

13-05-2020

## **UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti Terms of Reference**

### **Consultancy to support research on UNICEF Yemen's Emergency Cash Transfer Programme**

#### **Social and Economic Policy Unit**

**1 June, 2020 – 28 February, 2021**

#### **1. Background:**

After the outbreak of the conflict, Yemen's economy rapidly contracted. Moreover, the government's Social Welfare Fund (SWF), which used to provide cash assistance to the poorest third of the Yemen's population, ceased its operations. As a result, livelihood conditions of the poorest in Yemen deteriorated dramatically. "To prevent the country from economic collapse and prevent the vulnerable population from descending further into poverty", UNICEF started the Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) project. The ECT project provides income support (unconditional, quarterly cash transfers) to the original SWF beneficiary cases and aims to "maintain the country's social welfare system".

UNICEF Yemen CO and UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti (henceforth UNICEF Innocenti) are exploring opportunities to use secondary data sources to shed new light on the functioning and role of the ECT. The envisaged research will examine the wider influence of the project in Yemen including its relationship with markets and conflict dynamics. The evidence is expected to be of direct relevance for programmatic decisions. The evidence would also allow for learning from Yemen's experience for future programming.

The analysis will be split in two phases. The first phase will describe how the situation in Yemen evolved over the period since the outbreak of the conflict. As part of this exercise, the research team will generate a detailed mapping of (i) conflict intensity and hostilities, (ii) market prices, (iii) migration patterns, and (iv) ECT project implementation. This mapping exercise will be combined with a qualitative description of the conflict in Yemen. The second phase of the research will attempt to move beyond descriptives and assess the role of the ECT project. Questions that may be answered during this second phase include: How do the cash transfers and local conflict relate? How do cash transfers and markets interact? How do the cash transfers relate to internal migration?

UNICEF Innocenti is putting together a team with a diverse set of skills to help implement the analysis. UNICEF Innocenti seeks to hire a highly qualified consultant with extensive knowledge of Yemen's socio-economic context and the history of the current conflict.

## **2. Purpose, objective(s), and expected results:**

The proposed research will extensively rely on technical analysis of secondary datasets. It is key that this technical data analysis is appropriately grounded in Yemen's history and socioeconomic context. The purpose of this consultancy is to help achieve this 'grounding'. The consultant will make sure that accurate perspectives of the history and socioeconomic context in Yemen are taken into account in the design and implementation of the research and accurately reflected in final reports.

## **3. Description of the assignment:**

The recruited consultant will be an integral part of the team of researchers implementing the research project. The consultant will make a critical contribution through his/her expert understanding of the context and history of Yemen.

The consultant will review the initial research plan, to make sure that it reflects the reality on the ground in Yemen. The consultant will review the research questions and, where needed, work with the research team to adjust them in an implementable way.

The consultant will review the findings of the first phase of the analysis. He/she will examine whether the findings are consistent with the broader situation in Yemen, reflect on potential mechanisms explaining the findings of the quantitative analysis, and flag findings that are counter-intuitive or not plausible. The consultant will help to embed the findings of the analysis in the broader narrative of the conflict in Yemen.

After the first phase of the analysis, the consultant will help the research team (in collaboration with UNICEF Yemen) to design the second stage of the research. The focus will be on evidence generation that is of direct use to UNICEF Yemen. Activities at the end of the second phase of the analysis will be similar to those described for phase one.

The consultant will draft a background section for the research report providing the context needed to interpret the research findings. He/she will also help to embed the quantitative findings in this broader context and will help to triangulate and interpret the findings in light of the wider literature on Yemen and the conflict. The consultant will help to make sure that the report is factually correct and rigorous, yet presents findings in an accessible way for a wide audience.

The recruited consultant will report to Jacobus de Hoop, Manager of Humanitarian Policy Research in UNICEF Innocenti's the Social and Economic Policy team. The consultant will implement the research in collaboration with a wider team of researchers under recruitment.

## **4. Specific outputs/products/results with specific delivery dates:**

- June 15: Review and provide written feedback on initial research proposal, with a focus on Yemen's socioeconomic context (~3 days)
- July 31 2020: Support the first phase of the analysis, by reviewing the findings and linking them with Yemen's socioeconomic context (~3 days).
- September 30 2020: Actively support the design of a second phase of the analysis, by linking the analysis to latest developments in Yemen's socioeconomic situation, including a written proposal (~3 days)
- October 31 2020: Support the second phase of the analysis, by reviewing the findings and linking them with Yemen's socioeconomic context (~3 days).

- January 31 2021: Written contribution to draft research report completed. This will include a background section on the socioeconomic context and additional text to link the findings of the analysis to this context. (~6 days)
- February 28 2021: Incorporate feedback received in final research report (~2 days)

## **5. Qualifications and/or specialized knowledge/experience required and desirable for undertaking the assignment:**

### Required:

- MA in history, sociology, anthropology, journalism or other related field (PhD preferred)
- At least 8 years of relevant experience working on institutions, history, and/or conflict in Yemen
- Extensive understanding of all aspects of Yemeni society, history, and institutions
- Outstanding and recent record of relevant policy-relevant publications (not restricted to research)
- Demonstrated interest in research and translating research findings
- Strong team worker
- Ability to speak and write fluently in English

### Desirable:

- Ability to speak and write fluently in Arabic
- Recent record of relevant peer-reviewed publications

## **6. Core values**

The consultant is expected to work in accordance with UNICEF's five core values:

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability

## **7. Location and duration of the consultancy**

The consultant is expected to work remotely. No travel was foreseen at the time of writing. The consultant will work approximately 20 days over the period from 15 May 2020 to 28 February 2020 (approximate). UNICEF will not provide resources or facilities for implementation of the assignment.

## **8. Supervision and work arrangements:**

The consultant will work under the supervision of Jacobus de Hoop, Social policy specialist at UNICEF Office of Research, Innocenti. The consultant will work remotely.

## **9. Evaluation process and methods**

Applicants will be assessed based on their technical profile and price proposal. The weight allocated to the technical profile and price proposal will respectively be 70 and 30. Interviews will be carried out only if

provided documentation (CV, cover letter) does not give sufficient clarity to identify the most appropriate candidate.

Evaluation criteria for the technical profile will be:

- Relevance and quality of degree: 10 points
- Relevant post-degree experience: 20 points
- Demonstrated expertise of Yemen's history and socioeconomic context: 20 points
- Quality and relevant publication record: 15 points
- Experience in using research findings for policy: 5 points