

TERMS OF REFERENCE

International Consultancy to develop Uzbekistan's Integrated Parenting Support Framework (IPF)

CONTRACT MODALITY Individual Consultancy

DUTY STATION Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Child Protection, Remote with one mission to Tashkent)

DURATION OF CONTRACT 13 months

Purpose of Activity/Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical support for the development of an Integrated Parenting Support Framework (IPF) for Uzbekistan, building on existing parenting support interventions, standards, procedures and service-delivery platforms.

The consultant will undertake a focused desk-based mapping and strategic gap analysis across health, preschool education, child protection and social protection. The review will encompass Universal Progressive Home Visiting (UPHV), parenting standards and standard operating procedures (SOPs) prepared for the National Agency for Social Protection (NASP) and the Ministry of Preschool and School Education (MoPSE), and relevant digital tools such as Bebbio and Internet of Good Things (IoGT). It will examine the coherence, coverage, inclusion and institutional complementarity of these instruments.

Drawing on the complementary behavioural insights prepared by another consultant (milestones for each consultancy are largely aligned), the consultant will produce an overarching framework defining shared objectives, a continuum of universal, targeted and intensive parenting support, sector responsibilities, coordination principles and implementation priorities. This will support operationalization of Uzbekistan's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Strategy and align with UNICEF's Global Parenting Support Framework for parents and caregivers of children aged 0–8 years.

Scope of Work

Within a focused, primarily remote assignment, the consultant will support the policy and framework development process. UNICEF and government counterparts will facilitate access to documents, stakeholder input and the complementary analytical outputs. In particular, the consultant will:

- Agree at inception with UNICEF and the behavioural insights consultant the division of labour, document list, strategic review criteria, timetable and validation process. (D1)
- Conduct a rapid desk-based inventory of existing parenting support approaches, including UPHV, NASP and MoPSE parenting standards/SOPs, preschool education resources, social work, and relevant face-to-face and digital channels. (D2)
- Assess at a strategic level how existing provision addresses responsive caregiving, positive and non-violent discipline, prevention of violence against children, caregiver mental health and psychosocial well-being, fathers' engagement, gender norms and disability inclusion. (D2)
- Identify priority gaps, duplications and inconsistencies in population and age coverage (0–8 years), accessibility, content, continuity, institutional mandates, workforce arrangements and coordination; distinguish existing assets to retain/strengthen from areas needing adaptation or future development. (D2)
- Develop the IPF defining its vision and guiding principles, the universal/targeted/intensive support continuum, priority target groups, sector roles, complementarity between existing services, and proposed coordination, referral and accountability arrangements. (D3)

- Incorporate available findings and recommendations from the behavioural and systems analysis consultant, who remains responsible for research methods, primary data analysis, caregiver journeys and behavioural determinants. The IPF consultant is responsible for synthesizing these inputs into the framework. (D3)
- Outline a practical implementation roadmap, with a phased set of actions for adoption or harmonization of existing standards/SOPs, workforce capacity development, governance, resourcing considerations, monitoring and review. Detailed operational costing and new programme-module development are excluded. (D3/D5)
- Lead one technical validation mission in Tashkent to discuss the draft framework and implementation priorities with relevant ministries, NASP, UNICEF and other stakeholders; UNICEF will organize consultation logistics. (D4)
- Finalize the IPF and concise implementation package following feedback, including an indicative results framework with selected strategic indicators and an action matrix identifying responsible sectors and sequencing. (D5)

3. Work Assignment, Deliverables and Delivery Deadlines

Work assignment	Deliverables / Outputs	Delivery deadline
Agree scope, review criteria, document sources and a division-of-work plan with UNICEF and the behavioural insights consultant; review available government policy documents and parenting packages.	D1. Inception note with scope, proposed outline, document list, criteria for rapid review, division of responsibilities and workplan agreed with UNICEF.	15 January 2027
Review existing parenting interventions and policy instruments across health/UPHV, NASP social services, MoPSE and other preschool education channels. Review NASP and MoPSE parenting standards and SOPs (pending adoption), digital parenting resources and relevant policy/sector guidance. Prepare a focused landscape matrix and prioritize policy/programmatic gaps, overlaps and opportunities for alignment, inclusion and cross-sectoral coherence.	D2. Rapid parenting landscape and strategic gap analysis: inventory/matrix of existing packages and standards/SOPs, coverage and institutional mapping, prioritized gaps and opportunities for harmonization.	20 July 2027
Develop the IPF vision, objectives, guiding principles and support continuum: universal, targeted and intensive interventions for caregivers of children aged 0–8. Set out the proposed institutional architecture and sector responsibilities, using current mandates and existing service platforms rather than devising new service packages. Integrate available evidence and recommendations from the behavioural insights and systems analysis consultant; reflect caregiver participation and underserved-family perspectives. Draft a phased implementation and monitoring approach covering harmonization, quality, workforce, financing considerations and strategic indicators.	D3. Draft Integrated Parenting Support Framework, including cross-sectoral architecture, proposed continuum of support, coordination arrangements, integration of behavioural evidence, and indicative phased roadmap.	15 September 2027
Prepare and present the draft IPF and implementation priorities for technical review; consolidate comments from	D4. Tashkent technical validation: draft IPF presented and discussed with relevant stakeholders; structured feedback and revisions	15 November 2027

government and UNICEF. Travel to Tashkent for a facilitated national consultation/validation event, convened by UNICEF with government counterparts. Lead structured discussion of institutional roles, feasibility and priority gaps requiring further work.	log prepared.	
Finalize the IPF, integrating validated national priorities and key recommendations from the companion analysis. Submit a concise implementation roadmap/action matrix, high-level results and monitoring approach, and short handover presentation.	D5. Final IPF and implementation package, comprising the endorsed/revised framework draft, prioritized action matrix, proposed coordination responsibilities and high-level monitoring indicators.	15 December 2027

***Planned travel: One technical validation mission to Tashkent (4 days, one trip).**

Payment Schedule:

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of 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.

Important Notes

- 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.
- Contracts are conditional upon the selected candidate's willingness to comply with any current or future vaccination requirements that may be established by UNICEF, where applicable. Failure to comply with applicable vaccination requirements, where required and without an approved medical exemption by UNICEF, may result in the withdrawal of the consultancy offer or termination of the contract in accordance with the General Terms and Conditions of Contract.
- 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.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Minimum education: Master’s degree in public policy, ECD, social policy, child protection, education, social work or related social sciences.

Work experience: Minimum 10 years of relevant professional experience in national policy/framework development, parenting support, early childhood development, child protection and/or cross-sectoral social service systems strengthening.

Language requirements: Fluency in English.

Knowledge/Expertise/Skills: Demonstrated ability to assess existing government programmes, standards and institutional arrangements; prepare concise policy frameworks, identify strategic gaps, and facilitate high-level technical validation. Knowledge of UNICEF parenting/ECD guidance and inclusive, violence-preventive parenting approaches.

Desirables: Experience in Central Asia/Uzbekistan and with UNICEF or another UN agency.
