**CONSULTANCY - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Open Source Mentor**

*Division: UNICEF Office of Innovation, Stockholm, Sweden*

*Duration: 11 months*

*Duty Station: Remote*

**Advertising summary**

UNICEF’s Office of Innovation is looking for a part-time technical adviser with experience working with Open-Source intellectual property to focus on supporting and advising Venture Fund portfolio companies and providing support in the assessment of new companies; aligning both the support and selection assessment with the alliance around digital public goods (DPGs).

**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](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/SitePages/Amendments-to-the-Recruitment-Guidance.aspx) and [Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/DocumentLibrary1/Child%20Safeguarding%20FAQs%20and%20Updates%20Dec%202020.pdf)

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UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfill their potential.

Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone.

And we never give up.

**For every child...innovate**

UNICEF has a 70-year history of innovating for children. We believe that new approaches, partnerships and technologies that support realizing children’s rights are critical to improving their lives.

The **Office of Innovation** is a creative, interactive, and agile team in UNICEF. We sit at a unique intersection, where an organization that works on huge global issues meets the start-up thinking, the technology, and the partners that turn this energy into scalable solutions.

UNICEF's Office of Innovation creates opportunities for the world's children by focusing on where new markets can meet their vital needs. We do this by:

* Connecting youth communities (or more broadly -- anyone disconnected or under-served) to decision-makers, and to each other, to deliver informed, relevant, and sustained programmes that build better, stronger futures for children.
* Provoking change for children through an entrepreneurial approach -- in a traditionally risk averse field -- to harness rapidly moving innovations and apply them to serve the needs of all children.
* Creating new models of partnership that leverage core business values across the public, private and academic sectors to deliver fast, and lasting results for children.

The Office of Innovation specifically looks to form **partnerships around frontier technologies** (like drones and UAVs, blockchain, 21st century skills, urban technologies, new banking tools, wearables and sensors, or 3D-Printing) that exist at the intersection of $100 billion business markets and 1 billion person needs – and to identify how they can grow and scale profitably and inclusively.

**Our team**
We're an interdisciplinary team around the world tasked with identifying, prototyping, and scaling new technologies and practices. With our partners, we focus on convening and collaborating on new and different solutions, low- and high-tech, by:

* **Looking** at the 2–5-year horizon to evaluate emerging and trending technologies and to see how UNICEF can work with the private sector on doing better business while improving essential services for children.
* **Investing** in early-stage solutions that show great potential to positively impact children in the 02-year future including the Venture Fund that invests in open-source technology solutions from start-ups based in UNICEF’s programme countries;
* **Identifying** proven solutions that can be implemented at national scale in multiple countries – taking the ideas that help thousands in one country, bringing them to dozens of countries across multiple sectors, and impacting the lives of millions of children.”

**How can you make a difference?**

The UNICEF Venture Fund has been specifically designed to finance early stage, open-source technology that can benefit children. The core motivation of the Venture Fund is to identify "clusters" or portfolios of initiatives around emerging technology - so that UNICEF can both shape markets and learn about and guide these technologies to benefit children. We invest in solutions that can impact the lives of the most vulnerable children. We find these solutions clustered around $100 billion industries in frontier technology spaces, such as: UAVs, virtual and augmented reality, artificial intelligence, nanosatellites, and human dynamics.

The Venture Fund is scaling its investment portfolio with the aim of investing in 20 start-ups every year. The current portfolio of companies consists of several cohorts of companies developing and piloting solutions in virtual and augmented reality, data science and artificial intelligence, blockchain, UAVs, IoT, and in assistive technology.

**Your main responsibilities will be:**

UNICEF’s Office of Innovation is looking for a part-time technical adviser with experience working with Open-Source intellectual property to focus on supporting and advising portfolio companies and providing support in the assessment of new companies, aligning both the support and selection assessment with the alliance around digital public goods (DPGs). DPGs are defined as Open-Source digital products can be freely used, distributed, and adapted by anyone, and conform to minimum standards, for instance related to privacy and security.

Main Responsibilities will be:

• **Technical Assistance:** Provide ongoing technical assistance and mentorship to Venture Fund portfolio companies; assist the teams in working through challenges, refer them to additional resources, ensure compliance and track progress with Venture Fund requirements on software and Open Source. Provide technical input into criteria and assessment processes for the Digital Public Goods Alliance.

• **Open-Source Training:** Develop, document, and implement a replicable programme to build, manage and leverage Open-Source communities and networks for portfolio companies, upstream communities, and other Communities of Practice (CoPs)

• **Metrics and Data Assessment:** Execute Open-Source strategy using real-time data from companies the UNICEF Venture Fund has invested in.

