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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Child Poverty Advocacy International Consultant

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	**Global Programme Division(GPD), Panama, Remote with travel**
DURATION OF CONTRACT	**9.53 months**

Purpose of Assignment

Global data on child poverty indicate that progress in child poverty reduction has stalled and reaching the child poverty Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 therefore will require extraordinary and concerted efforts. The UNICEF Strategic Plan 2026–2029 includes a target for 100 million fewer children living in multidimensional poverty.

Recognizing the urgency of accelerating child poverty reduction, UNICEF is placing increased emphasis on advocating for child poverty reduction at national, regional and global level, includes in relation to key strategies and policies.

In 2025, UNICEF launched internally a Global Advocacy Strategy on Ending Child Poverty, including an initial high level implementation plan. At the same time, 2025 saw significant external political shifts and internal reorganization, including the creation of a Center of Excellence on Child Poverty. In the context of the new strategic plan and related programmatic shifts, a number of countries and regional offices are also developing or implementing several child poverty reduction advocacy strategies and activities.

The purpose of this assignment is to provide advocacy expertise and coordination support to the implementation of UNICEF's global advocacy strategy, including related partnership activities; and to Child Poverty team's technical assistance to regional and country level child poverty advocacy.

Scope of Work

Under the overall supervision of the ESP Senior Advisor, Child Poverty, and in close collaboration with the Child Poverty Specialist, ESP Director and ESP Senior Advisors, the consultant will carry out the following activities:

1. Updated implementation of the global child poverty advocacy strategy

- Consulting with ESP Practice and other internal stakeholders, draft updated implementation plan for 2027 2028. - Coordinate implementation of the advocacy plan, and lead organization of key activities in collaboration with ESP team including UNICEF's advocacy engagement in key events.
- Develop evidence briefs, key messages and communication materials to support child poverty advocacy both internally and externally.
- Develop mechanism/platform for child poverty policy monitoring.
- Support the ESP Director and the Senior Advisor, Child Poverty in establishing working group for Lancet Commission on Child Poverty.

2. Provide inputs to the ESP Child Poverty team's technical support to regional and country level child poverty advocacy

- Development of technical and advocacy materials to support the implementation of the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) advocacy strategy on Child Poverty & Investment in Children.
- Scoping and support to relationship building with key partners and champions identified in the LAC strategy.
- Organizational support to advocacy events related to the above.
- Develop resources to support UNICEF country and regional offices and National Committees on national

level advocacy to end child poverty
- Provide inputs to the ESP Child Poverty team's responses to RO and CO technical assistance requests on child poverty advocacy.
- Document CO/RO case studies and lessons on UNICEF's child poverty efforts and results; and provide inputs to guidance product on child poverty advocacy and policy engagement.
- In collaboration with UNICEF´s Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division, facilitate knowledge exchange and advocacy related support to UNICEF National Committees on child poverty evidence and policy in high income countries.
- Draft guidelines on elevating the voices and participation of children living in poverty, for informing key policy and programming decisions for ending child poverty.

3. Partnerships

Delivery of area 1 and parts of area 2 are closely linked to development of partnerships with allies, champions and potential advocacy targets. While the leadership for this lies with the relevant UNICEF teams, under the management of the ESP Senior Advisor, Child Poverty, the consultant will support the following partnership activities:
- Support the development of the Ending Child Poverty Global Partnership, including preparation of materials, organization of high level meetings/events, communication with government and other stakeholders, and internal coordination.
- Support the Child Poverty team to identify champion governments for the Global Partnership and establish key alliances in support of UNICEF´s child poverty advocacy.
- Coordinate and liaise with other development partners, UN, IFIs, and child poverty related coalitions as needed.
- Provide coordination support and technical inputs to UNICEF's engagement with the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.
- Develop other partnerships as needed to support implementation of the Global Advocacy Strategy.

4. Other
- Provide inputs to the ESP Practice's resource mobilization materials related to the content and activities outlined above, including drafting of concept notes and proposals.
- Provide inputs to internal reporting and briefings and donor reporting on activities related to the above.

Estimated Duration of the Contract:

Approximately 190 days of engagement are expected during the contract period. However, with the availability of funds, a total of 145 days is planned for the period (Nov 2026 - June 2027). The number of days may increase, subject to the availability of funds, clearance from CRC, and following the implementation plans of work plan, in which case the consultant's contract will be amended accordingly.

