

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Education Data Systems & Evidence Consultant

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	Amman, Jordan (remote)
DURATION OF CONTRACT	15 months

Purpose of Assignment

UNICEF is seeking the services of an experienced education data specialist to strengthen education data systems, evidence generation and data-driven decision-making in support of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2026–2029 and the Learning & Skills vision.

The consultant will support the Global Education Practice in strengthening the availability, quality, linkage and use of education data across priority areas, including continental education monitoring, disability-inclusive education, education in emergencies, and secondary education and skills development.

The assignment will focus on strengthening linkages with Education Management Information Systems (EMIS), supporting data integration and analysis, developing targeted evidence products, and curating global evidence to inform UNICEF's advocacy, programming and policy engagement.

Beyond the thematic areas listed below, the consultant is expected to identify and establish linkages across education topics and datasets, supporting a more integrated understanding of education systems, equity gaps and learning outcomes.

Scope of Work:

The consultant will support the following areas:

1. Africa Continental Education Strategy and Education Statistics

- Support development and analysis of continental-level education statistics and monitoring products.
- Map and harmonize relevant education indicators and data sources.
- Support evidence generation for regional education commitments and policy dialogue.

2. Disability-Inclusive Education Data Systems

- Support integration of disability inclusion into EMIS and related education data systems, including strengthening data integration across systems, data collection approaches using the Child Functioning Module, data quality, analysis, and use.
- Review and strengthen approaches to measuring participation, access, progression, completion, and learning outcomes of children with disabilities, including through analysis and triangulation of administrative data, household surveys, learning assessments, and other relevant sources.
- Provide technical assistance to country offices on analysis and use of disability-inclusive education data to inform sector planning, programming, budgeting, and policy.
- Develop technical notes, evidence summaries and analytical products on disability-inclusive education data.

3. Education in Emergencies Data and Evidence

- Strengthen linkages between humanitarian and development education data systems, including data for

children on the move (IDP, refugees, etc.).

- Support the collection, analysis, and interpretation of EiE data to inform evidence-based planning, programming, and advocacy specifically for L2/L3 and protracted crises.
- Contribute to the development of analytical briefs, dashboards, fact sheets, and other knowledge products to support decision-making.
- Facilitate the use of data and evidence in sector planning, preparedness, response, and recovery processes.
- Promote data quality, harmonization of indicators, and alignment with UNICEF and inter-agency monitoring frameworks (GEC, INEE, EiE hub).
- Support data, research, evaluations, and learning initiatives related to foundational learning, resilience, and education system strengthening in emergency contexts.

4. Secondary Education, Skills and School-to-Work Transition Data

- Support analysis of secondary education data and linked analysis of financing
- Support the analysis of secondary-aged education and alternative learning pathways, TVET skills development and school-to-work transition data.
- Identify measurement gaps and opportunities for improved data systems.
- Develop analytical products supporting UNICEF engagement on learning and skills for adolescents and young people.

5. Cross-cutting Education Data Systems Strengthening

- Support data linkage and integration across thematic areas.
- Provide rapid analytical support on emerging Global Education Practice priorities.
- Support data visualization and evidence communication.
- Identify opportunities to connect education data with broader system issues, including equity, financing, learning, inclusion and resilience.

6. Evidence Review and Knowledge Curation

- Conduct targeted literature reviews and evidence scans.
- Curate global evidence, methodologies and good practices.
- Translate technical evidence into concise policy-relevant products.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable
Task 1	Africa education statistics data product	30 Nov 2026 – 10 days
Task 2	Follow-up Africa education data product / technical support to continental monitoring	15 Dec 2026 – 13 days
Task 3	Education in Emergencies data product supporting situation analysis / response tracking, fed into global publication in 2027	31 Dec 2026 – 20 days
Task 4	Secondary education and skills data systems and monitoring package for country and global-level policy advice related to SP and SDG frameworks	15 Mar 2027 – 22 days

Task 5	Africa education data product in line with the AUC continental tracker in Early Childhood and Foundational Learning	15 Jun 2027 – 30 days
Task 6	Disability-inclusive education data systems and monitoring support package, including guidance on disability-inclusive EMIS, Strategic Plan monitoring/data collection support and documented technical assistance to countries. Fed also into global publication in 2027.	15 Aug 2027 – 30 days
Task 7	Follow-up secondary education and skills data product as publication including trends, challenges and opportunities including youth profiles.	15 Nov 2027 – 22 days
Task 8	Synthesis capturing cross-cutting data linkages, lessons learned and future priorities for strengthening education data systems 2 trips planned, 4 days each, destinations to be confirmed at a later stage, depending on thematic events	31 Jan 2028 – 30 days

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.
- The selected candidate is solely responsible for ensuring that the health insurance (and visa if applicable) 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.

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

Minimum requirements:

- Education: Master's Degree in Education, Statistics, and other social science disciplines
- Work Experience:
 - Minimum five years of professional experience in education data, statistics, monitoring, evaluation, research or related fields.
 - Demonstrated experience working with EMIS or similar education data platforms.
 - Experience analysing education administrative data and producing policy-oriented analytical products.
 - Experience working with Ministries of Education, governments or international organizations.
 - Experience in one or more of the following areas is an asset:
 - Education statistics and system monitoring;
 - Disability-inclusive education data;
 - Education in emergencies;
 - Secondary education and skills development;
 - Regional (preferably Africa) or global education monitoring initiatives.
- Language requirement:
 - Proficiency in English is required.
- Skills:
 - Strong analytical and quantitative skills.
 - Strong understanding of education data systems, EMIS and data lifecycle management.
 - Ability to rapidly learn new thematic areas and synthesize evidence.
 - Ability to link data across education topics and identify cross-sectoral insights.
 - Excellent writing and communication skills.
 - Ability to translate technical analysis into concise policy messages.

Desirables:

- Proficiency in other UN languages