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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Green Innovation Consultant

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	**New Delhi, India (remote with travel)**
DURATION OF CONTRACT	**12 months**

Purpose of Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide strategic and time-bound technical assistance to advance UNICEF/YuWaah's work on youth innovation, entrepreneurship and livelihood pathways, including green innovation, with a focus on strengthening institutional mechanisms, partnerships and approaches that can be sustained and scaled through existing systems.

The consultant will support the development, adaptation and institutionalisation of priority initiatives across national and state ecosystems, including youth green innovation programming, institutional adoption of the Youth Green Readiness Layer, imaGen Ventures, innovation-to-IP and entrepreneurship pathways, Institute Innovation Councils (IICs) and higher education institutions, and state-level youth innovation models. The assignment will also facilitate collaboration across government, academia, industry, skilling, incubation and other relevant partners to strengthen opportunities for adolescents and young people.

The consultancy will contribute to translating programme experience and emerging approaches into scalable and sustainable models, while integrating equity and inclusion, meaningful youth engagement, safeguarding, evidence generation and appropriate use of digital and AI-enabled approaches.

Scope of Work

● Advance the institutional adoption of the Youth Green Readiness Layer, being designed under a separate UNICEF agency), by engaging relevant national and sectoral institutions on ownership, hosting, convergence and integration pathways.

● Design and support youth-focused green innovation programming, including around platforms such as Mumbai Climate Week, to expand youth participation, provide appropriate technical support and enable promising solutions to connect with relevant institutions and networks.

● Support the expansion and institutionalisation of imaGen Ventures across priority states through contextualisation, government engagement, partner convergence and mechanisms for youth-led solutions to access mentoring, validation, incubation and entrepreneurship support.

● Develop innovation-to-IP and entrepreneurship approaches for adolescents and youth, including bootcamps that enable promising ideas to progress through prototyping, validation, intellectual property, incubation and enterprise development.

● Enhance the role of Innovation Councils, higher education institutions and other relevant institutions in mentoring youth-led innovations and connecting them with technical expertise, IP, incubation and entrepreneurship support.

● Provide technical assistance to selected state governments and institutions to develop context-responsive youth

innovation and opportunity models, drawing on relevant practices and aligning them with existing policies, programmes and institutional structures.

● Facilitate inter-state exchange and adaptation of effective practices across priority states to inform programme improvement, replication and scale within YuWaah-supported initiatives.

● Build strategic convergence with government, academia, industry, skilling institutions, incubators, sector bodies, financing institutions, development partners and youth networks to address identified gaps across the portfolio.

● Generate actionable recommendations to inform programme improvement, institutionalisation and future scale, while ensuring equity and inclusion, meaningful youth engagement, safeguarding, responsible data practices and appropriate application of digital and AI-enabled approaches.

Work Assignments Overview	**Deliverables/Outputs**	**Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable**
1. Green Innovation Challenge: Green Innovation Challenge designed and technical guidance provided for Mumbai Climate Week, including approaches to identify, engage and support youth innovators; strengthen youth-focused green innovation programming; connect promising youth-led solutions with relevant institutions and ecosystem actors; and document a scalable approach for continued green innovation programming beyond the convening	**Deliverable 1** – One Concept Note and Programme Implementation Plan	26/01/2027 Approximately 15 days
2. Green Readiness Institutional Adoption: Institutional Adoption Roadmap developed for the Youth Green Readiness Layer, running alongside the design process under the separate agency contract (RFP LRPS2026-9206877) so that institutional ownership is secured early. Based on consultations with institutions, the roadmap will define institutional ownership, hosting and deployment arrangements, convergence	**Deliverable 2** – One Institutional Adoption Roadmap for the Youth Green Readiness Layer, with a record of institutional consultations and agreed next steps	26/02/2027 Approximately 20 days

mechanisms and pathways for adoption or integration through relevant national systems, including AICTE and greenskilling/sector institutions such as the Skill Council for Green Jobs, as appropriate. It will not develop, revise or validate the Framework, learning content or sector and pathway analysis, which remain with the agency.		
3. Strengthening Entrepreneurship Pathways with government: Entrepreneurship Pathway strengthened for youth , defining progression from ideation and prototyping to validation, incubation and entrepreneurship, with clear mentoring, institutional support and referral mechanisms to enable promising progression through the ecosystem. The pathway is sectoragnostic and focuses on government and institutional support for progression; sector-specific green employment and entrepreneurship opportunity mapping is outside its scope.	**Deliverable 3** – One technical note outlining the proposed entrepreneurship journey framework, including youth personas, stage-wise progression pathways, milestone standards and recommendations for ministry's consideration and validation.	08/04/2027 Approximately 25 days
4. ImaGen Ventures Multi-State Strengthening: ImaGen Ventures MultiState Strengthening Model completed for 2 priority states defining state contextualisation, institutional roles, mentoring, innovation progression and linkages to entrepreneurship, incubation, skilling and opportunities.	**Deliverable 4 –** One Programme Strategy Note to guide scale up of ImaGen Ventures	12/05/2027 Approximately 20 days

