

# UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND IN THE GAMBIA

## Terms of Reference for Individual Consultant

(International)

**Title:** Development of a Public Finance for Children Strategy, develop training materials and train government planning and budget officers on Public Finance for Children

<p><b>Program information</b> <b>UNICEF Gambia Programme of Cooperation 2017- 2021</b></p>
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Public Finance for Children aimed at influencing the mobilization, allocation, and utilization of domestic public financial resources for greater, more equitable and sustainable results for children, and ensuring that budgets are transparent and participatory to better reflect the needs of children. Such resources may include general revenues, on-budget official development assistance and private sector financing.</p> <p>Public Finance for Children in The Gambia is meant to support government’s effort to be smart, strategic from planning, mobilization, allocation, utilization and tracking public expenditure in social sectors that impact the lives of children. Most PF4C is centered on engaging the National Assembly Select Committee for Women, Children and Refugees to conduct mid and end line of social sector expenditure and social sector expenditure tracking. In addition, civil society and international partner organizations also support government in ensuring that budget process are program based and child friendly. However, there is the need to continue advancing PF4C including capacity building, policy dialogue, advocacy, budget analysis and citizen participation with more focus on child friendly budgeting.</p> <p><b>Context</b></p> <p>The Gambia government has committed to ensuring that every child attains his or her basic human rights including health care, education, protection from all forms of harm and adequate nutrition to be able thrive, grow and develop. However, according to Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, under 5 mortality rates stands at 57/1000 live births and infant mortality rate is at 41/1000 live births. While neonatal mortality rate is at 31/1000 live births. Notably, under 5 mortality rates is high among male children (64/1000 live birth) as compared to 50/1000 live births for female children.</p> <p>According to the same survey, 19.0 percent of children 0-59 months are stunting with high prevalence in rural area (22.0%) and 17.0 percent in urban areas. While 6.2 percent of children 0-59 months are wasting. For access to safe drinking water, 84.8 percent of households (MICS 2018) have access to basic drinking water sources, 33.8 percent (one third) of households are using safely managed drinking water sources. 90.4 percent of population using improved source of drinking water (MICS 2018). 1 percent of households practice Open Defecation (MICS 2018), while 30.9 percent (31%) of the household were found with a hand washing facility with water and soap which is still very low. This is a reduction from 36.2 percent Households having handwashing facilities in 2010 (MICS). Another 73.2 percent of households in The Gambia are at risk of faecal contamination of drinking water based on number of E. coli detected. Situation is worse for rural areas (92.1%) compared to urban areas (63.5%) Despite access to basic drinking water services, disparities still exist between urban 90.3 percent and</p>

rural 73.4 percent while Kuntaur has 65.9 percent of its population accessing basic drinking water services, the lowest compared to Banjul which is at 100 percent.

For education, 78.1 percent of children of primary school age are attending school. 23.8 percent of children age 36-59 months are attending early childhood education programs. Primary school completion rate is at 65.5 percent in 2018. There is a steep decline in completion rates from primary (65.5%) to lower secondary (45.8%) and upper secondary level (29.2%). 18.4 percent (MICS 2018), of primary school age children are out of school which is an improvement from 37.4 percent in MICS 2010 and 39 percent in MICS 2006. The situation is slightly worse for boys with 20.5 percent being out of school as compared to 16.4 percent girls. In rural areas 26.2 percent as compared to 13.9 percent in urban areas. Within the rural areas, the situation is worst in Kuntaur with 39.6 percent children out of school followed by 34.6 percent for Janjanbureh.

Protecting children from all forms of harm continue to be challenging as 89.2 percent of children aged 1 to 14 years have experienced some form of violent discipline. While Violent discipline of children seems to be more the rule than the exception in all sectors with minimal difference based on geographical areas, wealth of the parents, or sex of the child. There seems to be a discrepancy between 89.2 percent of children victims of violent discipline and the fact that only 24.8 percent of the respondents believe physical punishment to be necessary. 24.7 percent of children between 15 and 17 years (24.3 percent boys and 25.0 percent girls) are involve in economic activities.

### **Value for Money- public finance for children**

Investing in children means that children before even before birth to young adulthood grow and develop in an environment that meets their health, nutritional and developmental needs to ensure long term economic growth and poverty reduction. However, failure to invest in children means that poor children will usually grow up to raise poor children of their own. When children start life with all the disadvantages of poor health, inadequate nutrition and low education, there are fewer opportunities for such children to move out of poverty. On the contrary, investing in children especially in early childhood offers opportunities that influence the intellectual, physical, and emotional development of the child. The nutrition children receive in their early months and years determine to a large extent their cognitive skills and educational performance. Additionally, investing in children by government is fulfilment of international obligations towards the guaranty, protection, and respect of child rights as enshrined in the UNCRC and other international human rights instruments. The basic rights of children include rights to good health, nutrition, education, and adequate standard of living.

