-peer approach.

- A programme to build students and adolescents’ capacities in digital literacy, cybersecurity, and peace and stability using a peer-to-peer approach (#QauipsizInternet).

- A programme to involve children and young volunteers with focus on girl’s engagement in emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction, and climate action (#BeSafe).

As part of the Programme of cooperation with the Government of Kazakhstan for 2021-2025, UNICEF Kazakhstan is committed to support promotion of youth participation and involvement by launching the new UNICEF volunteering and youth engagement programmes. Mobilizing young volunteers is an important strategy for UNICEF Kazakhstan to ensure that every child and adolescent is skilled, educated and resilient, and to empower meaningful participation and contribution to improving the wellbeing of children in their communities. UNICEF has systematically applied this as a core strategy to strengthen and support delivery of improved results for children across all thematic areas of the Country Program - health, education, and child protection. Moreover, under the Healthy Environment for Healthy Children programme, UNICEF plans on working with the young people and increasing their knowledge on the environmental issues the children are facing in Kazakhstan and ways to be engaged in the climate change and environment protection agenda and fulfillment of their rights for clean and safe environment.

The digital environment is becoming increasingly important in most aspects of children's lives as public functions, including education, health care, government services, and commerce, are increasingly reliant on digital technology. While Internet opens up new opportunities for the realization of children's rights, it also creates the risk of their violation or infringement: harmful materials, unacceptable behaviours and potentially dangerous contacts online and offline. By improving digital security, digital skills and knowledge, children are empowered to live and navigate in a new world, improving their online lifelong learning to meet new occupations and job market demands in the future. Through communication campaigns, community engagement and partnership with government stakeholders and business UNICEF aims to provide the necessary knowledge and awareness to children and parents/caregivers and contribute to building safe digital environment.

UNICEF Office in Kazakhstan is looking for a consultant to support running of the volunteering initiatives and rolling out of the child online safety advocacy and communication campaign in partnership with business sector.

Based on the previous successful experience of volunteering for education initiatives, many enthusiastic young people would like to provide their volunrary support to their peers in mastering knowledge and skills and catch up with the studies. In 2022-2023 school year, young volunteers in Kazakhstan gained essential #SkillsRightNow supporting their peers as mentors and helping students across 41 schools with their homework. Their efforts were reaching some of the most marginalized in rural areas. The emerging need in Kazakhstan is to map and understand the motivation of new voluneering initiatives including potential of the UNESCO clubs to volunteer for UNICEF, maintain communication and equip them with basic knowledge about volunteering, ethics and safeguarding principles, monitoring tools for scaling up of coaching and support practices in line with UNICEF’s practices and lessons learnt.