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TERMS OF REFERENCE

National Consultant CCES and CR WASH Programme

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	**New Delhi**
DURATION OF CONTRACT	12 months

Purpose of Assignment

Climate and environmental risks are increasingly disrupting WASH, health, nutrition, education, child protection, social protection and disaster risk reduction systems, with disproportionate consequences for children and communities facing multiple vulnerabilities. National evidence from the India Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 and the Climate Landscape Analysis for Children—India, 2024 highlights widespread and overlapping exposure to heat, air pollution, drought, flooding, water stress and other environmental hazards, alongside gaps in institutional readiness, coordination, financing, data use and service resilience. India's evolving climate-policy and transparency architecture—including the Nationally Determined Contribution for 2031–2035 and the First Biennial Transparency Report—creates opportunities to translate this evidence into measurable, child-centred implementation, financing and accountability.

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide dedicated national-level analytical, technical, drafting, coordination and follow-up support under WASH Output 505: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES). The assignment will help UNICEF India convert national and subnational evidence, programme learning and stakeholder inputs into coherent action across climate-resilient WASH, environmental health and other child-critical services at community and institutional levels.

The consultancy will contribute to eight results: (1) measurable and coordinated implementation of the India Climate Action Plan and 12 Field Office Climate Action Plans; (2) evidence-led action on resilient environmental sanitation, circularity, schools and communities; (3) climate and child-risk centric reports and policy-dialogue outputs; (4) climate- and environment-informed social and behaviour change communication that supports protective and sustainable practices; (5) integration of youth priorities into advocacy and programme follow-up; (6) stronger and scalable climate-ready school and community approaches; (7) an actionable 2028–2030 ICO Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP) and financing pathway; and (8) improved performance and scale-up of climate-resilient rural water services.

These eight results provide the organising framework for the Scope of Work below. The Scope of Work sets out the evidence and policy context, defines the consultant's contribution under each result and establishes the cross-cutting quality, coordination and accountability requirements for delivery.

Scope of Work

India's climate and environmental risks increasingly affect the continuity, safety and equity of the services on which children depend. The **India Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 (India CCRR 2026)**, a provisional technical assessment for planning and prioritisation, estimates that **424.9 million children—99.7 per cent of India's child population—are exposed to at least one modelled climate or environmental hazard, while 234.2 million, or 54.9 per cent, face three or more overlapping hazards**. PM2.5 air pollution reaches approximately **421 million children (98.7 per cent)**, extreme heat **384 million (90 per cent)** and agricultural drought **358 million (84 per cent)**; combined drought and extreme heat affect about **159 million children**. The assessment identifies **15 Severe-tier districts, with 12.5 million children, and 133 Severe- or High-tier**

districts, accounting for approximately 103 million children. The weak correlation between hazard exposure and child vulnerability underscores the need to consider both where hazards occur and whether households, communities and essential services can anticipate, withstand and recover from them. These modelled screening findings cover 639 assessed districts, 11 hazard layers and 35 States and Union Territories. They support planning and programme prioritisation and should not be interpreted as forecasts; integration of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh into the underlying hazard dataset remains pending. **Source: UNICEF India, India Children's Climate Risk Report 2026, government consultation draft; UNICEF Global Child Hazard Database, IND_V1, 8 June 2026; NFHS factsheets; and WorldPop under-18 population estimates.**

The **Climate Landscape Analysis for Children—India, 2024 (India CLAC 2024)** complements this national modelling with policy analysis and consultations in ten purposively selected states. Among the children consulted, **68 per cent reported experiencing a climate-related hazard during the preceding year, 93 per cent reported school closures associated with extreme weather or environmental degradation, and 67 per cent reported climate-linked health concerns**, including heat stress, breathing difficulties and vector-borne diseases. These findings reflect lived experience in the consulted locations and are not nationally representative prevalence estimates. India CLAC 2024 also identifies gaps in age- and gender-disaggregated data, interdepartmental coordination, the visibility of children in climate policy, and dedicated climate and environmental financing. Read together, India CCRR 2026 and India CLAC 2024 show that climate risk reaches children through disruption to WASH, health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection, while air pollution, unsafe waste management, water insecurity, heat and unreliable energy services compound environmental-health pressures at household, community and institutional levels. **Source: UNICEF India, Climate Landscape Analysis for Children—India, December 2024.**

