

## Summary

Title	Support for development of a national scheme on child poverty measurement for 2021-2030.
Purpose	The purpose of the assignment is to support for development of a <b>national scheme on Child poverty measurement</b> for 2021-2030, that will propose standards (domains, indicators, cutoffs) for MDCP measurement and methods for MDCP calculation as well as mechanisms for integration of MDCP into the national poverty reduction system as well as into the socio-economic development plan for the period 2021-2025.
Location	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Duration	1 <sup>st</sup> August – 30 <sup>th</sup> December, 2019 (actual duration of the work: 1 <sup>st</sup> August – 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019)
Start Date	August 2019
Reporting to	Chief, Social Policy and Governance Programme
WBS/PBA Expiry Date	Non-grant (GC); WBS: 5200/A0/05/882/001
Project and activity codes	Protection children's rights

## 1- Background

Viet Nam has achieved remarkable achievements in poverty reduction and continued to improve the poverty measurement in order to capture better poverty and vulnerabilities of its people, particular among children and improve the quality of their life. Viet Nam is one of the world champion in development of the multidimensional approach o child poverty. In 2006, MOLISA with technical support from UNICEF developed the multidimensional approach to children poverty (MDCP), in which a child is defined as poor if he/she is deprived at least two of eight basic needs, including nutrition, health care, education, housing, water and sanitation, protection and social protection. Since then MDCP has been integrated in the Viet Nam's Living Standards Survey (VHLLSS) to generate data for child poverty monitoring and analysis. Notably, results of the MDCP calculation and analysis has been referred extensively in many government reports and documents, the MDCP has not yet fully institutionalized as a national MDCP standard.

In 2015, the Government of Vietnam (GoV) issued the multi-dimensional poverty standards for the period of 2016-2020, marking a further step in transition of poverty measuring from the conventional income/monetary approach to the multi-dimensional approach. The current multidimensional approach to poverty (MDP) combines both income and non-monetary dimensions (housing, clean water and sanitation, education, health, information). It has been used for designing the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction (NTP-SPR) for the period of 2016-2020, and identifying poor households for targeting purposes of many national poverty reduction and social protection programs/ policies.

Between 2016 and 2018, MOLISA with technical support from UNICEF also conducted a study to review and revise the 2006 UNICEF MDCP methodology to reflect better child poverty and vulnerability in the new social economic development context, and in particular make it more

harmonized with the national MDP methodology. At the same time, MOLISA with UNICEF's support also conducted a rapid qualitative assessment on multiple deprivations of children as a part of the Mid Term Review process on NTP-SPR in selected provinces in order to identify gaps, limitations and challenges of existing targeted policies and programs to effectively address MDCP. GoV's MTR report indicated Prime Minister's instruction on the need to develop and standardize a national MDCP measurement methodology and institutionalize a national MDCP standard for VSDG child poverty monitoring as well as social planning with the aim of "leaving no child left behind".

In this context, MOLISA's National Office of Poverty Reduction (NPRO) requested UNICEF's technical support in drafting national scheme on MDCP measurement for 2021-2030 to be submitted for GoV's review by the end of 2019 and approved by June 2020, in line with the timeframe of the development of SEDP 2021-2025. This process will involve synthesizing legal and technical information related to MDCP, consolidating official comments from line Ministries and related agencies, and one national consultation to validate the measurement.

## 2- Justification for Requesting individual consultants

For development of a national scheme on MDCP, it requires to review most updated legislation and policies in different areas related to child poverty, assess MDCP methodology, including international practices and conduct a statistical analysis on MDCP options that will provide sound legal, technical and analytical basis and evidences for proposing a standard of MDCP measurement coupled with mechanisms for data collection and monitoring in the future. This consultancy requires national qualified technical experts with knowledge of cutting-edge multidimensional poverty, especially child poverty, profound understanding of UNICEF's organizational positioning on MDCP, analyzing large national survey datasets, experiences in leveraging consensus on child-focus indicators with Government as well as developing options for poverty measurement and standards. This requirement goes beyond the capacity and expertise of UNICEF staff and that of the Government counterparts. Therefore, consultancy support from national qualified experts is necessary for this assignment.

## 3- Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the assignment is to help with **development of a draft national scheme on Child poverty measurement for 2021-2030** that proposes standards for MDCP measurement (domains, indicators, cutoffs) and methods for MDCP calculations as well as mechanisms for integration of MDCP into the national poverty monitoring system. In the context of development of a new 5 year social economic development plan for the period of 2021-2025 and a 10 year social economic development strategy, a national MDCP scheme will contribute to setting targets on child poverty reduction overall times and to VSDG child poverty monitoring and reporting.

