**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Prevention of child disability, ECI and home visitation.

**Type of contract**: *National consultancy*

**Duration**: *August 2017 – July 2018*

1. **Background and Justification:**

## Children with disabilities face multiple deprivations throughout their lives. The UNICEF CP 2016-2020 will partner with the Government in transforming and improving services to make them more accessible to CWD, and it will strengthen the following areas: the early detection of developmental delays, health care, rehabilitation, learning, education, vocational training and social protection. Such services should be inclusive to address the specific needs of young children with, or at risk of disabilities and to prevent their segregation. UNICEF will work with the Government to enhance a national system of early detection, intervention and rehabilitation, which also gives parents an active role.

UNICEF will work with the Government and CSOs to ensure greater visibility for CWD. Discrepancies among data systems on young children with, or at risk of disabilities run by education, health and social protection systems will be addressed. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health will be integrated into the national health care system and will be reflected in revised criteria for eligibility of benefits and services.

UNICEF will assist the Government to reduce stigmatization of children with disabilities regardless of age or social status by supporting positive attitudes towards them, especially in preschools and schools, through implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy. UNICEF will support the health, education, labour and social protection systems in their efforts to shift from a medical to a social model of disability, and will continue to facilitate the dialogue between the education sector, other ministries and CSOs. Considering that disability is the main reason for child’s institutionalization, this programme will link with the first component above on strengthening family support systems.

In Belarus, young children with, or at risk of disabilities and/or developmental difficulties constitute one of the most vulnerable and stigmatized groups. Newborns with congenital disorders or more serious conditions related to challenges at birth are more likely to be deprived of growing up in a nurturing family and placed in institutional care. Many young children with developmental difficulties are not identified until school age, even when families had clear concerns that their child may not develop "typically". The number of children identified is significantly lower than might be, even if the access to services considered as universal. All young children need nurturing care (from the very beginning, i.e., conception) defined as "a stable environment that promotes children's health and nutrition, and protects children from threats". The burden of governments and societies of inaction has been found to exceed the social investments (e.g., health). In addition, societal inaction in early childhood leads to poor achievement and wellbeing for individuals over the lifespan and can affect the next generations. It is a violation of the fundamental rights of young children. Supportive interventions are particularly critical for children who are vulnerable and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In Belarus, it is indicated that the national health system reaches the vast majority of pregnant women and families of young children through different services. Ideally, the home visiting services is an entry point for health professionals to engage parents with responsibilities towards early development of their children; it has the potential to reduce user barriers such as poor access or low demand – as particularly observed in the families where children might be considered at risk of neglect and abuse.  In Belarus, a home visitation system exists within the health sector, but very often keeps track of only the physical development of young children. At the same time, the benefit of this system is that health care providers are one of the most reliable and respected sources of information for parents, and thus, regular visits to the family home may be the most appropriate form of parent support and work with the family as a whole. Improving home visitation as a process of continuous monitoring of comprehensive development of the child up to 3 years, and the conditions of care for them in the family, as well as investments in improving the professional competence of health visiting nurses will help ensure a high-quality start in life for every child.

Since 2012, the UNICEF in Belarus COs has been assisting Ministry of Health, in strengthening the national system to children U3. Primary prevention of severe child disability seen through strengthening early identification, timely intervention and family centered early rehabilitation of young children and families with special needs for greater attention or referral and quality home visiting services.

1. **PURPOSE/ Objective:**

**Purpose:** Given the increased mandate on the issue of realizing the rights of children with disabilities of the UNICEF Belarus and therefore technical support in the area of early childhood intervention, home visitation and mother and child health, the CO seeks the services of a Child disability expert, to implement a number of tasks. This area of engagement is complex, multi-sectoral, and assistance is needed to focus on the areas where UNICEF can provide value added to country partners with evidence-based technical guidance combined with a solid rights-based approach.

**Objective:** To provide technical expertise for UNICEF’s program component “Realizing rights of children with disabilities”, including development of sectoral analyses, strategies and action plans, providing technical advice on the content of programme interventions.

1. **Key Tasks:**

Under the direct supervision of the ECD Specialist, the consultant will perform the following tasks:

3.1. Provide technical advice to implementation of the UNICEF/MOH project “Prevention of child disability and social inclusion of children with disabilities and special needs”

* Advise the CO in the identification of relevant technical expertise and resource material for the ECI programme work;
* Advise the CO in the identification of relevant technical expertise and resource material for the home visitation work;
* Advise the CO on quality and sustainability of the project deliverables;
* Assist the CO and MoH in coordinating the establishment of 14 ECI centers: technical expertise on supply, staffing and capacity building activities in accordance with normative framework;
* Produce, in collaboration with UNICEF Belarus analytical reports on project implementation.

