

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Youth and Violence Consultant

CONTRACT MODALITY Individual Consultancy

DUTY STATION Rome, Italy, remote

DURATION OF CONTRACT 5 months and 20 days

Purpose of Assignment

Under the guidance of the Adolescent Development Manager and in collaboration with the National YAB Coordinator and the Project Manager, the consultant will (i) support the National Youth Advisory Board and 6 Local Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) in developing a shared understanding of violence as a multidimensional issue affecting children, adolescents and youth; (ii) produce an evidence-based causal analysis and conceptual framework; (iii) strengthen YAB members' capacities through participatory learning workshops; and (iv) facilitate the elaboration of youth-led workplans (1 at national level, 6 at local level), aimed at preventing and responding to violence, promoting social cohesion, advancing child rights and fostering a culture of peace amongst youth communities at national and local levels.

Scope of Work

Starting in 2020 UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia's National Response in Italy supported the Government of Italy in the establishment the European Child Guarantee to tackle child poverty and social exclusion through evidence generation of child-focused policies and programmes and piloting of innovative approaches, effectively reaching out to disadvantaged children and adolescents. Amongst the models piloted, the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was set up in December 2021 by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (MLSP) and the Department for Family Policies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, to provide a space for adolescents & young people to be meaningfully involved and participate in all phases of the Child Guarantee in Italy.

Following the pilot phase, as of April 2026 UNICEF is providing technical assistance for implementation of the project "C'ENTRO – the network of YABs for active participation", which is funded by the MLSP for a 36-month period. The project aims to strengthen the national YAB and to create 6 YABs at local level – in Milan, Brescia, Rome, Rieti, Palermo and Catania- developing over 3 years an innovative participatory model connected across three levels of governance in collaboration with local (Municipalities and Regions) and national authorities (MLSP, Social Protection and Inclusion Network, managing authorities of the National Programmes of the European Social Fund (NP-FSE), and other relevant organizations and bodies).

At its core is the shared goal of making a concrete contribution to reducing and preventing child poverty and social exclusion by enhancing the skills of adolescents and young people, promoting their meaningful engagement and creating opportunities that allow them to develop their talent and full potential.

In line with its mandate and with the programme activities, since April 2026 the National YAB has continued working on identifying priorities affecting lives of youth and adolescents and strategizing its activities around such themes.

During the latest National YAB meeting held in Rome in October 2026, the National Youth Advisory Board identified violence as a priority concern that manifests itself in multiple and interconnected forms, i.e. physical, emotional, sexual, economic - ranging from online, gender-based and domestic violence to community and conflict-related violence. Furthermore, the YAB highlighted the urgency of the theme building on existing evidence that multi-dimensional violence can be experienced by youth in several contexts they live in and/or are exposed to – including public, social and family spaces.. The issues highlighted by the YAB suggest that

violence needs to be analyzed through a socio-ecological, intersectional and rights-based lens. Violence is not just the result of individual behavior, rather it is rooted in social norms, unequal power structures, discrimination and marginalization, harmful gender-based roles, economic and social inequalities, exclusion from decision-making, and failures to uphold human rights and civic norms. The priority identified by the YAB constitutes the core-theme around which national and local YABs' activities – evidence-based policy advocacy, sensitization and community-based initiatives – will be planned and implemented throughout 2027.

In line with the project objective, operational plan and objectives of the ECG/National Fund for Poverty reduction and Inclusion, UNICEF is hiring a Youth and Violence Consultant to strengthen Youth Advisory Board members' capacities – at national and local level - to understand violence and develop evidence-based policy and advocacy responses in line with their mandate and project activities.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable
Development of a Causal analysis	Deliverable 1 Causal Analysis document	31 January 2027
Development and operationalization of a conceptual framework for violence in relation to youth and adolescence	Deliverable 2 Conceptual framework document	28 February 2027
Development of training content and tools	Deliverable 3 Package of adolescent-friendly training modules and toolkit - documents	28 February 2027
Validation by National YAB	Deliverable 4 1 validation workshop (online)	28 February 2027
Capacity building of National YAB	Deliverable 5 Delivery of 1 workshop (online)	31 March 2027
Capacity building of 6 Local YABs	Deliverable 6 Delivery of 6 in-person trainings/workshops – 1 per local YAB, in Brescia, Milan, Rome, Rieti, Palermo, Catania + additional 8 travel days	31 March 2027
Capacity building of Local YAB YAB	Deliverable 7 1 national workplan	30 April 2027
Support to the development of 6 local workplans	Deliverable 8 6 local workplans: one per local YAB: Milan, Rome, Rieti, Palermo, Catania, Brescia	30 April 2027
Document implementation of the training workshops	Deliverable 9 Final activity report, with detailed description of delivered sessions,	31 May 2027

	challenges and solutions	
--	--------------------------	--

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 requirements:

Education: Masters in In social sciences, law, psychology, pedagogy, human rights, or a related field.

Work Experience:

At least 5 years of professional experience in research on, prevention of and response to violence affecting adolescents and youth

Proven track record in developing analytical frameworks related to adolescents and youth

Proven experience in facilitating consultations or delivering training or inclusive participatory workshops for and with youth

Language Requirements:

Fluency in Italian and English is required

Knowledge/Expertise/Skills:

Knowledge of human rights-based approach to programming

Strong communication and interpersonal skills

Desirables:

Knowledge of the Italian context regarding violence affecting adolescents and youth, including relevant legal, policy and prevention and response service provision frameworks would be an asset

Familiarity with EU policy frameworks on youth would be an asset