Work Assignments Overview	**Deliverables/Outputs**	**Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable**
1. Updated implementation of the Global Child Poverty Advocacy Strategy	**Deliverable 1** Updated 2027-2028 implementation plan and advocacy calendar, developed through consultation with ESP Practice and other relevant internal stakeholders, including priority advocacy objectives, activities, moments, responsibilities and partnerships.	31 December 2026

	Deliverable 2 Draft advocacy evidence and communications materials developed for priority global advocacy moments, including evidence briefs, key messages.	31 December 2026
	Deliverable 3 Scoping and intelligence gathering on concrete advocacy opportunities for 2027, including options for global advocacy moment on ending child poverty mid-2027. Support ESP team in establishing necessary contacts and preparing materials for preparatory internal and external discussion.	28 February 2027
	Deliverable 4 Child poverty policy monitoring mechanism/platform developed, including scope, proposed indicators or information to be monitored, sources and approach for periodic updating.	31 March 2027
	Deliverable 5 Technical and coordination support provided for 2-3 priority global advocacy events or moments, including preparation of advocacy materials, internal coordination, event support and substantive follow-up.	30 June 2027
	Deliverable 6 Coordination of the establishment and initial work of the Lancet Commission on Child Poverty working group, including preparation of relevant materials.	31 December 2026
2. Technical support to regional and country-level child poverty advocacy	**Deliverable 7** Technical inputs to development/finalization of the LAC Child Poverty and Investment in	31 December 2026

	Children Advocacy Strategy implementation plan, including prioritization of activities, milestones, advocacy opportunities and workplan for required inputs.	
	Deliverable 8 Advocacy coordination and technical inputs to establishment and engagement of a group of current/former Ministers of Finance and other economic policy leaders to advise and champion the LAC child poverty and investment in children agenda, including stakeholder mapping, briefing materials, meeting preparation and follow-up. Support identification of overall champions for the strategy.	30 April 2027
	Deliverable 9 Technical inputs and coordination support to development of regional principles for public investment/financing for child poverty reduction, including substantive preparation and coordination of inputs from relevant government, IFI and technical partners.	30 May 2027
	Deliverable 10 Technical and advocacy inputs to priority LAC regional advocacy moments and engagement with IFIs and government leaders, including briefing notes, evidence, key messages and substantive follow-up.	31 March 2027
	Deliverable 11 Technical inputs/review provided in response to 3-5 Country Office/Regional Office requests on child poverty advocacy, including review of advocacy strategies or plans, technical and advocacy	30 April 2027

	materials, policy asks and/or approaches to stakeholder engagement, as relevant.	
	Deliverable 12 3-5 case studies or short learning products documenting Country Office/Regional Office approaches, results and lessons from child poverty advocacy, including substantive inputs to the guidance on child poverty advocacy and policy engagement.	31 May 2027
	Deliverable 13 Technical inputs and coordination support for knowledge exchange and advocacy-related support to UNICEF National Committees on child poverty evidence and policy in high-income countries, in collaboration with PFP.	31 May 2027
	Deliverable 14 Draft guidelines on elevating the voices and participation of children living in poverty in key policy and programming decisions related to ending child poverty.	31 December 2026
	Deliverable 15 Final guidelines on elevating the voices and participation of children living in poverty, incorporating review and consultation inputs.	30 April 2027
3. Partnerships	**Deliverable 16** Initial technical and coordination inputs to development of the Ending Child Poverty Global Partnership, including partnership materials, identification and mapping of potential champion governments and allies, and preparation for initial government engagement.	31 December 2026

	Deliverable 17 Technical and organizational support to initial high-level meeting or engagement of champion governments, including development of background and briefing materials, stakeholder communications, meeting preparation and substantive follow-up.	31 January 2026
	Deliverable 18 Preparation of launch phase of the Ending Child Poverty Global Partnership, including expanding government and champion engagement, preparation of partnership documents and member agreements, internal coordination and follow-up on agreed actions.	30 April 2027
	Deliverable 19 Technical and coordination inputs to UNICEF engagement on child poverty advocacy strategy priorities with priority development partners, United Nations entities, IFIs and child poverty-related coalitions, including briefing materials, preparation for strategic engagements and substantive follow-up.	30 June 2027
	Deliverable 20 Coordination support and technical inputs to UNICEF engagement with the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, including preparation of substantive inputs and materials for agreed engagement opportunities.	30 June 2027
	Deliverable 21 Technical and coordination support to additional strategic partnerships and champion engagement required	30 June 2027

	to advance implementation of the Global Child Poverty Advocacy Strategy.	
4. Other and emerging advocacy priorities	**Deliverable 22** Technical, advocacy, partnership and/or communications inputs developed in response to emerging child poverty advocacy priorities, including inputs to resource mobilization materials, internal briefings and donor reporting, as agreed with the contract manager.	30 June 2027

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:

- Master's degrees in Development economics/studies, public policy, political science, international relations, public relations or closely related field.

Work Experience:

- A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in policy advocacy
- Experience in written analysis/documentation of public policy work required.
- Experience in translating technical policy concepts into clear and powerful advocacy messages
- Knowledge and experience in liaising with government and international development agencies, and coordinating inter-agency initiatives
- Knowledge and experience with web based knowledge management platforms desirable
- Knowledge of areas of work desirable (child poverty and social policy)

Language Requirements:

- Fluency in English, & another UN language preferred; Spanish is an asset

Knowledge/Expertise/Skills:

- Excellent organizational, planning, and analytical skills

- Excellent written and verbal communication in English.
- Proven ability to work under tight deadlines and drive for results

Desirables:

- Experience in managing and synthesizing evidence is desirable.
- Experience with UNICEF and/or other organisations in economic and social policy in developing countries for the benefit of women and children is an asset.