

Title	Funding Code	Type of engagement	Duty Station:
<p>Consultancy to pilot an assessment tool for benchmarking policy support for universal parenting</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultant</p>	<p>Mexico City</p>
<p><b>Purpose of Activity/Assignment:</b></p> <p>To support the federal government to scale up parenting programmes and interventions, by conducting a piloting of a parenting policy assessment tool, that can assess the current state of parenting support policies at national level and be adaptable to national contexts.</p> <p>The assessment will take place under the supervision of the Child Protection Officer and with regular support and input from the Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) consultancy team. The consultant will be guided in the assessment and with oversight by the UNICEF Country Office (CO) in relation to coordination with national actors, and by the PLH consultancy team providing support to familiarization with the framework, methodological development and national contextualization of the tool, technical support, and quality control of results.</p>			
<p><b>Scope of Work:</b></p> <p>Parenting programmes and interventions are a scalable and cost-effective way to support parents and caregivers and prevent abuse, neglect, and adversity in childhood. They contribute to good mental health and well-being for children and their caregivers and reduce risk-taking behaviors throughout the life course. Once initial start-up costs have been covered, the cost of delivering parenting interventions per family is roughly comparable to the cost of a routine childhood vaccination programme.</p> <p>Despite this strong, evidence-based investment case, a WHO survey has estimated that only around 25% of countries globally have established parenting programmes that reach all who need them. There is therefore growing momentum behind a global <a href="#">Call to Action</a> in support of a collective action framework that urges for increased investment in evidence-based parent support initiatives across the globe.</p> <p>In order to promote this Policy Call, a three-year programme has been initiated that aims to increase the number of Governments that commit to implement publicly funded parenting support interventions and services. To support this objective, a draft programmatic framework is in development. The programmatic framework will establish “benchmarks” and define a series of “checkpoints” that will permit the objective measurement of progress in policy implementation both within countries and allow comparison between countries. The policy standards aim to establish preconditions to universal parenting support within the country and will reflect core domains addressing issues of legal and policy framework, evidence-based content and delivery modalities, human and financial resources, coordination, and data collection, monitoring and evaluation.</p>			

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The programmatic framework has been developed by a consultancy team contracted by UNICEF New York through Parenting for Lifelong Health. The PLH consultancy team is responsible for supporting the piloting of the tool in five countries and developing a final assessment tool based on findings from the five countries.

Mexico is one of five countries selected for piloting this framework as 'trailblazer' countries (along with Serbia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, and Zambia). In order to do the framework piloting in Mexico, the proposed phases are:

- a) Conducting a desk review to identify available information on policy and programming across benchmarks.
- b) Identifying the key stakeholders at national and subnational level, to get a comprehensive key actors mapping and directory.
- c) Piloting the assessment tool: convening partners and stakeholders to review the assessment tool to ensure that there is a common understanding of how the benchmark definitions are applied within the country and agreeing on use of nationally appropriate definitions, whilst ensuring that they still align to global definitions. This will be carried out with online and in-person interviews, round tables and workshops with key stakeholders to build consensus on the overall assessment approach and review the benchmarks.
- d) Adaptation and refinement of the national assessment tool: through bi-directional processes of information gathering and devolution of findings with stakeholders, it is expected to obtain a final national benchmarking report.

Within this framework, the consultant will do the following tasks and others related to these:

Task 1: Participation in online familiarization with the national assessment tool.

The National Consultant and UNICEF staff will participate in an online 'training/familiarization' training session(s) in English, likely to be two sessions (one for introduction and one for follow-up clarification). The purpose will be to (i) train the national consultant on the framework and methodology for conducting the assessment (desk review, key informant interviews, stakeholder reflections); (ii) refine the framework and methodology through participatory exercise with the consultant and other participating stakeholders; and (iii) adapt the methodology and framework to the national context where necessary.

Deliverable 1: Finalized methodology and questionnaire adapted to the country context, both developed by PLH consultancy team.