## 4- Methodology and technical approach

The assignment will have to use different methods and approaches, including

1. **Review** of key existing documents, in particular the existing MDCP research/studies to provide political, legal, theoretical and practical basis and rationales basis and rationales for measuring, standardizing and monitoring MDCP, and propose options with pros vs. cons analysis of MDCP standards and measurement as well as implementing mechanisms.  
Special attention should be paid to existing documents, including
  - (i) The Desk review of policies and legal documents related to child poverty (UNICEF/MOLISA, 2016).
  - (ii) The study reports on review MDCP methodology and institutionalization into the national poverty monitoring system ( UNICEF/MOLISA, 2018).
  - (iii) Prime Minister's Decision No. 1772 / QD-TTg on the NTP-SPR for the period 2016-2020
  - (iv) National Assembly Resolution No. 76/2014 / QH13 on promoting the implementation of sustainable poverty reduction targets by 2020
  - (v) Prime Minister's Decision No. 622 / QD-TTg on the National Action Program to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
2. **Statistical analysis** and calculation to illustrate the proposed MDCP methodology in terms of indicator and domain deprivations, MDCP headcount rate, MDCP depth and MDCP index, using Vietnam Living Standards Survey datasets of 2016 and 2018.
3. **Consultations** with various stakeholders including line ministries and central agencies (MOLISA, MOH, MOET, MARD, MOCST, MOC, MOCT, MOIC, GSO, CEMA etc.), provinces and NGOs to assess the relevance and appropriateness of the proposed MDCP measurement to the new social economic development contexts as well as the draft national MDCP scheme.

## 5- Scope of work, deliverables and timeframe

### Scope of work

1. Develop a work plan, outline of the national MDCP scheme, discuss with NPRO and UNICEF to agree on methods, including scope, tools and work plans.
2. Synthesize basic information into the format of draft national scheme on Child poverty measurement for 2021-2030, including international practices for drafting the national MDCP scheme, including political, legal, theoretical and practical basis and rationales for measuring and standardizing MDCP, proposed options with pros. vs. cons or implication analysis for MDCP measurement and implementing mechanisms.
3. Conduct statistical analysis on MDCP based on proposed MDCP measurement methods with 2016 and 2018 VHLSS data, in terms of dimensions, indicators, MDCP rate, depth of MDCP and MDCP index, disaggregated by region, urban / rural, ethnicity etc. and overlapping with other measurements.
4. Lead discussions in at technical meetings with relevant line ministries and incorporate official comments on:
  - a) Relevance of proposed MDCP methodology: indicators, dimensions, indicator cutoffs, domain cutoffs, thresholds and standards.
  - b) Results of statistical analysis illustrating MDCP situation in terms of e.g. deprivations of access to social services (poor and non-poor / near poor) etc.
  - c) Options for standardizing and institutionalizing MDCP and a roadmap to better address MDCP in poverty reduction monitoring systems, role and responsibilities of different stakeholders.

5. Develop a draft national Child Poverty Measurement scheme and present the results at a national conference
6. Revise the draft scheme incorporating comments/inputs and prepare the final draft version

### Expected Deliverables and Time frame

Tasks	Deliverables	Time Frame (no of days) Tentative Dates
1. Develop a work plan and outline of the scheme	Agreed work plan, outline of a national MDCP in consultation with NPRO and UNICEF	01 working day, the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of Aug, 2019.
2. Synthesize basic information on legal basis, MDCP methods of measurement and mechanisms	Synthesis report available	04 working days, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of August, 2019
3. Statistical analysis of proposed MDCP, using 2016 and 2018 VHLSS	Data tables of reflecting MDCP with short analysis	10 working days, 4 <sup>th</sup> week of August - Mid of Sep. 2019
4. Lead technical discussions with relevant stakeholders	Consultation tools and consultation report	10 working days, the 1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> weeks of Oct, 2019
5. Develop a draft scheme and present at a national workshop	A draft scheme available Presentations at the national workshop	10 working days, the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Oct – 1 <sup>st</sup> week of Nov, 2019
6. Finalize the draft scheme	A final draft available	03 working days, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Nov, 2019

Duration: The timeframe for this consultancy is between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