**Description of assignment and deliverables**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Month** |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
| **Objective/Deliverable** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1. Provide ongoing technical assistance and mentorship for Venture Fund portfolio companies** |
| **Activity**: Participate in helping to shape new calls for submissions, contributing open source expertise. Deliverable: Update notes in Venture Fund sourcing documents.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity**: Review company submissions at the expression of interest and request for proposal stage for Venture Fund calls for submission. Deliverable: Update notes in Venture Fund sourcing documents. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity**: Join technical calls with companies to assess open source aspects of proposals. Deliverable: Attend calls with shortlisted companies integrating open source into their proposal.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity**: Share feedback on finalist companies' workplans as the milestones relate to open source. Deliverable: Update notes in Venture Fund sourcing documents.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2. Provide ongoing open source technical assistance and mentorship for Venture Fund portfolio companies**  |
| **Activity**: Review company workplans, code repositories, product functionality and make strategic recommendations to guide ongoing technical assistance Deliverable: Update notes in cohort-specific folders, and Open-Source folder on Sharepoint.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity:** Conduct mentoring sessions with Venture Fund active investees monthly to track progress and provide guidance. Deliverable: Update notes and summary in each cohort mentorship tracker. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity:** Design and structure technical workshop for cohort workshops as relevant Deliverable: Host workshop; upload relevant documents in mentor's SharePoint folder. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity:** Advise on revisions needed to technical assessment survey sent to companies at beginning of investment period. Deliverable: Update recommendations in Open-Source folder on Sharepoint.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity:** Participate in final evaluation of Venture Fund investments at the conclusion of the investment period, verifying open-source milestones have been met in Graduation conversations with company. Deliverable: Share notes related to each company in relevant cohort folder; attend Graduation calls.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity:** Participate in Venture Fund + Mentor monthly roundtables to identify strategic avenues to support the companies Deliverable: Attend monthly meetings |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3. Develop, maintain and update Open Source toolkit to support ongoing technical assistance with companies** |
| **Activity:** Contribute new content and maintain existing content in the UNICEF Open Source Toolkit. Deliverable: Robust and updated Open Source toolkit that can be scaled across the Venture Fund.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4. Provide technical guidance to the Venture Fund team, as well as country.** |
| **Activity:** Based on existing platforms, projects, and future projects in the Venture Fund team, recommend strategies to streamline various technical procedures related to Open Source. Deliverable: Updates notes, and summary saved in the mentor's SharePoint folder.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity:** Provide technical support, as needed, to Country Office submissions where open-source input is needed. Deliverable: Updates notes, and summary saved in the mentor's SharePoint folder. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Payment Schedule: Invoicing # sessions\* monthly**  | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** | **Up to 12 sessions** |
|  All activities and deliverables to be calculated as part of the Open-Source Expert session. 1 session = 8 hours. Consultant must keep track of sessions per month and may invoice up to the maximum listed in the payment schedule above. The maximum # of sessions for invoicing is 132. |

**To qualify as an advocate for every child you will have…**

* University degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Engineering or in other relevant areas.
* Two years of experience in developing and piloting Open-Source technology products, ideally software, hardware, data, and content
* Experience with Open-Source community development and track record of engagement with relevant networks
* Demonstrated expertise in required technical areas, including software quality assurance, Open-Source license strategies (copyleft vs. permissive), documentation and community management
* Experience in delivering guidance, technical support and mentorship to individuals, teams, start-ups or other groups on complex challenges
* Experience in product management including relevant systems and tools and development of product roadmaps
* Experience with professional software engineering practices and best practices for the full software development life cycle
* Exposure to a variety of languages, frameworks, toolchains (e.g., JavaScript, Jest, Python, Django, Pytest, Go, Rust, Ruby on Rails, AWS, Google Cloud Platform, Azure, Ansible, etc.)
* Experience with agile software development methodologies like scrum, rapid prototyping, and evaluation of user feedback
* Strong written and verbal communication skills, excellent technical communication with peers and non-technical stakeholder
* Understanding of different contexts and experience working in developing countries desired
* Ability to synthesize technical information and translate it into accessible products and systems
* Knowledge of international development and key challenges affecting children in developing countries is desired
* Developing country work experience and/or familiarity with emergency is considered an asset.
* Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset.

**Travel:**

* The consultant is not expected to travel for this TOR.

**Payment details and further considerations**

* Monthly payment based on # mentorship sessions conducted related to the agreed deliverables. Approved upon monthly review with supervisor. The maximum number of sessions that can be invoiced is 132.
* Consultant is responsible for his/her own health and travel insurance
* Consultant is eligible for standard DSA for all work-related travel

**How to apply:**

* Interest applicant is required to submit a financial proposal with all-inclusive fee. Please see the financial proposal template.
* Financial proposal must include travel costs (economy class) and daily subsistence allowance, if travel is required as per TOR and any other estimated costs: visa, travel/health insurance
* **Applications without a financial proposal will not be considered.**

**For every Child, you demonstrate…**

UNICEF's values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability, and Sustainability ([CRITAS](https://uni.cf/UNICEFValues)).

To view our competency framework, please visit [here](https://www.unicef.org/careers/media/1041/file/UNICEF%27s_Competency_Framework.pdf).

UNICEF is here to serve the world’s most disadvantaged children and our global workforce must reflect the diversity of those children. The UNICEF family is committed to include everyone, irrespective of their race/ethnicity, age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, socio-economic background, or any other personal characteristic.

UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants/individual contractors 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.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles and will therefore undergo rigorous reference and background checks. Background checks will include the verification of academic credential(s) and employment history. Selected candidates may be required to provide additional information to conduct a background check.

**Remarks:**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.

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 visa (applicable) and health insurance 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.