Task 2: Rapid desk review

The consultant will conduct a desk review of national policy and programming documents relevant to universal parenting programmes, with the aim of identifying the national parenting context. This will include research on the national family context and parenting practices; current legal and policy context on issues relating to parenting from at a minimum the ECD, child protection, and health and nutrition sectors; resources available on current parenting interventions being implemented in Mexico; and data collection, monitoring and evaluation on issues related to parenting.

Deliverable 2: Key actors mapping and directory

Task 3: Benchmarking assessment

Following key steps:

- Conduct key informant interviews (KIIs) (online and in-person) with key national and sub-national actors using the questionnaire aligned to the assessment framework, that will identify data on laws, policies, systems and

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processes related to parenting, and will collect stakeholder perceptions on progress towards universal parenting in Mexico – *[to determine, but to include at least the following: national / federal ministries covering child protection, ECD, adolescent health, family status, and other national drivers of harsh parenting; sub-national government stakeholders covering the same contexts; civil society, media and private sector providers of parenting interventions; academics conducting research related to parenting]*

- PLH consultancy team will draft tools, but these will need to be adapted by the consultant, in line with national context. e.g., PLH can draft a semi-structured interview questionnaire for national policy makers, but this would need to be revised for the relevant sectors that the consultant will be meeting and to reflect the federal context. The main tool is the twelve benchmarks and checkpoints developed by PLH consultancy team, that will be used to source written documents and get feedback.
- Consolidate and analyze KII findings within the assessment framework.
- Compile a draft national report, including completed programmatic framework, assessment methodology, and summary of key findings and present to UNICEF and stakeholders for review.

Deliverable 3: Preliminary national report in English, including results of the desk review, completed programmatic framework, assessment methodology and summary of key findings.

Task 4: Participatory consultation on draft findings with key stakeholders

- Facilitate a series of consultative meetings (in-person and online) with key stakeholders [number, membership, process to be determined] to collectively review findings and reach consensus on benchmarks and checkpoints.
- Draft the final national benchmarking report including the completed assessment framework for review by UNICEF and national stakeholders and national recommendations / examples of good practices.
- Last round of refinement and a validation meeting with stakeholders (online).
- 1 travel each to Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez and Michoacán; meetings also in Mexico City.

Deliverable 4: Records of consultative meetings and validation meetings (in Spanish); Draft national benchmarking report in English.

Task 5: Final national report on Mexico parenting policy

The consultant will support UNICEF in an in-person validation / launch meeting with key national stakeholders, including presentation of assessment process and results. The consultant will then prepare and submit a final report to UNICEF incorporating feedback from the validation meeting.

Deliverable 5: Final national report in English and Spanish.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline
<b>Participation in online familiarization with the national assessment tool</b>	Finalized methodology and questionnaire adapted (Spanish, English)	1 month after signature
<b>Rapid desk review</b>	Key actors mapping and directory (Spanish)	2 months after signature
<b>Benchmarking assessment</b>	Preliminary national report, including results of the desk review, completed programmatic framework, assessment methodology and summary of key findings (English)	2 months after signature
<b>Participatory consultation (online and in-person) on draft findings with key stakeholders (Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, Michoacán and Mexico City)</b>	Record of consultative meetings and validation meetings (Spanish); Draft national benchmarking report (English)	4 months after signature
<b>Final national report on Mexico parenting policy</b>	Final national report (Spanish, English)	5 months after signature

<sup>1</sup> Costs indicated are estimated. Final rate shall follow the “best value for money” principle, i.e., achieving the desired outcome at the lowest possible fee. Consultants will be asked to stipulate all-inclusive fees, including lump sum travel and subsistence costs, as applicable.

Payment of professional fees will be based on submission of agreed deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant.

**Text to be added to all TORs:**

Individuals engaged under a consultancy will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants. Consultants are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

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The selected consultant is solely responsible to ensure that the visa (applicable) and health insurance required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected consultants are subject to confirmation of fully-vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the assignment. The vaccine mandate, does not apply to consultants who will work remotely and are not expected to work on or visit UNICEF premises, programme delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their consultancy contracts.

UNICEF offers [reasonable accommodation](#) for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.