

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TITLE – *QuIP research consultant on the Kenya CT-OVC long-term study*

CONTRACT MODALITY Individual Consultancy

DUTY STATION Home Based

DURATION OF CONTRACT 10 months

Purpose of Assignment

To co-lead the qualitative study on the long-term and inter-generational effects of the Cash Transfer for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC) in Kenya, with focus on the QuIP component and overall editorial oversight.

Scope of Work

UNICEF played a pivotal role in supporting the development of Kenya's National Safety Net Programme (NSNP), with Government and development partners. The NSNP includes four cash transfer schemes, of which three under the Inua Jamii programme: the Cash Transfer for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC), the OldPerson Cash Transfer, and the Persons with Severe Disability Cash Transfer. A fourth scheme focuses on food security and economic resilience in arid and semi-arid lands (the Hunger Safety Net Programme, HSNP).

Evaluations of these programmes demonstrated substantial positive impacts on poverty reduction and wellbeing. Despite these findings, social protection coverage remains limited in Kenya, as less than 15% of the poorest households are currently supported by Kenya's NSNP. Moreover, there remain concerns about the adequacy of transfer amounts, especially for the Inua Jamii schemes, for which the nominal value has remained unchanged since 2013. Concurrently, child poverty persists in Kenya. In 2022 an estimated 42.4% of children lived in monetary poverty. The share of children experiencing multidimensional poverty (deprivations in areas such as health, nutrition, education) increased from 45% in 2014 to 55.3% in 2022.

In this context, the CT-OVC is of prominent relevance. Starting in 2004, the programme gradually expanded to about 440,000 households across all counties and constituencies by July 2025. Monthly cash amounts gradually increased from initial KSH 500 to the current amount of KSH 2,000. The main impact evaluation of the CT-OVC, conducted between 2007 and 2011, found that the programme significantly reduced poverty in the short term, with sustained impacts in the medium term; child outcomes improved, including schooling outcomes, as well as health outcomes for young children (in the medium-term).

After about 20 years since the start of the CT-OVC, UNICEF Innocenti and UNICEF Kenya initiated a new study to investigate the long-term and intergenerational effects of the CT-OVC. The study is part of the broader Transfer Project, a research learning collaborative led by UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill.

The study focuses on the original beneficiary children, addressing three main research questions:

- What were the wellbeing trajectories of beneficiary children (infants 0-4 years, and older children 5-17 years) during receipt of the CT-OVC programme and after graduating from it?
- How did the CT-OVC affect long-term human development outcomes for children in recipient households, as they transitioned to adulthood?
- How is the CT-OVC associated with the wellbeing of children born in the new households formed by the original child recipients?

The study will use three qualitative approaches:

1. A Life Histories (LH) approach collecting a detailed record of CT-OVC beneficiaries' life events, during receipt of the programme and after graduating from it.
2. The Qualitative Impact Protocol (QuIP) methodology to assess long-term effects.
3. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with programme stakeholders and policy makers.

A local firm will be recruited by UNICEF Kenya to implement data collection activities. Another (national) research consultant is being recruited to co-lead the study, with focus on the LH and KII components.

The consultancy under this TOR is focused on the second component of the study, the Qualitative Impact Protocol (QuIP): QuIP:

This method will be used to answer the second and third research questions. It is a specialized approach to identifying causal connections from participants of an intervention. Data collection is conducted through 'double blindfolded' interviews, in which neither the interviewer nor the interviewee knows which intervention is being evaluated. The QUIP method requires the interviewers and interviewees to be blinded to prevent any pro-project or confirmation bias. For this reason, the QUIP data collection operation should not happen simultaneously with the data collection for life histories (if in the same study locations). Data analysis produces causal maps linking changes in outcomes to the drivers of change as specified by respondents. The CT-OVC study sample will include a total of 48 QuIP interviews, across two counties in Kenya.

Objective of the consultancy UNICEF Innocenti is seeking to hire a qualitative research consultant, to co-lead the research study described above, particularly analysis and writing from QuIP interviews. The selected consultant will closely collaborate with the research consultant in charge of Life Histories and KII study components (LH/KII researcher).

