

Terms of Reference

Assessment of and recommendation for child disability prevention and care system in Moldova

Level: Individual international SSA at P4 level

Duration: tentatively August-September – total 27 working days (out of which 17 day out of the country and 10 in country)

1. BACKGROUND

Children who live with a physical, sensory, intellectual or cognitive/mental health disability are among the most stigmatized and excluded of all the world's children. Misunderstanding and fear of children with disabilities result in their marginalization within the family, community, at school, and in the wider society. The discrimination they suffer leads to poor health and education outcomes; affects the self-esteem and chances for participation and interaction with others, and puts them at higher risk for violence, abuse and exploitation.

Most children with disabilities live with the reality of exclusion. One of the most significant barriers they face is that of limited access to education. According to UNESCO, 90% of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school.¹ Children with disabilities are also more likely to be denied the right to grow up in a family environment than their able-bodied peers. In CEE/CIS, a child has a 46-times increased likelihood of being in an institution if disabled.¹

The analysis of the statistic data regarding the number of children with disabilities under 16 years old in the Republic of Moldova shows a continuous increasing of the rate of disable children during 1995-2006 years - from 10.5 cases per 1000 children in 1995 to 19.0 cases per 1000 children in 2008. The number of disable children at January, 1st, 2008 represented 12,515.

Children disability rate increased by 1.6 per 1000 children during 2002-2006, due to congenital malformation and chromosome mutations, The number of disable children aged 0-6 represent 23.8% of the total number of children with disabilities aged 0-16 years old².

Moldova doesn't have a unified policy regarding disabled people, including children with disabilities. The Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child put forward the project Strategy regarding social inclusion of disabled people in the Republic of Moldova (2009-2012) that includes activities that refer to Early Intervention and preventing disability, but the document was not approved yet.

At the national level, there is limited information on child disability: data is often disaggregated based on geography, sex, age groups, and ethnicity. There is little available data on the form and extent of discrimination against children with disabilities, as well as disability prevention, early detection and intervention and inclusion of the children with disabilities.

UNICEF is seeking for an international consultant to assess the situation of children with disability and to make the recommendations in child disability prevention, early detection and early intervention in Moldova. The assessment will provide the basis for future program design and implementation.

¹ Children with disabilities. Ending discrimination and promoting participation, development and inclusion, UNICEF

² Need assessment report for the development of a national early intervention system for children with disabilities in Moldova, Soros, 2008.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT WITH EXPECTED RESULTS/OUTCOMES/PRODUCTS

The overall scope is to assess the child disability situation and recommend the strategies and mechanisms to address the issues of child disability prevention, early detection and intervention as well as prevention of discrimination and exclusion.

Expected output

The main output will be a report and PowerPoint presentation to be presented to UNICEF.

3. DELIVERY DATES BASED ON THE WORK PLAN

Task	Nr. of working day per task	Deliverable	Delivery date	Paying schedule
1. Desk review of existing data, reports, information gathering, identification of information gaps	5 working days (out of the country)		One week after signature of the contract	
2. Collection of additional information (closing the gaps in information), consultations, field trips, Focus Groups if needed), first draft report and ppt. presentation	10 working days (in country)	First draft report presented to Office	Tbd after contracting	30%
3. UNICEF feedback on draft report	3 working days	Feedback on the report		
3. Second draft report	5 working days (out of the country)	Second draft report	Tbd after contracting	
4. UNICEF feedback on draft report	3 working days	Feedback on the report		
5. Final report	7 days (out of country)	Final report	Tbd after contracting	70%

All materials will be presented in electronic format in English).

4. DETAILS ON HOW THE WORK SHOULD BE DELIVERED BASED ON THE WORK PLAN

Both quantitative and qualitative data will be used for the assessment. This will include:

- Desk review of the official statistical/administrative data, relevant surveys and researches, national policies and strategies and other relevant documents, etc; information gap analysis;
- Information gathering, in addition to desk review through consultations, interviews and Focus Groups if needed;

Initialed by:
Operations Manager

Date:

Specific objectives:

- To provide an analysis of the existing framework of child disability prevention, early detection and intervention (policy, legislation and practice-existing services)
- To provide recommendations that can serve as an input for further support to the Government in the area of child disability prevention, early detection and intervention with possible involvement at the local, national and donors/ international levels.
- To develop a mapping of the next steps (who, what, in what order) in order to improve situation
- To prepare a Power Point Presentation to the Office

The assessment will cover the following:

- Analysis of the policy and legislative framework for child disability prevention, early detection and intervention and recommendations for the development policies and legislation to support a national model;
- Assessment of the potential to develop child disability prevention, early detection and intervention services within existing infrastructures/facilities (medical, social and educational)
- Examination of the potential to include child disability prevention, early detection and early intervention services within the National Health Insurance System coverage;
- Identification of the relevant government stakeholders and recommendation of mechanisms for cross- ministerial/sectoral cooperation at all levels;
- Prepare a short Plan of Action in order to improve the situation related child disability prevention, early detection and intervention and inclusion;

The final report – electronic and hard copies, A4, type size: 11, spacing 1, 5, (English version) should include a methodology (2 pages), main findings/research results (15 - 20 pages), conclusions and recommendations (5 pages), as well as annexes. The report will include as well relevant diagrams and tables, relevant disaggregated data if possible (e.g area, gender, age groups, income etc.); PowerPoint presentation in English.

Based on the report also separated two page extract (In English) will be provided for further submission to the UNICEF Global Research and Evaluation Database according to the following structure: author/institution/partners, background, purpose/objective, methodology, findings and conclusions and recommendations.

5. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR EVALUATION OF RESULTS.

Contractor's performance will be evaluated against the following criteria: timeliness, accuracy, responsibility, initiative, communication and quality of the products delivered.

Poor quality materials that do not correspond to the above-mentioned requirements shall be returned for review.

6. QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE TASK:

The consultant must have:

- Advanced University degree in social field with sound knowledge and experience in child disability issues;
- Experience in applied social research and policy research (preferably, in the use of qualitative and qualitative research approaches),
- Proven track record of conducting reviews, assessments and evaluations in the field of social development, specifically on child disability;
- Experience in developing Plans of Action in Social fields;
- Familiarity with recent participatory and gender sensitive review, assessment and evaluation methodology and tools;

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- Good understanding of human rights based approaches to programming; results based management principles and gender.
- Good inter-personal communication skills;
- Excellent English report writing and editing ability.
- Experience in CEE/CIS, especially Moldova will be an asset;
- Knowledge of Romanian or Russian will be an asset;

7. SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS

The contractor will work in close cooperation and under the direct supervision of the Chief of Equitable Access to Quality Services Programme in close coordination with Chiefs of Child Protection and Social Policy Programmes.

8. TRAVEL INVOLVED

The consultancy will involve travel to Moldova. Travel expenses should be calculated separately as per travel needs. The consultant should have security in the field training completed before contracting.

9. UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE

In case of unsatisfactory performance the contract will be terminated by notification letter sent 10 days prior to the termination date. In the mean time, UNICEF will initiate another selection in order to identify appropriate candidate.

10. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY UNICEF

UNICEF will provide relevant reports and documents as well as guidance during the period of assignment.

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