3.2. Provide technical advice in developing an action plan for 4 years on the introduction and applying ICF-CY in Belarus

* Assist with the introduction of the ICF-CY in Belarus in collaboration with national counterparts;
* Map country use and needs in the introduction of the ICF-CY;
* Support the development of recommendations on ICF-CY adoption in Belarus.
  1. Provide technical assistance in monitoring of the current situation of young children with disabilities and developmental difficulties through assessing progress towards national goals and addressing information needs about critical programmes
* Assist in rapid assessment of the national home visitation system and prepare a set of recommendations on overcoming current normative, institutional and organization gaps;
* Assist in rapid assessment of the national ECI system and prepare a set of recommendations on overcoming current normative, institutional and organization gaps;
* Provide technical support to CO and BELSTAT on the conducting a household survey on the social-economic status of children with disabilities in Belarus.

1. **DELIVERABLES TIMELINE:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tasks** | **Deliverables** | **Timeline** | **Days** |
| Assists in implementation of the UNICEF/MOH project “Prevention of child disability and social inclusion of children with disabilities and special needs” | Quarterly progress reports, identifying good practices, lessons learned and challenges | August 21, 2017– July 21, 2018 | 55 |
| Provide technical assistance in developing a 4-year action plan on the introduction and applying ICF-CY in Belarus | Mapping paper  Draft strategy paper | October 01, 2017– July 21, 2018 | 27 |
| Prepare recommendations on improving normative framework of home visiting system and provide mapping of its current gaps to inform programming in this area | Mapping paper  Analytical report paper | August, 21 – September 21, 2017 | 10 |
| Assist in rapid assessment of the national ECI system and prepare a set of recommendations on overcoming current normative, institutional and organisation gaps; | Mapping paper  Analytical report paper | December, 01 2017 – March, 31 2018 | 27 |
| Provide technical support to CO and BELSTAT on the conducting a household survey on the social-economic status of children with disabilities in Belarus. | Quarterly updates | December, 01 2017 – May, 30 2018 | 20 |
| **Total days of the assignment** |  |  | **139** |

1. **Supervision, Work Relations & Oversight**

Supervision: ECD Specialist will provide the overall supervision of the contract.

Work relations: consultant will work in collaboration with other UNICEF staff based on needs and nature of tasks.

1. **TRAVEL**

If UNICEF determines that the Contractor needs to travel in order to perform his or her assignment, that travel shall be specified in the contract and the Contractor’s travel costs shall be set out in the contract: In cases where travel costs have not been set out in the individual contract, the consultant and individual contractors are expected to submit, within ten days of completion of a specific travel, a voucher for reimbursement of travel expenses to the Operations section. Reimbursements shall only be processed if travel was duly authorized in the individual contract or by an authorized manager of the contracting section, in writing and prior to the travel. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for assuming costs for obtaining visas and travel insurance.

1. **PAYMENT CONDITIONS:**

Consultant will be offered a remuneration based on daily rate of a consultant.

The payments will be made upon the satisfactory performance on each deliverable and provision of report.

Funding Source:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| By 2020 all children with disabilities (CWD) and special needs and their families receive adequate quality integrated services | Realizing rights of CWD | By 2020 national system of ECI services is enhanced | ECI services | 0630/A0/05/882/003  Grant SC 160639 |

1. **UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE:**

Payment of fees to the Contractor under this contractor, including each installment or periodic payment (if any), is subject to the Contractor’s full and complete performance of his or her obligations under this contract with regard to such payment to UNICEF’s satisfaction, and UNICEF’s certification to that effect.

UNICEF reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs is incomplete, not delivered or for failure to meet deadlines. All materials developed will remain the copyright of UNICEF and that UNICEF will be free to adapt and modify them in the future. This ToR is an integral part of the contract (SSA) signed with the consultant.

1. **QUALIFICATIONS OR SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE/ EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

* Education: University degree in health and rehabilitation
* At least five years of progressively responsible professional work experience at the mid-level in social policy, legislation, monitoring with a focus on child disability
* Previous experience in delivering training/lectures, with a focus on child disability
* Previous experience in compiling and analyzing country-level data, with a focus on child disability
* Proven experience in report writing to disseminate key data and findings to non-technical audiences, particularly related to child disability
* Excellent communication and writing skills
* Excellent command of Russian is required
* Analytical, methodical and precise style of thinking.

1. **PROCESS FOR APPLICATION**

Proposal from candidates should include:

Cover letter, CV and P11 UNICEF Form should be provided along with estimation for the daily consultancy fee.

Criteria for the selection of proposals:

Selection of the consultant will be on competitive basis

Applications are requested to submit by **14 August 2017, to asigaeva@unicef.org**