

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

<b>Title:</b> Conduct a rapid assessment of the Playful Parental Engagement Programme in four states <sup>1</sup>	<b>Funding Code</b> Non-Grant (RR)	<b>Type of engagement</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Consultant	<b>Duty Station:</b> Remote
<p><b>Purpose of Activity/Assignment:</b></p> <p>The first five years of a child's life is a critical period for their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. The experiences during this period have a major impact on their future. Research has shown that a child's newly developing brain is highly plastic and responsive to change as billions of integrated neural circuits are established through the interaction of genetics, environment, and experience. Optimal brain development requires a stimulating environment, adequate nutrients, and social interaction with attentive caregivers. Unsafe conditions, negative interactions, and lack of educational opportunities during these early years can lead to irreversible negative outcomes, which can affect a child's potential for the remainder of his or her life.</p> <p>Early Childhood Care Development and Education (ECCDE) is one of the best investment options to build human capital and the national economy and promote sustainable growth. Quality ECCDE yields a significant return on investment as the child transits to primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. These returns impact not only the child's individual development but also that of their families and communities.</p> <p>Parents and community members are key partners in ensuring the delivery of quality ECCDE and early learning, as evidence shows that parents tend to be more receptive when they are part of the learning process and are acknowledged as an important source of information.</p> <p>To support ECCD in Nigeria, UNICEF Nigeria partnered with Universal Basic Education Commission to implement a playful parental engagement programme in eight states, which aims at enhancing parent-child interaction and promoting child development through play. The programme is focused on equipping parents with playful learning strategies and fostering a supportive environment for their children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Particularly, UNICEF extends its support to parents of the most marginalized children, including children with disabilities, to raise awareness of and demand for quality ECCDE and skills for playful parenting by working with parent and community groups, which include Mothers Associations, Fathers Groups, school-based management committees.</p> <p>The programme's outputs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) increasing parents/caregivers' knowledge of the importance of children's early years, including both formal early childhood education and engagement with responsive caregivers;</li> <li>2) effecting tangible behavioural change in their parenting practices, play-based engagement with their children, and demand for early learning services; and</li> <li>3) enabling parents to develop new knowledge, attitudes, positive social norms, and recommendations for practices that can contribute to the quality development of early children aged 3-5 years.</li> </ol> <p>To further improve the effectiveness of the programme and inform future phases, UNICEF seeks a consultant who conduct a rapid assessment of the implementation of the programme.</p>			

<sup>1</sup> Adamawa, Jigawa, Kano, and Sokoto.

**Scope of Work:**

This consultancy is for conducting a rapid assessment of the playful parental engagement programme in four states with the following assignments:

1. Examine and document the programme's immediate effect on parents and community members by collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data related to improvement of parental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding playful engagement with their children.
2. Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme. This includes the assessment of 1) the quality and accessibility of programme resources and training materials and 2) the effectiveness of programme delivery and parent engagement methods.
3. Identify the strengths and areas for improvement in the current programme design and implementation against other similar programmes in similar contexts.
4. Provide actionable recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and scalability of the programme.

**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](#)

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline	Estimated Budget
Develop inception report, which includes detailed work plan, research methods, and timelines for the assignment.	Inception Report	30 September 2024 (3 days)	10%
Conduct a desk review of programme documents, reports and data, as well as relevant research on playful parental engagement.	Desk review report	9 October 2024 (5 days)	30%
Consult and interview with relevant stakeholders including parents, community members, teachers, trainers, and government officials, and collect and analyse quantitative and qualitative data.	Draft Assessment Report	31 October (14 days)	40%
Finalize and submit a comprehensive report, including the assessment findings, analysis, and actionable recommendations, submitted in both Word and PowerPoint formats	Draft Assessment Report and Final Assessment Report	10 November 2024 (8 days)	20%

<p><b>Minimum Qualifications required*:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors   <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Masters</b>   <input type="checkbox"/> PhD   <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>Enter Disciplines: Education, ECCDE, or other relevant field.</p>	<p><b>Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required *:</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications &amp; Experience :</b></p> <p><b><u>Required qualification:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 4 years of experience in designing and implementing education research and evaluation.</li> <li>• A minimum of 6 years of experiences in supporting the implementation of ECCDE, early childhood, and parenting programmes and policy.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Required skills and knowledge:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical knowledge about ECCDE and parental engagement.</li> <li>• Good understanding of ECCDE context and culture in sub-Saharan Africa.</li> <li>• Strong qualitative and quantitative research skills and good understanding of qualitative and quantitative design and methods.</li> <li>• Good report writing skills.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Other skills and attributes:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in working for UN organizations is an asset.</li> <li>• Experience in working for the Ministries of Education is an asset.</li> <li>• Familiarity with the global landscape of playful learning and parental engagement programs is an asset.</li> <li>• Experience in supporting ECCDE and parenting practices in Nigeria is an asset.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Languages:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluency in English and Hausa is required.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> 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 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. 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.

The selected consultant 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 consultants 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. The vaccine mandate, 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.

UNICEF offers [reasonable accommodation](#) for consultants 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.