### **Purpose of the Consultancy**

The primary purpose of the consultancy is to develop a comprehensive public finance for children strategy, develop training materials and train government planning and budget officers on child responsive budgeting

### **Objective of the Assignment**

- ❖ Develop a country office wide Public Finance for Children Strategy by liaising with Social Policy, Deputy Representative, Programme Sections (e.g. Education, Health, Child Protection, etc.), and external stakeholders (10 days)
  - Evaluate existing PF4C capabilities in country office

- Develop internal UNICEF guidance mechanisms for improved tracking and monitoring of finances linked to improving the lives of children (improved budget execution)
- Develop internal UNICEF guidance on stakeholder engagement
  - how to liaise with line ministries
  - how to liaise with National Assembly
  - how to liaise with CSOs and other non-state actors
- ❖ Develop a comprehensive child responsive budgeting manual/for both planning and budget officers (17 days)
  - Evaluation current planning and budget formulation process for child responsive budgeting (needs assessment),
  - Develop a baseline assessment on child responsive budgeting for improved planning and budget formulation
  - Develop child responsive budgeting framework: (planning and budget formulation), budget execution, and monitoring and evaluation
- ❖ Conduct training of government planning and budget officers using the developed materials (3 days)

### **Methodology**

The consultant is expected to apply diverse methods including literature review, consultations with key stakeholders (Government and UNICEF) as well as use evidence and best practices available in country, subregion and elsewhere. Considering COVID-19 restrictions, consultant can use virtual interview where face to face is not possible. The methodology used will make ethical considerations including data protection, informed consent, confidential matters, questions adapted to different ages, knowledge of interview techniques and mechanisms for sharing information included in the consultancy.

### **Schedule of Task**

The following are the key tasks and deliverables for the consultant.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Duty station</b>	<b>Anticipated timelines and number of days</b>
Develop a country office wide public finance for children strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception report of desktop review</li> <li>• PF4C strategy</li> </ul>	Remote and  In country visit	10 working days
Development of training materials and conduct training for government planning and budget officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training materials and train government planning and budget officers</li> </ul>	In country visit and remote work	20 working days

### **Estimated duration of the contract**

The consultant will be engaged under short-term individual contract, for an estimated period of 30 working days from March 2022. The Consultancy fees will be negotiated based on value for money and in line with UNICEF standards and terms of payment are stipulated below.

<b>Payment schedule</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> payment 50%	Public finance for children strategy
2 <sup>nd</sup> payment 50%	Development of training materials and train government planning and budget officers on PF4C

UNICEF reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs is incomplete, does not meet the quality standards of both UNICEF and the Government of The Gambia, not delivered or has failed to meet deadlines.

UNICEF does not provide or arrange health insurance coverage for the consultant.

**Supervision and Reporting Arrangements**

The consultant will be supervised and report to the UNICEF Programme Officer (Social Protection Officer) with briefing and de-briefing to the Deputy Representative about the progress of the consultancy. The consultant will work remotely if need be with relevant UNICEF and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (Directorate of Development Planning and Directorate of Budget), National Social Protection Secretariat, and National Assembly, as well as other intervention stakeholders.

As part of quality assurance mechanism and ensure ownership, a reference group comprising of Government and UNICEF will be established to provide oversight to the assignment and provide comments to the deliverables.

**Qualifications & Experience required**

The consultant must have extensive professional experience in public finance including child friendly approaches to promote the participation and inclusion of children into national budget development and monitor expenditures of social sectors.

- ❖ The consultant must have at least 10 years of professional experience of public finance management, sector budgeting (e.g. Education, Health, etc.) and Value for Money
- ❖ The consultant must have experience in conducting training using appropriate methods that makes the training sessions participatory and interactive
- ❖ The consultant must have communication skills to deliver the training in the most appropriate manner
- ❖ The consultant must have experience and qualification (a minimum of a masters' degree) on public finance for children and child friendly approaches towards budgeting and advocacy

**Intellectual property rights**

UNICEF retain the right to patent and intellectual rights, as well as copyright and other similar intellectual property rights to the survey protocols and tools, discoveries, inventions, production or works arising from the consultancy. Neither the Consultant/consultancy firm nor its personnel shall communicate to any other person or entity any confidential information made known to it by UNICEF during the performance of its obligations under the terms of this Agreement nor shall it use this information for private or company advantage. This provision shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement. The right to

reproduce or use materials shall be transferred with a written approval of UNICEF based on the consideration of each separate case.

### **How to apply**

UNICEF accepts applications from *individual*/contractors. The Selection Committee will review applications and make a final decision of a successful application based the quality of the Technical Proposal about 4 – 6 pages (70%) and the Financial Proposal (30%).

All applications should contain the following documents:

I. Technical Project Proposal, which would include at least:

- Statement of how to address the objectives
- Conceptual framework of the methodologies to be used
- Consultant's profile/portfolio
- Proposed timeframes (days/weeks)
- Names and contact details of reference persons.
- List of reference of work completed in other countries (if applicable)
- Any other additional information to support the application (optional).
- Budget: Cost estimation of the consultancy with detail cost breakdown for different activities
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II. Financial Proposal:

- Detailed budget breakdown (in US Dollars).

Please send your application through the online platform accessible through this link: <http://jobs.unicef.org/>

For further details or request for documents contact **Ms. Maimuna Sowe** at [msove@unicef.org](mailto:msove@unicef.org)

### **Deadline for applications:**

### **Submitted, Review and Approval**

**process: Submitted by**

Name of Social Protection Officer: Ousainou Sarr      Date: *Ousainou Sarr*

Reviewed and cleared by Deputy Representative/OIC      *Maxime Germain*

**Approved by**

*Shahid Mahbub Awan*

.....  
**Shahid Mahbub Awan**  
**Representative OIC**

**Date.....**