**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS**

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| **Title**International consultant to provide technical support on Shock Responsive Social Protection | **Funding Code****Non-grant (GC)** | **Type of engagement** [x]  Consultant [ ]  Individual Contractor Part-Time[ ]  Individual Contractor Full-Time | **Duty Station:**Baku, Azerbaijan, office -based with a possible 2-3 weeks mission to Baku |
| **Background:**There is growing interest globally in how existing national social protection systems can be leveraged to respond to these kinds of slow-onset shocks to deliver the same level of aid in a shorter time frame and with much lower administrative costs (for example by using their targeting systems or payment systems rather than establishing new ones through parallel humanitarian responses of short duration). There is also growing interest in how enabling households prone to disaster to engage in greater preparedness; a key emerging aspect of this is how early warning systems can help alert households, communities, and local authorities to these risks, so that assistance can be provided in advance of the actual onset of a shock or disaster. When hazardous events occur, effective social protection support is often a crucial factor in determining whether children and young people can quickly return to normality, otherwise their life paths could be permanently altered. All too often, however, national systems are either too weak to respond, or are not designed to have the agility to adjust, for example, through rapid expansion to reach those that need support or temporarily increasing transfer size while families and communities recover.UNICEF recognizes that great attention is required for working together around the world with partners and governments to build, strengthen, and improve the agility of shock responsive social protection systems in the face of increasing disaster events. In 2016 UNICEF, along with other actors, endorsed global commitments to invest in the scale-up of emergency Cash Transfer Programmin (CTP). The commitments included efforts to make national social protection systems more ‘shock-responsive’ so they can flexibly respond to emergencies. UNICEF also has a long experience working on cash transfer programmes, mainly supporting national social protection systems, but there has been less focus on systematically integrating cash transfer programming into emergency preparedness planning and response. A few UNICEF Country Offices in Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR) have implemented cash-based interventions in response to emergencies. However, these have been outside of national disaster management plans or social protection frameworks. Countries in the region are well-positioned to include cash responses in their emergency preparedness plans; the region has functioning markets and relatively well-developed social protection systems. Many Country Offices across the region are engaged in supporting reforms to national social protection systems and as such, there is an opportunity to make these systems more agile, dynamic, and innovative to quickly respond to the needs of children in the case of a shock or crisis. Much of UNICEF's work and expertise in this area focuses on social transfers, especially cash transfers, as proven programmatic responses and an integral part of social protection systems in both development settings and humanitarian response. Other important areas of social protection programming, such as social insurance, public works, and school feeding, are areas for further exploration for UNICEF in coordination with key partners.This year UNICEF Azerbaijan office will give technical support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan (MoLSPP) on shock-responsive social protection for the development of mechanisms to improve the social protection of the poor and vulnerable in the event of shocks (economic, pandemics, conflict, climate, etc.) The support will be focusing on shock responsive social protection to identify the key interventions to help reach and respond to households in the event of shocks and to avoid negative coping strategies (like withdrawing children from school or reducing meals) used by households to cope with the loss of assets and reduced income.  |
| **Purpose:** * Carry out Cash Preparedness Assessment to understand the abilities of the existing system to respond to the shocks, and in the long run to support the MoLSP to be prepared to efficiently respond to emergencies with quality, rapid and scalable cash-based programming. This will be through building on existing national systems, where appropriate, and through engaging the private sector, innovative approaches, and partnerships. It should also include the impact on human capital development and follow a gender-responsive approach
* Undertaking hands-on technical support to UNICEF Azerbaijan Country Office and MoLSP to assess the feasibility of using national social protection systems to respond to crises, while supporting Country Offices, governments, and other partners in taking forward preparedness measures by developing different assumptions and scenarios with responses.
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| **Scope of Work:**Following the overall conceptual framework of Shock Responsive Social Protection and resources including 1) the UNICEF Programme Guidance: Strengthening Shock Responsive, 2) Social Protection Systems Guidance on Social Protection System Readiness Assessment, and 3)Cash Preparedness Tools, the scope of work focuses on carrying out the rapid assessment of the social protection system while providing wider policy level recommendations on the design, selection criteria, piloting, implementation and evaluation of responses to shocks to reach the most vulnerable. The study should be in line with Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Management plans. In addition, Delivery systems that consider gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities of children and that make special provision to reach children who are particularly vulnerable and excluded.The questions below must be addressed by this study:* To what extent the existing programs are relevant for the design of these responses?
* Do existing mechanisms in the country allow to define and reach the most vulnerable in the event of shocks?
* How to finance it and what are the alternative ways to finance it?
* How to make such responses more agile to rapidly evolving context?

The major steps are as follows:***Inception phase:**** Initial desk review to assess the availability of data/ information
* Stakeholder identification and defining the assessment and response parameters.
* Presentation of the conceptual framework and the tools to UNICEF and to the Ministry to facilitate an in-depth common understanding of the framework
* Presentation of an inception report, including a finalized conceptual framework and methodology.