5. IIC and HEI Innovation Ecosystem Strengthening: IIC/HEI Innovation Mentoring and Progression Model developed through the AICTE ecosystem, establishing mechanisms for capable Institute Innovation Councils and HEIs to mentor innovations across institutions and connect promising solutions to prototyping, validation, IP, incubation and entrepreneurship pathways.	**Deliverable 5 –** One programme note that defines SOPs for Higher Education Institutions to streamline mentorship and progression for Institute Innovation Councils	14/06/2027 Approximately 20 days
6. Provide technical assistance to government partner in defining servicedelivery approaches and ecosystem linkages to support youth entrepreneurship progression, including mentoring, business validation, enterprise and compliance readiness, finance and market readiness, and the roles of relevant providers, mentors and institutional partners.	**Deliverable 6 –** One service-delivery framework comprising four service blueprints, proposed provider and mentor typologies, onboarding and quality standards, referral protocols, and recommendations for strengthening ecosystem capacity and coordination, for review and validation by MSDE/SIDH and relevant stakeholders.	15/07/2027 Approximately 20 days
7. National Innovation-to-IP Bootcamps: Innovation-to-IP Bootcamp SOP for AICTE and participating institutions, with standardised learning, mentoring, innovation assessment and progression mechanisms connecting adolescents and youth to IP, incubation, entrepreneurship and market opportunities.	**Deliverable 7 –** One National Innovation-toIP Bootcamp Strategy Note and SOP for Higher Education Institutions	10/08/2027 Approximately 15 days
8. Regional Mapping of Youth Opportunities Landscape & Strategic Programme Adaptation: Southern India Youth Opportunities Landscape	**Deliverable 8 –** One landscape Analysis report carrying minimum of 10 emerging opportunities, trends, or policy developments identified and analysed alongside	20/09/2027 Approximately 25 days

Report covering states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala that analyses market trends, specifically related to innovation and entrepreneurship and emerging sectors, future skills demands, demographic shifts, youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, and implications of digital, AI, automation, and green transformations. Green economy sector, occupation and opportunity analysis is outside its scope; the report will draw on the India Green Economy Outlook produced under the agency contract (RFP LRPS-2026-9206877) where available.	recommendations for adaptation, scaling, or contextualization of relevant YuWaah programmes, partnerships, or solutions.	
9. Database of regional ecosystem of strategic partners across southern India compiled towards facilitating partnership-building and multistakeholder collaboration to generate tangible opportunities for young people in skills, employment, entrepreneurship, innovation, volunteering, and youth engagement.	**Deliverable 9 –** (a) One Comprehensive partner ecosystem database developed and maintained, covering employers, industry associations, academia, skilling institutions, incubators, foundations, philanthropies, civil society organizations, and development partners across the five states. (b) Engagement initiated with a minimum 6 strategic partners and partnership opportunities assessed during the contract period.	21/10/2027 Approximately 20 days
10. Support government in articulating the functional requirements for enabling entrepreneurship progression through government platforms, drawing on existing platform features, proposed user journeys,	**Deliverable 10 –** One consolidated requirements note covering a mapping of existing SIDH entrepreneurship features, user journeys and functional requirements, referral and milestone workflows, progression	23/11/2027 Approximately 20 days

referral and milestone workflows, and progression data needs. Provide advisory support for defining a state-level demonstration to inform future programme refinement and scale-up	indicators, and a proposed state-level demonstration framework with partner-orientation considerations, monitoring indicators and recommendations for learning and scale-up.	
11 Facilitation of 2 regional convening, roundtables, industry dialogues, working group meetings, or knowledge exchange events during the contract period.	**Deliverable 11 –** 2 Outcome Report compiling agreed actions, partner commitments, and follow-up plans for all major partnership engagements and convenings.	24/12/2027 Approximately 20 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

- **Education:**
    - Advanced university degree (Master's or equivalent) in development studies, public policy,

education, business/entrepreneurship, economics, innovation, sustainability/climate studies, social sciences, engineering/technology, management or another relevant discipline.

- A first university degree with additional relevant professional experience may be considered in lieu of an advanced degree, subject to UNICEF's applicable recruitment requirements.

- **Work Experience:**
  - Minimum 10 years of progressively responsible professional experience in youth innovation, entrepreneurship, skills/future skills, youth livelihoods, green skills/green economy, education-to-employment pathways, or related areas.
  - Demonstrated experience working with government systems and national/state institutions in India on programme design, technical assistance, systems strengthening, institutionalisation or scale is essential.
  - Demonstrated experience designing or strengthening youth innovation and entrepreneurship programs with a strong knowledge of innovation progression from idea to market is essential.
  - Knowledge of learning and skilling ecosystem and pathways, and how to facilitate transitions to employment, entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities.
  - Strong stakeholder engagement, partnership development, facilitation, analytical writing and communication skills across government, academia, private sector and development partners;
  - Knowledge of green economic transition and/or responsible AI/digital tools is an asset.
- **Language Requirements:** fluency in written and spoken English is required.
- **Desirables:** Prior experience with UNICEF, Generation Unlimited/YuWaah, another United Nations agency or a comparable international development organisation is desirable;