The wider policy and risk context reinforces the need for coordinated, measurable implementation. The **Germanwatch Climate Risk Index 2026** ranks India **ninth among countries most affected by recorded extreme-weather impacts over 1995–2024**; this retrospective ranking indicates cumulative human and economic impacts rather than future risk. India's **Nationally Determined Contribution for 2031–2035**, communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in April 2026, commits to reducing the emissions intensity of GDP by **47 per cent from the 2005 level**, achieving **60 per cent cumulative installed electric-power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources**, and creating a **3.5–4.0 billion tonne CO_2-equivalent carbon sink through forest and tree cover by 2035 from the 2005 level**. India's **First Biennial Transparency Report**, submitted in April 2026, reports the national greenhouse-gas inventory for 2022 and provides a framework for tracking mitigation progress, adaptation action, climate finance, technology and capacity-building needs. Together, these instruments provide policy, financing and results-tracking entry points for resilient WASH, environmental health and other child-critical services. **Sources: Germanwatch, Climate Risk Index 2026, November 2025; Government of India, Nationally Determined Contribution 2031–2035; and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India's First Biennial Transparency Report to the UNFCCC.**

Within this evidence and policy context, the consultant will translate the eight intended results into defined analytical, technical, drafting, coordination and follow-up tasks that advance UNICEF India's Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES) and climate-resilient WASH agenda. The work will examine the intersections among climate change, environmental degradation, WASH and environmental health—including heatwaves, air pollution, water scarcity and flooding, groundwater stress, environmental sanitation, solid and liquid waste management, circularity, energy access, energy efficiency and the clean-energy transition—and apply the findings to programme action at community level and within schools, health facilities, anganwadi centres, local government systems and other child-serving institutions.

Specific scope and measurable outputs

1. **ICAP and FO-ICAP implementation tracking.** Support coordinated implementation and results tracking for the ICAP and all 12 FO-ICAPs, including synthesis of progress, evidence, bottlenecks, accountabilities and follow-up actions with programme sections and Field Offices.

2. **Evidence generation and dissemination to stakeholders.** Synthesise evidence and key messages for media and other stakeholders and identify priority actions for climate-resilient and child-sensitive programme and policies.
3. **Policy dialogue on climate change and child risk with emphasis on air pollution and heatwave.** Prepare evidence-based reports, briefs, presentations and policy-dialogue materials drawing on India CCRR 2026, India CLAC 2024, stakeholder consultations report on air pollution and heatwave.
4. **Climate- and environment-informed social and behaviour change communication campaigns.** Translate priority climate and environmental-health evidence into audience-specific behaviours, messages, channels and implementation guidance that promote protective, equitable and sustainable practices.
5. **Youth priorities and programme follow-up.** Consolidate youth perspectives on climate risk, environmental health, WASH, pollution, circularity, green skills and a just transition, and support their meaningful integration into advocacy and programme follow-up.
6. **Climate-ready schools and communities.** Technical support to donor funded program implementation to develop and document scalable approaches for risk-informed planning, climate-resilient WASH, heat and air-quality protection, waste and energy management, preparedness, early warning and continuity of essential services.
7. **2028–2030 ICO Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP) and financing pathway.** Identify policy and financing entry points for climate-resilient and low-emission sanitation, including opportunities for integration within relevant climate policies, financing frameworks and investment mechanisms
8. **Climate-resilient rural water services.** Identify priority measures and scalable models to strengthen source sustainability, water safety, drought and flood resilience, groundwater management, energy efficiency, operations and maintenance, governance, financing and community capacity.

Cross-cutting responsibilities and quality requirements

- Apply a child-centred, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and equity-focused lens, with attention to children and communities facing multiple climate, environmental, health and socioeconomic risks.
- Triangulate national evidence, programme data, field office inputs, implementation experience and stakeholder feedback to inform UNICEF programming on CCES.
- Undertake desk reviews, data compilation, consultations, meeting support, drafting, revision, , documentation and monitoring and reporting support for the eight deliverables.
- Maintain a deliverable and action tracker, source and evidence records, consultation notes and version-controlled drafts; promptly flag dependencies, delays, inconsistencies, data limitations and quality risks to the supervisor.
- Coordinate inputs and reviews with the WASH-CCES team and designated colleagues from programme sections, Communication and Advocacy, Social and Behaviour Change, Disaster Risk Reduction, YuWaah, Planning and Monitoring, Operations and Field Offices, as required for each deliverable.