### **4. Qualifications and experience required:**

An individual national consultant should have the following qualifications (that is able to deploy a statistical analysts to support)

- Master Degree in public (social) policy, development studies, economics, statistics and other relevant fields.
- Over 10 years of experience in undertaking cutting-edge policy-level research on poverty, particular multidimensional approach to poverty with focus on children, and providing advisory support in policy dialogues with decision-makers in the Government.
- Profound knowledge of UNICEF's organizational positioning on multidimensional child poverty, and experience in applying the concepts in policy dialogues.
- Capacity to use VHLSS datasets for statistical analysis on poverty and child poverty preferable
- Knowledge of Viet Nam's socio-economic development context, poverty reduction, SDGs framework would be an asset.
- Excellent team work skills, good listening skills as well as written and communication skills.

### **5. Payment schedule**

The payment will be arranged in two installment linked to satisfactory Deliverables

- The first payment which is equivalent to 30% of the contract's total amount upon to the quality of the desk review and statistical analysis endorsed by UNICEF Viet Nam
- The second payment which is equivalent to 70% of the contract's total amount upon to quality of the final draft scheme

## 6. Reporting

The consultant will be working under the supervision of Chief of the Social Policy and Governance Program (SPG) to clear the quality and technical soundness of all products prior to the endorsement by the national partners, including MOLISA. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the social policy team, delegated staff and officials at relevant ministries as required.

The individual consultant will work extensively with UNICEF, MOLISA, UN agencies and other stakeholders in order to maximize their technical expertise and available information sources. It is also essential that the national consultant collaborates with the national technical team under the National Poverty Reduction Office of MOLISA as well as MOLISA's drafting team of a new scheme.

## 7. Performance indicator for evaluation

Indicators for completion and satisfaction measurement will be based on UNICEF Viet Nam own evaluation and judgement, and not that of the Consultant. This means that deliverables will be deemed satisfactory only if said so by the Supervisor of the Consultancy. The Supervisor is required to provide timely and written feedback to the Consultant in order to avoid miscommunication.

## 8. Qualification/Specialized Knowledge and Experience

### Assessment criteria

*[A two-stage procedure shall be utilized in evaluating proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any price proposal being compared].*

*For evaluation and selection method, the Cumulative Analysis Method (weight combined score method) shall be used for this recruitment:*

#### *a) Technical Qualification (max. 100 points) weight 70 %*

- Master Degree in public (social) policy, development studies, economics, statistics and other relevant fields (20 points)
- Knowledge of cutting-edge policy-level research on poverty, poverty measurement and analysis, particular multidimensional approach to poverty with focus on children (30 points)
- Experience on advisory support in policy dialogues with decision-makers for policy changes/enforcement and coordination for poverty reduction programs (20 points)

#### *b) Financial Proposal (max. 100 points) weight 30 %*

The maximum number of points shall be allotted to the lowest Financial Proposal that is opened /evaluated and compared among those technical qualified candidates who have attained a minimum 70 points score in the technical evaluation. Other Financial Proposals will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price.

The Contract shall be awarded to candidate obtaining the highest combined technical and financial scores, subject to the satisfactory result of the verification interview if needed.]

### Submission of applications

Interested candidates are kindly requested to apply and upload the following documents to the assigned requisition in UNICEF Vacancies: <http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/>

- a. Letter of interest and confirmation of availability;
- b. Technical proposal which clearly explains the outline on how to deliver the tasks and deliverables (preferably less than 3 pages);
- c. Performance evaluation reports or references of similar consultancy assignments (if available)
- d. Financial proposal: All-inclusive lump-sum cost including consultancy fee, travel and accommodation cost for this assignment as per work assignment.
- e. CV/P11 form ([\*UN Personal History Form\*](#))

## 9. General Conditions: Procedures and Logistics

The following general conditions shall apply. The consultant shall (please edit as applicable)

- Work station: freelance
- Applicable DSA
- Official travel within and out of the country, if any
- Specify if office will provide with a laptop, computer and office supplies
- If authorized to have access to UNICEF transport
- Be paid on a monthly basis. Consultants are not entitled to any payments during days off and sick leave.

## 10. Policy both parties should be aware of:

- Under the consultancy agreements, a month is defined as 22 working days, and fees are prorated accordingly. Consultants are not paid for weekends or public holidays.
- Consultants are not entitled to payment of overtime. All remuneration must be within the contract agreement.