

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

Title		Type of engagement	Duty Station:
Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) Consultant		<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Contractor	Kingston

Background

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does — in programming, advocacy and operations. The equity strategy, emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, translates the commitment of children's rights into action. For UNICEF, equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favoritism. There is growing evidence that investing in the health, education and protection of a society's most disadvantaged citizens not only will give all children the opportunity to fulfil their potential but also will lead to sustained growth and stability of countries.

The 2021 State of Worlds' Children Report showed that in Jamaica an estimated 16.5% of adolescents live with a diagnosable mental disorder. This figure is higher than the global average. A UNICEF Study in 2020 documented the impact of lockdowns, restrictions of movements and school closures on Jamaica's adolescents who reported boredom, frustration, increased anxiety, clinginess and fear. Adolescents are often unable to access counselling support and community based mental health services, largely due to the limited capacity within the public health sector and age restrictions for access to services. Issues such as community and family violence are also contributing factors to mental ill-health among children and their caregivers. Additionally, these issues along with rampant stigma and discrimination, present formidable barriers to service uptake.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) is an institutional priority for UNICEF and its sister UN organizations. UNICEF Jamaica's Country Programme Document 2022-2026 highlights MHPSS as a key priority for children, adolescents and their caregivers over the programme cycle. Further, UNICEF Jamaica has been designated a champion country for MHPSS and it is a cross-cutting issue – having been embedded in the health, education, child protection and social policy programmes. UNICEF Jamaica is in the process of implementing its MHPSS Advocacy Plan which aims to generate support for the development of a **cross-sectoral national policy and action plan for improving mental health of children and adolescents, with a focus on early prevention and treatment in communities and public institutions.**

In addition to improving the policy environment, UNICEF's programme is also focused on building capacities in the health, education and protection sectors as well as expanding access to quality services. Another critical issue is addressing stigma and discrimination and ensuring meaningful adolescent engagement.

Purpose of Activity/Assignment:

UNICEF is looking to leverage existing MHPSS programming across sectors and to design national solutions in partnership with Governmental institutions as well as with young people and their caregivers. In light of the foregoing, an individual contractor is required to guide UNICEF's efforts in this area and provide quality technical support and across programme sectors.

Key Functions, Accountabilities & Tasks

1) *Goal and Objective:*

The overall objective of this consultancy is to support UNICEF to strengthen its work on MHPSS, contribute to the implementation of the advocacy strategy and provide technical guidance in order to scale-up integrated MHPSS programming across programme sectors and provide support to the Government to include MHPSS into relevant programmes and policies. Additionally, support to the development of in-service and pre-service training for key professionals to ensure expansion of capacity for child and adolescent mental health in country and coordinate with the other MHPSS focal points in the Caribbean region for the development of a Youth Network of Champions for Mental Health.

2) *Key Functions, Accountabilities and Tasks:*

The individual contractor will support UNICEF's work on MHPSS in the following areas:

Support to MHPSS programme development, planning and coordination

- Map and document UNICEF's MHPSS support across sectors in order to improve coordination and support for key programmes
- Identify good practices for replication and scale up with a focus on intersectoral approaches
- Propose relevant indicators for programme monitoring
- Support the establishment and/or strengthening of coordination mechanisms within and across government sectors to improve service delivery for children, adolescents and caregivers
- Provide quality representation to cross sectoral and inter-agency coordination platforms on MHPSS and broader programming

Provision of technical guidance for UNICEF's MHPSS programming

- Support the review, implementation and monitoring of UNICEF's Advocacy Plan
 - Lead on implementation of key activities
 - Collaborate with the Advocacy Focal Point and Health Specialist to review and refine the plan and ensure inclusion of key outputs in relevant programme workplans
 - Support the engagement of key UN, government and CSO partners as well as social influencers and young people to ensure robust participation in advocacy activities
- Provide technical guidance across sectors to support child, adolescent and caregiver mental health and wellbeing including, psychological first aid, trauma-informed care and other relevant interventions
- Plan and implement a 3-session learning series for UNICEF staff in the JCO to support internal capacity building for improved MHPSS programme planning and implementation

Knowledge management and resource mobilization

- Develop a funding/donor proposal at least 2 case studies related to MHPSS;
- Collaborate with the Communications Team to develop at least 2 communication products highlighting needs solutions related to MHPSS
- Collaborate with the Communications Team to develop at least 2 MHPSS related human-interest stories

3) **Work relationships:**

The individual contractor will work under the supervision of the Health Specialist. The individual contractor will also collaborate closely with the Education, Child Protection and Social Policy Specialists to provide technical guidance on the integration of MHPSS in these programmes. The consultant is also expected to interact with national, regional and parish level technocrats to provide guidance.

Consultant sourcing:

☒ National ☐ International ☐ Both

Consultant selection method:

☐ Competitive Selection (Roster)

☒ Competitive Selection (Advertisement/Desk Review/Interview)

Request for:

☒ New SSA

☐ Extension/ Amendment

Supervisor:

Health Specialist

Start Date:

9th of January

End Date:

20th of December

**Number of Days
(working)**

Work Assignment Overview

Tasks are not chronological and will require simultaneous management. The individual contractor will be required to produce monthly reports with updates describing their contribution to the achievement of key activities described in this ToRs or any other activities within the Health and Nutrition programme assigned to her/him. The consolidated report will be based on the outputs agreed with the supervisor monthly. Payment will be made upon the satisfactory submission of monthly reports.

Minimum Qualifications required:

☐ Bachelors ☒ Masters ☐ PhD ☐ Other

- Advanced degree in Psychology; Public Health or similar relevant discipline.
- At least 5 years of MHPSS programming.

Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:

- Good knowledge and understanding of the public health, education and social work systems, child safeguarding measures and established international standards on mental health and psychosocial support for children and adolescents.
- Strong coordination, organizational and facilitation skills.
- Demonstrated experience with multi-sectoral programme design, implementation and monitoring
- Comfortable to work independently while coordinating closely with different teams.
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills is essential.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, click on the Apply link found either at the beginning or at the end.

Candidates need to submit:

- 1) A cover letter including monthly fee requested for this consultancy.
- 2) CV that includes 4 relevant references.

In case of doubts please send your comments to Charlene Buckley cbuckley@unicef.org at least 3 working days before the deadline.