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TERMS OF REFERENCE

TITLE – *Sustainable Energy Consultant*

CONTRACT MODALITY	**Individual Consultancy**
DUTY STATION	**Bangkok, Thailand, Remote work**
DURATION OF CONTRACT	**12 Months**

Purpose of Assignment

Climate change and environmental degradation present significant and escalating threats to the well-being of children globally, jeopardizing the progress achieved in child survival and development. Over a billion children are exposed to severe risks from climate and environmental hazards such as heatwaves, floods, and cyclones.

Given the urgency of adverse climate impacts, it is crucial to transition our energy systems to carry out effective climate change mitigation. Climate change mitigation projects can play a crucial role in saving children by addressing the underlying causes of climate change and its adverse impacts on their health, well-being, and future. Electricity is a critical enabler that dramatically improves the quality, accessibility and reliability of education, health care and WASH services for children. In healthcare and educational facilities, electricity is needed for lighting, heating, powering vital life-saving medical interventions, digital connectivity, learning digital skills, remote learning and delivering WASH services.

Leveraging its extensive field presence in remote areas, UNICEF is committed to fostering climate-resilient, low-carbon communities that safeguard all children. These endeavors constitute some of the most valuable investments for protecting vulnerable children in communities most vulnerable to climate change and its compounded risks.

The global gap in access to energy for these critical services threatens a child's ability to survive and thrive. In parts of sub-Saharan Africa, only a quarter of health centers and a fifth of schools have access to reliable electricity. Providing sustainable energy and related equipment for water systems in remote schools improves menstrual hygiene management and means that girls can attend school. Improving access to solar-powered water and electricity in under-resourced schools and health centers will help bridge this global gap.

Decentralized sustainable energy solutions are becoming increasingly financially and technically viable. They enable uninterrupted essential services and power healthcare, water, and educational facilities. They also contribute to reducing GHG emissions and pollution, promote local employment, increase the retention and recruitment of staff, and can be more resilient in the face of disasters. Providing sustainable energy is key to pursuing a just energy transition to ensure that communities' and households' social and economic needs are met globally.

To further consolidate its global positioning and offer on sustainable energy, UNICEF is seeking a consultant who will support UNICEF in three key areas: implementation, partnerships, and investments and financing models. This includes:

1. Implementation: Strengthening the organization's capacity to implement and roll out energy programs and initiatives. This involves developing and executing an action plan on tools and training for UNICEF staff to enhance their understanding of renewable energy for solar sectors. These solutions will be integrated across UNICEF's programs in healthcare, nutrition, WASH, education, social protection, and child protection.
2. Partnerships: Advancing and maintaining strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including governments, private sector entities, and international organizations. This will involve identifying potential partners, facilitating joint initiatives, and leveraging collective expertise to foster collaborative efforts in advancing sustainable energy solutions.
3. Investments and Financing Models: Applying market assessments conducted to date to inform the provision of solar energy in UNICEF's key sectors (WASH, education, and healthcare). This includes exploring innovative financing models and investment opportunities to support the transition to net zero energy systems and the adaptation of essential social services in an integrated and low-carbon manner for children.

Scope of Work

Under the supervision and guidance of the CoE Climate Resilience programme specialist, this consultant will work in collaboration with country offices, regional offices, and the CoE on Climate Resilience to advocate for increased sustainable energy commitments in investments, as well as child sensitive commitments in energy programming. The consultant will have the following responsibilities:

Implementation: Strengthening UNICEF's Capacity to Roll Out Energy Programs and Initiatives

1. Enhancing UNICEF's sustainable energy programming and advocacy capacity:
    - Develop the implementation plan and roadmap for the Sustainable Energy Strategy operationalization.
    - Support the identification of strategic entry points for UNICEF into the sustainable energy market.
    - Assist in the facilitation of capacity-building sessions (workshops, trainings, etc.) for internal and external audiences.
    - Develop and execute an action plan on tools and training for UNICEF staff to strengthen their understanding of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and battery storage solutions.
    - Integrate renewable energy solutions across UNICEF's programs in healthcare, nutrition, WASH, education, social protection, and child protection.

Partnerships: Advancing and Maintaining Strategic Collaborations

2. Engaging with key sustainable energy partnerships, energy funders, and networks:
    - Develop key materials to support fundraising and partnerships for the Sustainable Energy Strategy.
    - Assist in the identification of strategic partnerships for advancing child- and youth-sensitive sustainable energy action.
    - Support the development of multi-sector or energy-specific proposals, concept notes, and investment cases for public and private audiences.
    - Provide technical review of energy activities, budgets, and implementation plans for CO and RO-developed funding proposals.
    - Identify cost gaps and financing needs at regional and sectoral levels, aligned with existing UNICEF implementation structures and results.
    - Develop partnerships with energy funders and investors to pilot and scale new financing models for energy implementation and sustainability.

Investments and Financing Models: Designing new financing mechanisms for UNICEF and partners

3. Applying market data to inform sustainable energy investments:
    - Generate the evidence base needed to inform UNICEF's value add in different investment scenarios as to support the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Strategy.
    - Provide technical advisory on the design of new financing models for energy implementation and sustainability.
    - Develop and implement strategies to ensure that investments align with UNICEF's goals and contribute to meeting several Sustainable Development Goals.
    - Explore non-grant financing instruments and the necessarily partnerships needed to fill energy gaps.

Work Assignments Overview	**Deliverables/Outputs**	**Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable Input days**
Implementation: Strengthening UNICEF's Capacity to Roll Out Energy Programs and Initiatives	Deliverable 1: Finalized Sustainable Energy Strategy (word document and powerpoint) including inputs from stakeholder consultations	31 March 2027 22 days

	Deliverable 2: Mid-year report on technical assistance delivered to country offices through CoE	31 May 2027 22 days
Partnerships: Advancing and Maintaining Strategic Collaborations	Deliverable 3: Fundraising implementation plan for Sustainable Energy Strategy including detailed results-based budget and facilities costings framework **Travel to:** **Bangkok, Thailand,** **1 trip, 7 days**	30 July 2027 22 days
	Deliverable 4: Finalized fundraising proposal for Sustainable Energy Hub for 1 private sector audience and 1 public donor	30 September 2027 22 days
Investments and Financing Models: Designing new financing mechanisms for UNICEF and partners	Deliverable 5: End-of-year report on energy-as-a-service pilot including updates on four-country feasibility study **Travel:** **Mozambique & Pakistan** **2 trips, 7 days each (total 14 days)**	30 November 2027 22 days
	Deliverable 6: Blended finance facility design document including funding flows and partnership models	31 January 2028 22 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 Qualification required:

Education:

Masters degree in renewable energy, climate change, sustainable development, economics, political science, sociology, anthropology or relevant technical field.

Minimum of 8 years of relevant professional experience in the above areas.

Work Experience:

Minimum 8 years' work experience in developing, supporting, and implementing sustainable energy related initiatives for UN agencies

Language Requirements:

- English fluency required. French working abilities an asset.

Knowledge/Expertise/Skills:

- Expert knowledge in sustainable energy programming, innovative financing, advocacy required
- Strong partnerships experience, particularly on sustainable energy

Desirables:

- Excellent project management, coordination, fundraising and communication skills