

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

Title	Funding Code	Type of engagement	Duty Station:
Individual Consultancy to produce updated multidimensional child poverty estimates for Sierra Leone	3900/A0/08/885/001/004	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Contractor Part-Time <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Contractor Full-Time	Remote work with one trip to Freetown

Purpose of Activity/Assignment:

The UN definition of Child Poverty is *“Children living in poverty are deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, access to basic health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, and while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is most threatening and harmful to children, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, to reach their full potential and to participate as full members of the society.”*

This definition stresses the multidimensional aspects of child wellbeing, and the potential far-reaching and long-term effects that childhood poverty can have on child development. As such, child poverty threatens not only the individual child, but is likely to be passed on to future generations and engraining inequity in society. This has a direct negative effect on the development of the country. UNICEF is working with the Government of Sierra Leone to further understand how and where children are experiencing poverty to allow a more nuanced set of policy responses under national mechanisms, most prominently the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 as well as sectoral policies.

Poverty levels in Sierra Leone are high, with 56% of the population falling below the national monetary poverty line. 13% of people live in extreme poverty. Furthermore 65% of the population live in multidimensional poverty as defined by the 2017 multidimensional poverty index (MPI). Recent figures of the global MPI indicate that Sierra Leone is the country with the fastest reduction in multidimensional poverty between the years 2010 and 2017. Despite this progress, poverty remains acute in the lives of households and children, and COVID-related restrictions are likely to lead to an increase in poverty as well as pushing households and communities even deeper into poverty.

The most recent data on multidimensional child poverty in Sierra Leone was released in 2018 by Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL), Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) and UNICEF. The child poverty study applied Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) methodology to the Sierra Leonean context using the 2017 MICS 6 dataset. The study concluded that 66% of children aged 0-17 in Sierra Leone experience multidimensional poverty, defined as being deprived in one or more nationally defined dimensions¹. This was a reduction from 77% of children affected by multidimensional poverty in the 2010 child poverty profile.

The 2018 child poverty report was very timely in line with the strengthened emphasis on reduction of child poverty in all its dimensions under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1.2: “By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.” With the adoption of the SDGs, countries are required to define multidimensional

¹ The dimensions measured were health, nutrition, water, sanitation, shelter, education and information.

child poverty in accordance with the national context and track its evolution over the next 15 years. The most recent child poverty report constructed such an indicator for Sierra Leone based on local conditions and norms which could serve as the SDG baseline for child multidimensional poverty.

An essential prerequisite for the institutionalisation of child poverty measurement and reporting within the government will be to further strengthen the capacity of government officials within both Stats SL, MoPED and others on the main methodologies in use for multidimensional child poverty measurements as well as measurement of child monetary poverty. This will be done in a hands-on participatory manner which will culminate in the production of a report on Multidimensional Child poverty in Sierra Leone using the 2019 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) dataset.

Previous analysis on child poverty has primarily focused on multidimensional poverty, while there has been less formal reporting of child monetary poverty. Recognizing the importance of analyzing both monetary and multidimensional poverty as well as the interconnectedness between the two, the current assignment will involve reporting on both forms of poverty.

The overall objectives of the assignment are:

- i) To generate updated measures on multidimensional and monetary child poverty in Sierra Leone in alignment with SDG indicator 1.2
- ii) To further strengthen national capacity in Sierra Leone to generate estimates on multidimensional and monetary child poverty

The assignment will strengthen the capacity of government officials from Stats SL, MoPED and others on methodologies for child poverty measurement, primarily multidimensional child poverty. This is one of the prerequisites for sustainable institutionalisation of child poverty measurement and reporting within government, which is a key step towards child poverty reduction. Building institutional capacity will enable the government of Sierra Leone to independently generate estimates to measure achievement of SDG goal 1.2. in the future.

The contracted consultant will work in close collaboration with government officials from Stats SL and MoPED to develop the report and formulate strategic policy recommendations. The cross-sectoral Technical Working Group on Child Poverty will be involved in making strategic decisions on the dimensions and indicator selection, validation of findings and recommendations, and for supporting dissemination of findings.

Scope of Work:

The release of the 2019 DHS data provides an opportunity to update current child multidimensional poverty estimates. The consultant will work with the national inter-agency Technical Working Group on Child Poverty to decide on the technical parameters and design of the multidimensional poverty analysis, including the appropriate indicators and dimensions.

The consultant will analyse the DHS data in close collaboration with Stats SL, MoPED and other members of the working group to come up with an updated estimate of the level of multidimensional poverty among children in Sierra Leone. Estimates should be disaggregated by gender, age group, districts and urban/rural location of residence. The analysis should furthermore discuss the main determinants of multidimensional poverty among children.

Although the dimensions and indicators may not fully match the previous child poverty analysis due to the differences in datasets and available indicators, as far as possible an analysis of trends should be included in the report. The multidimensional child poverty measure for Sierra Leone used the MODA methodology developed by UNICEF and University of Bristol. The updated analysis will therefore employ this methodology for continuity.

With a view to establishing the level of monetary child poverty, the 2018 Sierra Leone integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) data will be analysed.

Stats SL, MoPED and the technical working group will be expected to identify a core team who will be involved in undertaking the analysis in close collaboration with the consultant. This core team will be working with the consultant to analyse data as well as contribute to writing up the child poverty report. The recruited consultant will be responsible for quality assuring the analysis and will ensure that the report holds a high technical standard.

