

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Individual Consultant: Child Poverty Measurement and Social Policy Data and MIS (open to National Consultants only)

Duty Station: New Delhi

Contract Duration: 18.5 months.

Closing Date: 25 November 2024

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places a strong emphasis on ensuring children's well-being and holistic development (UNICEF, 2016; 2019). However, many children worldwide face significant barriers in realizing their full potential. Children are disproportionately affected by poverty, being twice as likely as adults to live in extreme or multidimensional poverty, despite comprising only a third of the global population (OPHI and UNDP, 2023; Salmeron-Gomez et al., 2023). The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of 2022 highlights that one in three children globally lives in poverty, with India having the highest number of multidimensionally poor children—97 million. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this situation, pushing an additional 150 million children into multidimensional poverty (Richardson et al., 2020). By 2023, an additional 30 million children were living in extreme poverty due to the pandemic's compounded effects, with over 52.2 million children in India currently in extreme poverty (UNICEF and World Bank, 2023).

Addressing child poverty, particularly in its multidimensional forms, is essential for sustainable development. The far-reaching impacts of child poverty go beyond immediate developmental challenges, affecting long-term societal progress. SDG 1 focuses on poverty eradication as a global priority, emphasizing the importance of addressing child-specific vulnerabilities through Target 1.2, which calls for measuring and reducing child deprivation. UNICEF's Strategic Plan for 2022–2025 prioritizes child poverty measurement, with a focus on formulating effective policies and encouraging public investment to drive progress toward the SDG targets.

India, home to over 450 million children (UNICEF, 2020; National Commission on Population, 2019), plays a crucial role in global child poverty statistics. Achieving SDG targets requires accurate data on child deprivation. India's commitment to the SDGs is evident through national efforts such as the SDG India Index and the launch of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). However, there remains a gap in the systematic measurement of child poverty, as most poverty measures focus on households rather than individual children. Institutionalizing child poverty measurement will be critical in addressing these gaps and supporting efforts to reduce child deprivation across the country.

UNICEF India's new country program aims to reduce child poverty at national, sub-national, and local levels, while acknowledging the long-term implications for human development. This assignment will contribute to these efforts by developing a robust methodology for measuring child-specific deprivation, providing insights into the intersections of social policy, climate change, and poverty, and informing policies aimed at alleviating child poverty in India.

2. OBJECTIVES

UNICEF India is committed to reducing child poverty in all its dimensions, aligned with SDG Targets 1.2. The consultant will play a key role in analyzing both monetary and multidimensional child poverty and its relationship with broader social policies and climate change impacts. The assignment will focus on developing a comprehensive framework for child poverty measurement, conducting detailed analysis using National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21 and forthcoming, Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23, and synthesizing findings into actionable policy recommendations.

The consultant will support the Social Policy and Social Protection Section (SPSP) by conducting a comparative analysis of child poverty trends in India, highlighting the intersections between child poverty, social protection measures, and climate vulnerabilities. This will involve analyzing shifts in consumption patterns, regional disparities, and socio-economic impacts on children. The analysis will not only focus on monetary and multidimensional poverty but also explore how climate change and disasters exacerbate child poverty and increase vulnerabilities.

In addition to data analysis, the consultant will develop a child-focused multidimensional deprivation framework, aligned with national poverty indicators, to inform public policy and social protection programs. This framework will provide a foundation for policy advocacy targeting government officials, development partners, and stakeholders, with the aim of implementing policies that address both child poverty and climate resilience.

The consultant will also provide technical support to strengthen social policy data systems, such as the Management Information Systems (MIS) and Civil Registry and Vital Statistics (CRVS), which are critical for monitoring child deprivation. Further, the consultant will be responsible for creating knowledge products, such as country briefs and policy reports, including on the success of CRVS systems in improving birth registration for hard-to-reach groups.

Additionally, the consultant will contribute to knowledge dissemination, organizing capacity-building workshops to promote data-driven decision-making and raise awareness of the link between child poverty and related factors. These efforts will ensure that policies are informed by evidence and effectively address the compounded risks faced by children in vulnerable communities.

