

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SHORT TITLE OF ASSIGNMENT

Child Rights Checklist for Climate-Induced Planned Relocation Exercises

BACKGROUND

The Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are among the most affected and vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change. While its collective greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions account for less than 0.01 per cent of global emissions, the Pacific region is at the frontline of the adverse impacts of climate change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Pacific region is being affected by rising temperatures, a larger proportion of the most intense tropical cyclones, storm surges, droughts, changes in precipitation patterns, sea level rise, coral bleaching and invasive species, all of which are already detectable across both natural and human systems.

Pacific SIDS are already reporting losses and damages caused by recurrent climate-related disasters and events, including impacts on access to safe water and sanitation and education, exacerbated food and nutritional insecurity and disease transmission. The impacts of both slow onset and sudden onset climate and environmental events and disasters contributing to mobility. Climate-induced migration and displacement are expected to increase throughout the region, creating a situation that may lead to a humanitarian crisis. Even with major progress to mitigate the impacts of climate change, migration will continue to be an adaptation strategy, particularly in the case where climate change impedes economic opportunities and interacts with conflict and fragility.

While all members of society are facing the impacts of climate change, children are uniquely vulnerable to death and damage. Children are psychologically and physically more vulnerable to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change and environmental hazards. Children who move in the context of climate change may be exposed to a variety of risks, such as abuse, trafficking, exploitation and other forms of maltreatment. They may lose access to education, health services, be forced into labour and endure poor living conditions.

Although it is not the preferred solution, the Fijian government acknowledges that planned relocations have become necessary due to the increasing severity of climate-related disasters and the uninhabitability of affected areas. Fiji has been implementing efforts to develop policies and strategies for adapting to climate change challenges, including the planned relocation of communities as an option of last resort. In 2023 the Government of Fiji launched the Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation (SOP), reflecting their commitment to effectively respond to the increasing need for the relocation of its communities driven by the impacts of climate change. In this context there is an urgency to ensure that the rights of the children are protected and fulfilled before, during and after planned relocations take place. At present, a total of 42 communities and 3 schools are planned for relocation with detailed mapping of service availability and proximity will form part of the process for relocations.

The Climate Change Act and the SOP for Planned Relocations established the Fijian Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement (FTRD), a body which plays an important steering and coordinating role for all initiatives and processes related to planned relocation, including the provision of resources from their Ministries and

mobilisation of technical teams. The Taskforce will also monitor the implementation of the SOP to ensure that the processes are followed, to assess relocation requests and recommend approvals based on the conditions of the SOP. The FTRD is chaired by the Climate Change Division and made up of Directors of key government ministries and it is required to consult with the FTRD on approvals for relocation.

In collaboration with Fiji Climate Change Division (CCD) and the Fijian Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement, UNICEF has committed to provide technical support to develop a checklist for technicians to ensure that the rights and needs of the children are considered, protected and fulfilled in planned relocations before, during and after it happens. The checklist will complement more detailed SOPs providing a practical tool for staff to ensure delivery on commitments. Although general guidance is useful, the checklist would offer a more practical and lighter tool for field personnel identified by Government, NGO's and civil society. Evidence has shown that such tools can help to operationalize broader guidance into action and guarantee actions match ideals.

OBJECTIVE / SCOPE OF WORK

Overall objective of the assignment:

Under the guidance of the Chief Child Protection, and in coordination with other relevant focal points, and under the leadership of key actors across the Government of Fiji, including the Climate Change Division and the Fijian Taskforce for Relocation and Displacement, the Children and Climate-Induced Relocation Specialist **Consultant** will develop a checklist that will guide the government staff to ensure that the rights and wellbeing of the children are considered, protected and fulfilled in the planned relocations before, during and after it happens.

The Checklist will be based on a synthesis of the existing SOP and an identification of needs and standards relevant for child [protection, child safeguarding, gender equality, social inclusion, and public participation (with special attention to children and adolescent participation)]. Material will be developed to be useful for overall coordination staff as well as sectoral staff working at division and province level including Government as well as Non-Governmental and Civil Society.

ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES, PLUS PAYMENT SCHEDULE PER DELIVERABLE

ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE	PAYMENT (%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect and review relevant literature, including regional and international child-focused climate migration and relocation frameworks, tools and experiences, identifying useful lessons learned and good practices to inform the checklist. Use expertise and technical knowledge to develop the checklist for technicians to identify, protect and fulfil the rights and needs of the children when planned relocations are designed and executed. Focus will be put in children safeguarding, gender equality, social inclusion, and public participation. Adjust and finalized the checklist based on the feedback from UNICEF, CCD and other relevant partners. Present the checklist in a meeting with UNICEF, CCD and other partners if requested. 			100%
			TOTAL 100%

QUALIFICATIONS, SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AND ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

Bachelors Masters PhD Other

- An Advanced University degree in international development, human rights, psychology, sociology, economics, international law, and other social science fields is required.
- A minimum of 5 years of professional experience in social development planning and management in child protection and/or other related areas at the international level, some of which preferably were served in a developing country, is required.
- Relevant experience in child protection, gender equality, social inclusion, program/project development, and management is an asset.
- Experience in migration and forced displacement is an asset.
- Experience in both development and humanitarian contexts is an added advantage.
- Experience working in the UN system agency or UN organization is an asset.
- Proven ability to work independently under difficult conditions.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

CONDITIONS OF WORK AND CLARIFICATION ON SUPERVISION

All work related cost will be included in the contract remunerations. The daily follow up and supervision will be conducted by the Child Protection Specialist with technical inputs from the climate specialist and other relevant sectoral staff in UNICEF. The consultancy will be carried out entirely remotely.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- 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. 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.

- No contract may commence unless the contract is signed by both UNICEF and the consultant/ contractor.
- Consultant/Contractor will be required to complete mandatory online courses (e.g. Ethics, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Security) upon receipt of offer and before the signature of contract.

GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

- Please submit a **separate financial offer** along with your application. The financial proposal should be a **lump sum amount for all the deliverables** and should show a break down for the following:
 - Monthly / Daily fees– based on the deliverables in the Terms of Reference above
 - Travel (economy air ticket where applicable to take up assignment and field mission travel
 - Living allowance where travel is required
 - Miscellaneous- to cover visa, health insurance (including medical evacuation for international consultants), communications, and other costs.