

UNICEF China Terms of Reference For Consultant Recruitment

Job Title of Consultancy: Education Research and Evaluation Consultant

Requesting Section: Education

Name of Supervisor and Job Title: Education Specialist

Background of Consultancy Request:

The UNICEF Education Section works with the Government of China, local partners, and communities to provide the country's most disadvantaged children with quality learning opportunities. We support government to strengthen China's education system so that it addresses the needs of the most excluded and vulnerable children, as well as ensure that girls and boys have equal access to opportunities. We also promote nurturing environments to support children develop into well-rounded individuals and facilitate smoother transition from school to work.

The Adolescents team in the Education Section works to support the Government of China improve access to quality education for 6–18-year-old. The 2021- 2025 education programming, aiming to facilitate the transition to a child-friendly education system, takes a holistic approach through seven inter-related projects ranging from child protection in schools, STEM education, life skills, sports, inclusive education, teacher training to social and emotional learning (SEL).

The 2021- 2025 education programming also embraces key strategic shifts with a renewed focus on upstream engagement and policy impact. It places greater emphasis on evidence-based policy and research, advocacy for children's rights and adaptation of international evidence to China's context (and vice versa). There will also be a shift from child-friendly schools to child-friendly education systems and scaling-up of adolescent programmes, particularly around integrating life skills into the technical and vocation education & training (TVET) reform process and expanding alternative learning pathways for out-of-school (OOS) adolescents in China.

The adolescent Education team therefore seeks a consultant with strong research and evaluation expertise to provide technical support to planned education research and evaluation activities.

Purpose of Activity/Assignment:

1. To support the Child-Friendly Schools evaluation (2001-2020) through coordination with the institutional contractor that has been commissioned to carry out the evaluation, including periodical technical review and expert input to the evaluation methodology, tools, data sources, technical analysis to ensure the evaluation complies with UNICEF standards, deliver intended outputs and produce quality insights.
2. To finalise the common M&E framework and baselines for the Child-Friendly Education Systems work (2021-25) including identifying sets of indicators and working with the education team to establish project baselines for the seven ongoing projects, conduct analysis and recommending

adjustments to project designs, and conduct evaluability exercise for selected projects as requested.

3. To support the commissioning and implementation of educational researches as agreed with supervisor, including leading the technical input and review of research documents (concept note, TOR, methodology and outputs) and management of the research process as required.

Major Tasks, Deliverables & Timeframe:

Project Activity	Deliverables	Due Date	Maximum No of days
Assignment 1: Child-Friendly-School Evaluation (2011-2020)			60 days
To facilitate evaluation interviews with key informants, and support the organisation of finding validation workshops (initial/final) with key stakeholders.	Interview reports Validation workshop Final evaluation report	June 2024	30 days
To co-ordinate with the international contractor (once commissioned) on a regular basis, record progress and provide ongoing M&E technical input and/or comments.	Monthly progress reports Feedback to international contractor on methodology, tools and other technical issues	Monthly	3 days/month for 10 months
Assignment 2: finalise M&E framework for the Child-Friendly Education Systems work (2021-25) and build baselines for key projects			80 days
To finalise the common M&E framework and supporting toolkit for the seven projects that are part of Child-Friendly Systems work (2021-25).	M&E framework Assessment toolkit Selected indicator	Oct 2023	20 days
To provide M&E related training for programme staff and counterparts on protocols of programme monitoring and evaluation, design of training manual and management tools and quality checklist as appropriate.	Project management plans Internal Training	Dec. 2023	5 days
To support projects build baselines, using the common framework and toolkit. Review baseline data and make recommendations to project plan.	Projects baselines Project Recommendations	June 2024	30 days
Provide ongoing M&E related support, trouble-shooting support and evaluability assessment to education programmes		Ongoing and as agreed	25 days
Assignment 3: Education Research: management of and technical support to agreed education research			90 days

Develop concept note and TOR for Out of School research, work with project officer to procedure and commission the OOS research, and provide technical input/quality assurance to ensure satisfactory delivery	OOS research TOR OOS research contract OOS report	Aug 2023 Oct 2023 Jun 2024	30 days
Work with project office to finalise TOR for Life Skills Framework development, co-manage the procurment, and provide technical input/quality assurance to ensure satisfactory delivery	Research TOR Research contract Final Report	Jul. 2023 Oct 2023 Sep 2024	30 days
Ongoing technical support, quality review and recommendations to education related research	Technical comments and recommendations Technical review reports	Ongoing Sep 2024	30 days
Total			230 days

Methodology & Expected Output:

The consultant is expected to complete the above assignments by closely working with the Education Section Chief, the direct supervisor who leads the adolescent learning team and the ‘Child Friendly Education System’ programming, the adolescent education officers, internal/external stakeholder and partnerst. Occassional field trips may be required. Where feasible, the consultant is expected to sit in the office daily to maximise integration with the education team.

Expected outputs include

1. CFS evaluation report: the ongoing Child Friendly School Evaluation is completed in compliance with UNICEF standards with quality reports including policy and operational recommendations.
2. Child-friendly Education System M&E Framework and project baselines: the M&E framework including robust indicators and project evaluation matrix are in place and project baselines are built and documented.
3. Education Researches: agreed education reseraches (Social Emotional Learning, Life Skills and Out of School Adolescent etc) are commissioned, managed and completed to produce quality results and insights to inform education programming.

Start Date: 18th September 2023

End Date: 30th September 2024

Total Working Days: 230 days

Consultancy Requirements:

- **Minimum Academic Qualifications required and disciplines:**

Master's degree in education, statistics, monitoring and evaluation, human resource development, international development or another related field. PhD degree is preferred.

- **Knowledge/Experience/Expertise/Skills required:**

- At least 5 years of relevant work experience in educational research, monitoring and evaluation of multi-sectoral programs, including in education and/or social development areas of work in China;
- At least 3 years of experience in leading design and planning monitoring and evaluation framework, log frames, TOC of programmes, particularly those linked to social sectors, evaluation, survey implementation, advanced statistical research;
- A least 3 years of practical experience in survey design using quantitative and qualitative methods, survey administration, analysis and reporting would be an asset
- Excellent inter-personal, mentoring, facilitation, and communication skills.
- Flexibility and experience in working remotely;
- Fluency in Chinese and English (both oral and written) is required.
- Familiarity with UN system in China or other countries is an asset.