3. MAJOR TASKS AND ACTIVITIES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED

Work Assignments Overview (Major Tasks and Activities)	Deliverables/Outputs	Timeline/Date for submission of Deliverable
1. Development of Child Poverty Framework and Methodology	a. Draft framework for measuring child-focused multidimensional poverty , aligned with national indicators.	31-Jan-2025

	b. Draft framework for a National Monetary Child Poverty Measurement Framework.	28-Feb-2025
2. Data Analysis and Visualization of Child Poverty Measurement	a. Data analysis outputs on multidimensional child poverty in India with trend analysis for 2005-06, 2015-16, 2019-21, and latest data.	31-Mar-2025
	b. Data analytical brief on monetary child poverty in India with trend analysis for 2011-12 and 2022-23.	30-Apr-2025
	c. Data Visualization on results with indexes, graphs, and tables at national and sub-national levels with disaggregation (gender, residence, age groups, etc.).	31-May-2025
3. Draft Report and Policy Brief on Child Poverty	a. National report on multidimensional child poverty .	30-Jun-2025
	b. National report on monetary child poverty .	31-Jul-2025
	c. Policy brief with key messages and recommendations for policy response.	31-Aug-2025
5. Technical Support to States on Child Poverty Analysis	a. Review reports of child poverty initiatives at state level – CG, TN.	30-Sep-2025
	b. Report on support for states on child poverty analysis.	31-Oct-2025
7. Socioeconomic Child Poverty Analysis	a. Paper on child poverty analysis with a deep dive on gender-based profiles	30-Nov-2026
	b. Paper on child poverty analysis with a deep dive on disability .	31-Dec-2026
8. Enhancing Birth Registration for Hard-to-Reach Groups	a. Research framework and analytical tools for the CRVS Lab.	31-Jan-2026
	b. Evidence-based reports and policy recommendations to address gender and tribal challenges.	28-Feb-2026
	c. Analytical brief on barriers to birth registration in informal urban areas and suggest strategies to enhance access for marginalized groups.	31-Mar-2026

9. Child Poverty and Climate Change/Disaster Analysis	a. Framework to analyze child poverty linked to climate change and disasters .	30-Apr-2026
	b. Reports on how climate disasters worsen child poverty, with policy recommendations.	31-May-2026
	c. Develop brief on targeted mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of climate disasters on vulnerable children.	31-May-2026
10. Support in Knowledge Product Development	a. Country brief on the global report on child poverty (monetary or multidimensional).	30 Jun-2026
	b. Knowledge product on CRVS success story.	30 Jun-2026

4. DUTY STATION

New Delhi

5. OFFICIAL TRAVEL INVOLVED (ITINERARY AND DURATION)

Five (5) air travel trips of 2 days each, total 10 days of travel.

6. ESTIMATED DURATION OF CONTRACT

18.5 months.

7. QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Qualification:

Masters in Demography, social sciences, public policy, social policy, economics, related fields.

Minimum 10 years of experience –

1. Experience in poverty measurement, data and methodologies.
2. Experience and knowledge of working in development sector in India, low- and middle-income country settings, and South Asia
3. Demonstrated expertise in child poverty measurement in the context of cross cutting domains of gender, disability, climate risk.
4. Strong communication skills including academic writing and data visualization.

8. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA (WITH WEIGHTS FOR EACH CRITERIA)

Technical and Financial ratio is 80:20 (technical proposal-80 points and financial proposal-20 points)

S. No.	Evaluation Criteria	Max. Marks	Min. Marks
1.	Relevant Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in social policy data systems – 20 marks.• Strong technical expertise in child poverty measurement – 30 marks.	50	64
2.	Writing Sample: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample of one published technical paper in peer reviewed publications and / or UN reports to be submitted with the application package – 30 marks	30	
	Total	80	64

Note: Qualifying score in technical evaluation is 64 out of 80 marks.

9. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of 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.

10. IMPORTANT NOTES

- Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract 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 and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors 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.
- The selected candidate is solely responsible to ensure that the health insurance (and visa if applicable) required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected candidates 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. It 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.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application to be submitted through the online portal and must contain three separate attachments, as follows:

1. A cover letter (max 2 pages) outlining understanding of the scope and activities, motivation to undertake it and demonstrating fit for the assignment **(to be uploaded online under “Cover Letter” tab)**
2. An updated CV demonstrating all requirements stated above **(to be uploaded online under “Resume” tab)**
3. Writing Sample - Sample of one published technical paper in peer reviewed publications and / or UN reports to be submitted with the application package - **(to be uploaded online against “Other – Applicant” tab).**
4. A financial proposal indicating all-inclusive amount (professional fee + travel cost as applicable) against each of the deliverable, as per the template attached. Please do not forget to specify your name in the file while saving **(to be uploaded online under “Financial Proposal” tab).**

Important Note: Please do not indicate financials anywhere else in the online application form, please mark "n/a or 00", under the fee related questions in the online application form.

Without all the above 04 documents, your application will be considered incomplete and invalid and will not be considered further.

- Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF’s selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.
- Joint applications of two or more individuals are not accepted.
- Please note, UNICEF does not charge any fee during any stage of the process.
- Women, trans, non-binary and gender diverse candidates meeting the requirements are strongly encouraged to apply.
- UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages qualified candidates from all backgrounds including persons living with disabilities to apply.
- General Terms and Conditions for the Consultancy Contract is attached, for your reference.

For any clarifications, please contact:

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