unicef | for every child

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant: Climate Resilience for Children

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	**Beijing, China**
DURATION OF CONTRACT	12.5 months

Purpose of Assignment

The tremendous gains in child development over the past 30 years are being threatened by climate change and environmental degradation. Patterns of deprivations among children are changing and children face multiple overlapping risks from extreme weather events, changing climate patterns, air pollution and vulnerable social services. A billion children globally are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, threatening their ability to survive, grow and thrive, and deepening existing inequities. Multiple studies point to the impact of climate change on children's health, education, social security and protection and migration related deprivations. In China, more than 200 million children are exposed to climate change and environmental impacts.

UNICEF is working with Ministry of Ecology & Environment to address these challenges through multiple program interventions. This is supported by the global framework of the Sustainability & Climate Change Action Plan (SCAP). UNICEF has successfully advocated with the Government of China for establishing partnerships for child focused climate action and is working with them to develop a child-focused framework for implementation of existing national adaptation policies.

UNICEF and Ministry of Ecology & Environment (MEE) have entered a two-year approved work plan for 2026 and 2027, which includes various dimensions of climate action for children. One of the most significant partnership dimensions involves rigorous research and evidence generation to inform the overall program directions and generate best practices for children's climate adaptation for China and the broader regional and global community.

For this research and evidence generation activity with Ministry of Ecology and Environment, UNICEF is in partnership with several institutions, namely, National Center for Climate Change Strategy & International Cooperation under MEE, Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy of MEE, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of MEE, Environmental Development Center of MEE, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences of MEE, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing Normal University. The basic purpose of the assignment is to ensure technical input for high-quality research planning, implementation and documentation, along with coordination of the research activity between these institutes to ensure fit-for-purpose and comprehensive research and evidence output for UNICEF.

Scope of Work

This consultancy is designed to provide technical support to the Climate section for the planning, implementation, documentation and quality assurance of the research activities about to be undertaken with the UNICEF partners, as part of the approved work plan for 2026 and 2027. The consultant will primarily engage with Ministry of Ecology and Environment, specifically National Center for Climate Change Strategy & International Cooperation under MEE, Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy of MEE, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of MEE, Environmental Development Center of MEE, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences of MEE, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing Normal University.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable
Support MEE and UNICEF China in developing research protocols and M&E frameworks	D1 – Final set of 5 research protocols developed, one for each of the 5 institutional partners involved with the research - 50 days	15 March 2027
	D2 – Final set of 5 M&E frameworks developed, one for each of the 5 institutional partners involved with the research - 25 days	15 May 2027
Support MEE and UNICEF China in the quality assurance and monitoring of the research implementation	D3 – Submit 9 field monitoring reports - 18 days	15 July 2027 – First set of 3 field visit reports 15 August 2027 – Second set of 3 field visit reports 15 September 2027 – Third set of 3 field visit reports
Support MEE and UNICEF China in the development of research reports	D4 – 5 research reports developed for the 5 partner institutions, including support for data analysis, framing of conclusions and inputs to recommendations based on global and Chinese contexts - 40 days	15 November 2027
Support UNICEF China in the documentation of the research activity with MEE	D5 – Final combined report of all partner institutions developed and submitted - 25 days	31 December 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.
- 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 university degree in Climate/ Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences, Social Research, Development Studies and/or any related disciplines
- **Work Experience**: At least 5 years of research experience in climate change and/or environmental sciences
- **Skills** (optional):
- Demonstrated research experience or collaborative research with government institutions, particularly with the MEE
- Good analytical and report writing skills
- **Language Requirements**: English & Chinese
- **Desirables**:
- Demonstrated field experience of working in climate change or environmental programs, especially involving social sectors
- Candidates with a Ph.D in the relevant disciplines