

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

Title Quantitative researcher to support a mixed-method study on the costs of raising a child with disability in Tunisia [phase 1]		Duty Station: UNICEF -Innocenti, Florence (Italy) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home Based <input type="checkbox"/> Office Based
Start date: 1 November 2024	End date: 31 May 2025	Type of engagement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultant
Purpose of Activity/Assignment: The purpose of the consultancy is to support a mixed-method study on the costs of raising a child with disability in Tunisia.		
Background UNICEF's Global Office of Research and Foresight undertakes high quality research contributing to evidence-informed policy making by UNICEF and its partners. The Office is collaborating with UNICEF Tunisia on child sensitive social protection research that seeks to generate evidence on the disability benefits provided by the Tunisian government to vulnerable families with children with disabilities. A mixed-method study will therefore be conducted to investigate the additional costs associated with raising a child with disability in the Tunisian context in order to assess the adequacy of the disability benefits for children with disabilities and, more broadly, to inform the Tunisian social protection system.		
Objectives of the consultancy The objective of the consultancy is to support a mixed-method study on the costs of raising a child with disability in Tunisia.		
<p><i>The ToR relate to the first phase of the study, covering the design stage and the qualitative component of the study. From September 2025 to June 2026, there will be a second phase related to the quantitative component of the study.</i></p>		
Major areas of work and responsibilities Under the study's phase 1:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the whole study design and design of the quantitative component's methodology: along the principal investigator, define the a) whole study design (mixed-method research questions and approach to data collection and analysis) and b) design the quantitative component to feed into the study protocol. 		
The consultant will work under the direct supervision of a Research Specialist.		
1. UNICEF Innocenti does not issue computer equipment to consultants. The consultant will be responsible for providing the necessary computer equipment for the consultancy themselves and should include the cost implications of this responsibility in their bid for the consultancy. The cost of software and subscriptions that may be necessary to complete the consultancy (e.g., Microsoft Word) also needs to be factored into the bid for the consultancy.		

2. This consultancy requires the consultant to travel in order to complete the required deliverables effectively and efficiently. The full cost of travel should be included into the bid for the contract. While UNICEF Innocenti does not make travel arrangements for consultants, there are value for money rules that apply to consultant travel. The consultant will arrange their own travel, clear the anticipated cost with UNICEF and invoice UNICEF for the travel cost as soon as the travel has been completed.
3. UNICEF Innocenti will assist consultants with arrangements for visas, work permits, vaccinations, etc.
4. UNICEF does not regard Individuals engaged under a consultancy contract as “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures. Consultants are therefore not entitled to benefits such as leave, pension 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.
5. 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. Prospective consultants are encouraged to ensure that they fully understand (a) the requirements of each deliverable and (b) the workload associated with reaching a deliverable.
6. UNICEF Innocenti recognises that, due to the locations of some of its research, events may occur that either delay deliverables or prevent them from being completed. These events need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine the impact on the payment schedule of the contract. It is UNICEF Innocenti’s objective to be fair to consultants in situations where deliverables are delayed or no longer attainable through no wrongdoing of the consultant.
7. 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.

Minimum Qualifications required: Bachelors Masters PhD Other

Enter Disciplines: Social sciences, economics, education, public/social policy, public health or related field.

Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:

Essential skills

- PhD in Economics, Public Policy, or related field;
- At least 3 years of progressively responsible experience in conductive empirical research using quantitative methodologies;
- Demonstrated knowledge of social research designs, survey questionnaire design and development;
- Excellent econometric skills used on large scale survey data sets, including advanced Stata skills;
- Demonstrated experience with mixed-method research.
- Demonstrated experience in research in low- and middle-income contexts.
- Ability to speak and write fluently in French. English comprehension (English is the working language at Innocenti).

- Ability to organize own work and to carry out a research project with limited supervision according to deadlines.
- Ability to work as part of a research team in a multi-cultural environment and establish harmonious and effective working relationships both within and outside the organization.

Desirable skills

- Ability to speak and write fluently in English.
- Expertise in social protection and/or disability research;
- Research experience in Tunisia and/or MENA region;

Core Values

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability
- Sustainability

Competencies

- Builds and maintains partnerships
- Demonstrates self-awareness and ethical awareness
- Drive to achieve results for impact
- Innovates and embraces change
- Manages ambiguity and complexity
- Thinks and acts strategically
- Works collaboratively with others

Deliverable/Output:	Estimated n. working days	To be paid on
Contribution to the mixed-method design and design of the quantitative component	10	31st March 2025