***Data collection and analysis:**** Data collection on social protection system, legislation, policy and strategy documents, action plans, programme documents, evaluations
* A series of key informant interviews
* Round table with key stakeholders
* Analysis of readiness, identification of programme options and recommendation actions, strategies and planning documents, policies, and budgets.
* Ensure data collection, tools, analysis, stakeholder consultations, recommendations are gender and climate-sensitive

 ***Expected Deliverables:*** * Inception report with elaborated methodology, work plan, and schedule.
* Draft report with the key finding, along with the record of key informant interviews and round table with stakeholders
* A final comprehensive report, including a summary and presentation, on child-focused shock responsive social protection
* A policy brief with key findings and recommendations (max 4 pages) for advocacy purposes.
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| **Child Safeguarding** Is this project/assignment considered as “[Elevated Risk Role](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/DocumentLibrary1/Guidance%20on%20Identifying%20Elevated%20Risk%20Roles_finalversion.pdf?CT=1590792470221&OR=ItemsView)” from a child safeguarding perspective?        [ ]    YES    [x]    NO     If YES, check all that apply:                                                                                                                                                     **Direct contact role**[ ]  YES     [x]   NO  If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of direct interpersonal contact with children, or work in their immediately physical proximity, with limited supervision by a more senior member of personnel:

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 **Child data role**[ ]  YES    [x]   NO  If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of manipulating or transmitting personal-identifiable information of children (name, national ID, location data, photos):

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More information is available in the [Child Safeguarding SharePoint](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/SitePages/Amendments-to-the-Recruitment-Guidance.aspx) and [Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/DocumentLibrary1/Child%20Safeguarding%20FAQs%20and%20Updates%20Dec%202020.pdf)   |

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| **Budget Year:** | **Requesting Section/Issuing Office:** | **Reasons why consultancy cannot be done by staff:** |
| 2022 | Social Policy  | The study requires specific knowledge on the subject and experience  |
| **Included in Annual/Rolling Workplan***:* [x]  Yes [ ]  No, please justify:  |
| **Consultant sourcing:**[ ]  National [x]  International [ ]  Both**Consultant selection method:** [ ]  Competitive Selection (Roster)[x]  Competitive Selection (Advertisement/Desk Review/Interview) | **Request for:**[x]  New SSA – Individual Contract[ ]  Extension/ Amendment |
| **If Extension, Justification for extension:** |
| **Supervisor:** Rashad Huseynov, Social Policy Specialist | **Start Date:** | **End Date:** | **Number of Days (working)** |
|  | *June 2022* | *August 2022* | *25* |

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| **Work Assignment Overview** |
| **Tasks/Milestone:** | **Deliverables/Outputs:** | **Timeline:** |
| Inception report with elaborated methodology, work plan, and schedule | Inception report  | 5 working days |
| Draft report with the key finding, along with the record of key informant interviews and round table with stakeholders | Record of key informant interviews | 13 working days |
| Facilitated round table with stakeholders |
| Draft report with key findings  |
| A final comprehensive report, including a summary and presentation, on child-focused shock responsive social protection | Final comprehensive report  | 7 working days |
| A policy brief with key findings and recommendations (max 4 pages) for advocacy purposes. | A policy brief document |
| **Estimated Consultancy period** |  | 25 working days |

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| **Payment condition** | Two payments will be made based on the deliverables.Payment of professional fees will be based on submission of agreed deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment or terminate the contract 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 |
| **Minimum Qualifications required:**[ ]  Bachelors [x]  Masters [ ]  PhD [ ]  Other  | **Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:*** An advanced university degree in the International Development, Social Policy, or related discipline required;
* Minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience on strengthening social protection systems and/or emergency cash transfer programming, pervious work experience in Europe, Central Asia, and CIS countries is an asset.
* Demonstrated experience in undertaking preparedness activities, conducting assessments, design and implementation of emergency cash based programming, preferably from a multi-sectoral perspective;
* Demonstrated experience on facilitating trainings with Governments and other partners;
* Excellent research, analytical, writing, and communication skills;
* Demonstrated expertise on gender- and child-sensitive social protection concepts, theories and practices;
* Familiarity with international norms and standards for humanitarian action;
* Familiarity with the work of the United Nations an asset
* Fluency in verbal and written English; Knowledge of Russian or other local language is an asset.
* Fluency in English. Knowledge of Russian, Turkish and/or local language is an asset;
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| **Administrative details:**Visa assistance required: [x] Transportation arranged by the office: [ ]  | [ ]  Home Based [x]  Office Based:If office based, seating arrangement identified: [x] IT and Communication equipment required: [ ] Internet access required: [x]  |
| **Mandatory Training Requirement** | All consultants & individual contractors regardless of contract duration must complete the applicable mandatory online courses prior to signature of contract. The link to these courses will be provided during the selection process for the successful candidates. |
| **Contract condition** | 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. |
| **Application requirement**The consultancy is open to individual international applicants. Applicants are required to provide:* A short cover letter, highlighting relevant experience with similar type of assignments (max 300 words).
* CV of the individual applicants
* A technical proposal with tentative workplan and timeframe
* Financial proposal
* Samples or links to related work previously conducted by the consultant

The shortlisted applicants will be contacted by UNICEF with a technical discussion and interview. Interested candidates should submit the following documents through the link: <https://jobs.unicef.org/cw/en-us/job/550715/international-consultant-to-provide-technical-support-on-shock-responsive-social-protection>  |

**Deadline: 18 May 2022, 18:00.**

**UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of the organization.**