This consultancy will have the following deliverables:

- Facilitation of inception meeting with the Child Poverty Technical Working Group, including presentation materials for the meeting;
- Facilitation of a one-day workshop on MODA methodology for estimating multidimensional child poverty for members of the Technical Working Group for Child Poverty;
- A short inception report of no more than 30 pages outlining methodology and detailed work plan for the assignment. The inception report should include the design parameters of the analysis including indicators and dimensions;
- 'Child Poverty in Sierra Leone' report utilising 2019 DHS data to analyse multidimensional child poverty in accordance with the parameters agreed with the technical working group, including a chapter estimating child monetary poverty based on 2018 SLIHS data, along with an updated trend analysis (it is recognized that the indicators and dimensions may differ from previous report and thus may introduce some challenges to the trend analysis);
- Facilitation of validation meeting with the Child Poverty Technical Working Group and other national stakeholders, in Freetown or remotely depending on COVID situation;
- A 4-page brief on multidimensional and monetary child poverty in Sierra Leone based on the report findings, employing effective and engaging infographics to communicate the findings;

- A PowerPoint presentation outlining the main findings, to be used in dissemination workshops.
- A complete set of syntax files for the analysis

Products will be delivered in English. The consultant will ensure the documents are edited to publishable standard. Whereas government officials from Stats SL, MoPED and others should be fully capacitated to participate in the analysis of child poverty, the consultant will retain responsibility for overseeing and quality checking the analysis and for writing up the final report in collaboration with government officials. The contractual responsibility for high quality deliverables will remain with the contracted consultant.

Child Safeguarding

Is this project/assignment considered as “[Elevated Risk Role](#)” from a child safeguarding perspective?

YES NO If YES, check all that apply:

Direct contact role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of direct interpersonal contact with children, or work in their immediately physical proximity, with limited supervision by a more senior member of personnel:

Child data role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of manipulating or transmitting personal-identifiable information of children (name, national ID, location data, photos):

More information is available in the [Child Safeguarding SharePoint](#) and [Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates](#)

Budget Year: 2021	Requesting Section/Issuing Office: <i>Evidence, Policy and Social Protection (EPSP)</i>	Reasons why consultancy cannot be done by staff: <i>Consultancy requires analytical skills and STATA/SPSS skills that are not available in the section</i>
Included in Annual/Rolling Workplan: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, please justify:		
Consultant sourcing: <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Request for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New SSA – Individual Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Extension/ Amendment
Consultant selection method:		

<input type="checkbox"/> Competitive Selection (Roster)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive Selection (Advertisement/Desk Review/Interview)			
If Extension, Justification for extension:			
Supervisor: Mona Korsgard, Chief, EPSP	Start Date: 15 August 2021	End Date: 31 January 2022	Number of Days (working) 40 days
Work Assignment Overview			
Tasks/Milestone:	Deliverables/Outputs:	Timeline	Estimated Budget
Facilitation of inception meeting with the Child Poverty Technical Working Group	Presentation materials; inception meeting report.	Month 1	
Facilitation of a one-day workshop on MODA methodology for estimating multidimensional child poverty for members of the Technical Working Group for Child Poverty	Presentation materials; workshop report	Month 1	
Submission of inception report	A short inception report of no more than 30 pages outlining methodology and detailed work plan for the assignment. The inception report should include the design parameters of the analysis including indicators and dimensions	Month 1	15% of total amount
Producing a draft report in collaboration with government officials and Child Poverty Technical Working Group	Draft 'Child Poverty in Sierra Leone' report utilising 2019 DHS data to analyse multidimensional child poverty in accordance with the parameters agreed with the technical working group, including a chapter estimating child monetary poverty based on 2018 SLIHS data, along with an updated trend analysis.	Month 4	35% of total amount

Facilitation of validation meeting with the Child Poverty Technical Working Group and other national stakeholders	Presentation materials; short meeting report	Month 4	
Finalizing the report incorporating feedback from government, Child Poverty Technical Working Group and UNICEF	Final report on Child Poverty in Sierra Leone Updated PowerPoint presentation outlining the main findings Complete set of syntax files	Month 5	50% of total amount
Producing a 4-page brief on child poverty for use in communication and advocacy	A 4-page brief on multidimensional and monetary child poverty in Sierra Leone based on the report findings, employing effective and engaging infographics to communicate the findings	Month 5	

Estimated Consultancy fee			
Travel International (if applicable)			
Travel Local (please include travel plan)			
DSA (if applicable)			
Total estimated consultancy costs¹			
<p>Minimum Qualifications required:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Masters <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>Advanced university degree in Statistics, Social Sciences, Economics, Public Policy or other relevant areas.</p>	<p>Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 8 years' experience undertaking statistical poverty analyses using a range of analysis methodologies including MODA and MPI; • Experience in writing policy briefs or analytical reports on poverty, public finance and social sector; • Excellent knowledge of multidimensional child poverty measurements, economics, public finance and policy; • Demonstrated in-depth experience of leading capacity building on data analysis and poverty estimation; • Strong analytical and writing skills; • Excellent interpersonal, communication and facilitation skills; • Advanced computer literacy; • High proficiency in English; • Previous experience of working with government officials; experience of previous work in Africa an asset. 		
<p>Administrative details:</p> <p>Visa assistance required: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Transportation arranged by the office: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home Based <input type="checkbox"/> Office Based:</p> <p>If office based, seating arrangement identified: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>IT and Communication equipment required: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Internet access required: <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p>Request Authorised by Section Head</p> <p><i>Mona Korsgard, Chief EPSP</i></p>	<p>Request Verified by HR:</p>		

Approval of Chief of Operations (if Operations):

Approval of Deputy Representative (if Programme)

Representative (in case of single sourcing/or if not listed in Annual Workplan)

ⁱ 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 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.