The consultant will report to the Programme Specialist, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability. The role will be advisory and deliverable-focused, covering evidence synthesis, technical drafting, review coordination and follow-up. UNICEF technical leads will retain responsibility for programme decisions, government engagement, formal representation, approvals and acceptance of deliverables.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable

Objective 2 — Evidence generation and dissemination to stakeholders	A referenced evidence pack with key facts and proposed messages on the compounded impact of air pollution and heatwaves with a child-centric lens for media use	30 January 2027
Objectives 2— Evidence generation and dissemination to stakeholders	A concise media workshop learning report with participant insights, key misconceptions, messages, participants' feedback, and actions for future engagement on air pollution and heatwaves.	15 February 2027
Objective 1 — ICAP and FO-ICAP implementation tracking	Aligned with global SCAP, a 2027 ICAP with key activities, lead sections, and budgetary details.	28 February 2027
Objective 1 — ICAP and FO-ICAP implementation tracking	Twelve FO-ICAPs in sync with ICO-ICAP and Global SCAP with key activities, lead sections and budgetary details.	31 March 2027
Objective 2 — Evidence generation and dissemination to stakeholders	Policy notes/field-based learnings / behavioural insights for: i)resilient environmental sanitation, addressing climate risk assessment, resilient sanitation service chains, service continuity, circularity/resource recovery and priority recommendations for integration in national/state sanitation programmes and guidance.	15 April 2027
	ii) resilient water services	30 0ct 2027
	iii) future-ready schools	30 Nov 2027
Objective 3 — Policy dialogue on Climate Change and child risk with emphasis on air pollution	Publication-ready CLAC and CCRR 2026 manuscripts with consistent evidence, clear implications for the three CCES priorities and a	30 April 2027

and heatwave.	comment-response matrix.	
Objective 4 — Climate- and environment-informed social and behaviour change communication campaigns	One human interest story and two social-media messages set clearly defining the call-to-action, adoption, and impact created. *The story must be distinct from Deliverable 9, i.e. Eliva project*.	30 May 2027
Objective 3 — Policy dialogue on Climate Change and child risk with emphasis on air pollution and heatwaves.	A policy-roundtable outcome report with recommendations on strengthening national heat and air quality policies from a child and youth lens.	30 May 2027
Objective 6 — Climate-ready schools and communities.	For a donor funded project, submit: i) an interim report of learning,	Interim report: 30 May 2027
	ii) annual learning report	Annual report: 30 September 2027
	iii) three state programme stories covering resilient water and environmental sanitation services, climate-ready schools, climate literacy, programme adjustments and replication priorities. (*The stories must not duplicate Deliverable 4 i.e. human interest story.)*	Three human-interest stories: 31 August 2027
Objective 4 — Climate- and environment-informed social and behaviour change communication campaigns. .	A consolidated campaign summary note covering World Environment Day reach, audience response, message uptake and improvements to future climate-informed SBCC.	30 June 2027
Objective 1 — ICAP and FO-ICAP implementation tracking	A mid-year consolidation report of Field Office ICAP, including progress across 3 implementation drivers for	Mid-year report: 30 July 2027

	UNICEF's SCAP.	
	An annual report on Field Office ICAP, including progress across 3 drivers of implementation for UNICEF's SCAP.	Annual report: 15 December 2027
Objective 5 — Youth priorities and programme follow-up.	A consultation summary of youth conferences and a youth climate manifesto.	30 August 2027
Objective 7 — 2028-2030: ICO Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP) and financing pathway.	A draft 2028–2030 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP) inclusive of climate-finance mapping and priority financing pathways for child-critical climate action.	30 November 2027
Objective 8 — Climate-resilient rural water services	Under the UNICEF-DEKRA partnership, submit: i) Mid-year report	Mid-year report: 30 June 2027
	ii) annual reports comparing results with targets and outlining leveraging and scale-up approach	Annual report: 15 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 environmental, social, or political sciences
- **Work Experience**: 7 years
- **Skills** (optional):

• Thorough knowledge of India's and global climate change and environment policies, programming and advocacy.
• Ability to coordinate and contribute to formulation of strategies and policies.
• Good communication and writing skills.
• Experience in working with UN, INGOs, etc. is an asset.

- **Language Requirements**: Fluency in English
- **Desirables**: Knowledge of Hindi is an asset