

# United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Vientiane, Lao PDR

## International Individual Consultancy: Climate, Water and MRC Summit Consultant, UNICEF Vientiane, Lao PDR

### Terms of Reference

#### 1. Introduction

The Mekong River supports the livelihood of approximately 70 million people across 6 countries – Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The unprecedented challenge now, is the declining health of the river and river basin impacting the income and quality of nutrition for the families and children and the destruction caused by floods and drought. To address this situation the Basin Development Strategy Vision for 2040 has been launched– An Economically Prosperous, Socially Just, Environmentally Sound and Climate Resilient Mekong River Basin. While the strategy has a particular focus on vulnerable populations, it is missing attention to children.

The climate crisis is a child rights crises and actions taken to address it, must include attention to the needs of children. Under UNICEF’s framework of climate change, environmental sustainability is a key thrust to ensure that children’s rights are appropriately considered and protected. The aim of this initiative is to influence the sub-regional policy articulated in the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Strategic Plan 20212025 to include attention to issues of child health, nutrition and protection in its policy directives, to ensure that actions taken at a sub-regional level put children at the heart of climate action in improving the health of the river.

In April 2023, the MRC will be hosting a sub-regional meeting with the Heads of State from: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Preceding which there will be a conference on key topics, leading to the outcome document at the Heads of State event.

This initiative will leverage this opportunity to influence the policy dialogue by supporting a seminar engaging environmental experts and child rights experts to generate a set of recommendations for policy consideration. It will also support the discussions amongst children and young people to get involved in climate change adaption and recommend solutions for the river basin, as the children are the future of the Basin.

#### 2. Purpose of the Consultancy

Under the supervision of the Representative and Chief of WASH in close collaboration with the communication section, the consultant will be accountable for supporting UNICEF LCO to influence the sub-regional policy to promote action on child rights within the climate change agenda, across at least four countries, through the summit. The consultant will also be responsible for drafting the outcomes of the summit, with respect to the articulation of environmental sustainability within UNICEF’s framework of climate change, thus influencing other regions of the world.

### 3. Work Assignment

The core activities of the consultant shall include the following:

- Facilitate the identification and participation of an internationally renowned expert in the summit.
- Work closely with the regional office climate advisor on the technical contributions to the summit
- Support the creation of a platform for adolescents and young people to raise issues on child rights and climate change.
- Engage with the other COs to encourage their participation in the summit.
- Develop a summit outcome note that will articulate the actions for environmental sustainability of the river basin with reference to child rights

### 4. Expected Deliverables

- International expert delivers remarks at the summit
- Youth participation for the summit
- UNICEF visibility and recognition at the summit
- Coordination with the 4 UNICEF COs towards the outcomes  Outcome note on environmental sustainability and child

### 5. Qualifications or Specialized Knowledge/Experience Required

#### Qualifications and Experience

- A Master's Degree in technical fields related to WASH, and climate
- Minimum 4 years of relevant experience at the national and international level in development.

#### Knowledge and Skills

- Proven experience supporting meetings and coordination.
- Previous experience working in the UN is an advantage.
- Previous experience working in Lao PDR is a strong advantage.
- Fluency in English is required; excellent written and verbal communications skills in English.

6. Location: In country- Vientiane.

7. Duration

February to May 2023 (4 months).

8. Payment Schedule linked to deliverables

- Deliverable 1: International Speaker identification, support and selection (20%)
- Deliverable 2: Plan for youth participation and engagement with UNICEF CO: Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia (25%)
- Deliverable 3: UNICEF participation and SM media visibility around the summit (25%)
- Deliverable 4: Outcome note on environmental sustainability and child rights (30%)

9. Administrative Issues

1. Consultant is responsible for his/her own health and travel insurance.

10. Contract supervisor

- The Consultant shall work under the direct supervision of the Representative and Chief of WASH.
- The consultant is expected to observe at all times the highest standard of professional ethics and integrity, promote a results-oriented approach in the area of his/her responsibility and accountability and report irregularities to his/her supervisor.

11. Nature of 'Penalty Clause' to be Stipulated in Contract

Unsatisfactory performance: In case of unsatisfactory performance the contract will be terminated by notification letter sent five (5) business days prior to the termination date in the case of contracts for a total period of less than two (2) months, and ten (10) business days prior to the termination date in the case of contracts for a longer period.

Performance indicators: Consultants' performance will be evaluated against the following criteria: timeliness, quality, and relevance/feasibility of recommendations for UNICEF Lao PDR.

12. Submission of applications

Interested candidates are kindly requested to apply and upload the following documents:

- Letter of Interest (cover letter)
- CV or Resume
- Performance evaluation reports or references of similar consultancy assignments (if available)
- Financial proposal: All-inclusive lump-sum cost including accommodation cost for this assignment as per work assignment with a breakdown by fee, living allowance and travel (the most direct and economical route) costs.

13. Assessment Criteria

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

a) Technical evaluation of the candidates' qualifications, experience and expertise (max. 100 points) weight 70%:

Qualifications (20 points)

- A Master's Degree in Environment, International Development, Climate, Social Sciences, Programme Management or related technical field with strong development experience

Experience and expertise (80 points)

- Minimum 4 years of relevant experience at the national and international level in development (20 points).
- Relevant regional or country experience (10 points).
- Proven experience in WASH and climate (15 points).
- Proven experience in coordination of meetings and high level participation (20 points).
- Previous experience working in the UN system is an advantage (5 points).
- Fluency in English is required; excellent written and verbal communications skills in English (10 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 applicants should provide medical insurance covering medical evacuation for the whole duration of the assignment -as part of the financial proposal submission.

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

14. Programme Area, Outputs and Specific Key Results Areas in the Annual Work Plan 2020/21:

Section Request:	WASH
Programme Area:	CPD Outcome: 5 WASH
IR:	Output 4: Natural Disaster and Climate Risk Mitigation

Included in approved AWP:  Yes  No