Major areas of work and responsibility

- Inception: Review programme documents and related literature. In collaboration with the LH/KII consultant, prepare the inception mission, including observation checklist for field observation in the preselected study locations and methodology for the inception workshop (mission of approximately 5 working days).
- Study design: Co-develop the final study design and protocol, in collaboration with the LH/KII consultant. Prepare the questionnaire guides for QuIP; review the LHs and KIIs questionnaires, as drafted by the LH/KII researcher. Coordinate the ethical review process, addressing the Board requests as needed.
- Training and support in data collection (QuIP): Conduct training of the local data collection team, in collaboration with the LH/KII consultant and the local data collection firm. Supervise the data collection for QuIP, accompanying the field team during the first week of the operation and supervising remotely afterwards; conduct transcription monitoring for quality assurance (with the data collection firm). Training and data collection support requires a mission to the study area of about 7 working days.
- Analysis and writing (QuIP, triangulation): Conduct coding and analysis of transcripts from QuIP; conduct triangulation with the LH/KII findings. Draft the report sections describing results from QuIP and co-draft other chapters of the report (introduction/programme description/methodology/conclusions and recommendations), collaborating with the study team. Provide editorial oversight to the draft report, ensuring the QuIP, LH and KIIs components are well integrated.
- Validation and dissemination: Present the triangulated findings during the validation workshop with UNICEF Kenya and Government partners. Co-draft the final version of the report, based on all feedback received (validation workshop, internal and external reviews). Provide editorial oversight to the final report. Prepare one policy brief

and one presentation (ppt), in collaboration with the LH/KII researcher. Deliver presentations as required.

- Manuscript: Co-draft manuscript for journal submission, in collaboration with the LH/KII researcher and the broader study team.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline
Desk review and preparation of the inception mission (including methodology for the inception workshop and observation checklist for field observation). Draft guide for QulP; review of draft LH/KII guides. Study protocol, including all questionnaires and tools. Mission: field observations and co-facilitation of the inception workshop. Coordinate the ethical review process, addressing the Board requests as needed.	Deliverable 1: Study protocol (min 15 pages), including all data collection tools. Includes a mission of about 5 working days.	15.12.2026. – 15 days
Training of data collection team. Supervision of data collection for QulP; transcription monitoring for quality assurance.	Deliverable 2: Final protocol and guides, after feedback from ethics review. Training manual, training completed, data collection completed (48 transcripts). Includes a mission of about 7 working days.	31.03.2027. – 15 days
Coding and analysis of transcripts from QulP; triangulation with the LH/KII findings. Draft report sections with results from QulP and codraft the other chapters (introduction/programme description/methodology/conclusions and recommendations). Editorial oversight to the draft report.	Deliverable 3: Coded and analyzed transcripts for QulP. Draft report.	15.07.2027. - 35 days

Presentation of the triangulated findings in validation workshop. Final version of the report, including editorial oversight. Policy brief and one presentation (ppt).	Deliverable 4: Validation workshop facilitated, final report, final brief and presentation.	10.08.2027. – 15 days
Co-draft manuscript for journal submission, in collaboration with the LH/KII consultant and the broader study team.	Deliverable 5: Manuscript submitted to journal.	30.09.2027. – 13 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:** PhD in Sociology, anthropology, public/social policy, public health, education or related field.
- **Work Experience:**
 - At least 5 years of professional experience in qualitative research and evaluation in low- and middle-income countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Strong experience with design of Qualitative impact protocol (QUIP) guides and with QuIP data collection, including in QuIP training for data collection.
- Strong experience in applying the QUIP for the analysis using CausalMap.
- Demonstrated experience with fieldwork and qualitative data collection in Kenya.
- **Skills:**
 - Excellent qualitative analytical skills and writing skills.
 - Expertise in triangulation of results from multi-method study design.
 - Ability to organize own work and to carry out a research project with limited supervision according to deadlines.
 - Ability to work as part of a research team in a multi-cultural environment and establish harmonious and effective working relationships both within and outside the organization.
- **Language Requirements:** Ability to speak and write fluently in English.

Desirables:

- Research experience on social protection, including in Kenya.
- Research experience on child and adolescent health, education, protection outcomes.
- Research experience on adolescent health, education and livelihood outcomes.

Sample of written work: As part of the application, candidates are requested to submit at least one, and up to three, samples of written work: co-authored published report, working paper or journal article using qualitative methods, including QuIP.
