**UNICEF Moldova**

**Terms of Reference**

**Technical support to design and conduct Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) in Moldova to contribute to address key climate-related issues to mitigate the risks of implementation of 2023-2027 Country Programme interventions**

**Type:** Individual consultancy

**Location:** home-based and in-country (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, and other localities, if needed so)

**Duration and timeline:** August – November 2022(50 working days)

1. **Background**

For 70 years, UNICEF has been working on the ground in 190 countries and territories to promote children's survival, protection and development. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations, and governments.

Climate change and environmental degradation continue affect children’s rights globally, as well as in Moldova. Environmental sustainability, including climate change and clean energy are at the top of the global political agenda. UNICEF has also prioritized climate change and environment activities for children as priority areas for in the [UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025,](https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/7331/file/2021-25-Strategic_Plan_2022-2025-EN-ODS.pdf) Goal Area 4. Climate, energy, environment, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are both cross-cutting priorities (and thus embedded within each Goal Area), as well as having a dedicated result area in Goal Area 4. The Climate Change and environmental degradation are existential threats to a child’s ability to survive, grow, and thrive and that all levels of the organization need to work together in a coordinated fashion. The Strategic Plan draws strong links between responses to Climate Change with disaster risk reduction as children increasingly need holistic solutions that address both sudden-onset impacts of disasters, including those that are exacerbated by Climate Change—such as hurricanes and floods— and resilient solutions that promote climate-smart development for the long-term. The new Strategic Plan activates all of UNICEF’s levels of impact on these issues - our global programmes, our advocacy and communications infrastructure and our own operations and supply chain.

Climate Change is an equity issue, with boys and girls impacted differently based on their intersecting economic status, rural/urban location, sexual orientation, ethnicity. Climate change is not gender neutral but rather amplifying already existing gender inequalities in relation to land rights, livelihoods, health, domestic labour and safety. Addressing Climate Change issues is therefore vital for building a more sustainable future for children.

UNICEF Moldova, in preparation to the 2018-2022 programme of cooperation, conducted [Child Centered Climate Vulnerability Assessment](https://www.unicef.org/moldova/en/reports/child-centred-climate-vulnerability-assessment) (CCCVA) in 2017, highlighting major climate, environment and energy (CEE) issues that affect children, as well as strategic interventions to address them. Air pollution, especially in urban areas, floods and droughts, access to water and sanitation in schools and kindergartens, climate change were identified as potential threats to children health and well-being on the national scale. Resource constraints and the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the focus of the programme to more immediate emergency priorities. UNICEF Moldova is planning to commission a Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC), examining the baseline situation of climate, energy and environment-related issues affecting children and how they relate to UNICEF's priority sectors. At the inception of the new CPD (2023-2027) there is a need to strengthen the evidence base for better UNICEF and Government programming in the area of climate change and the environment to meet global and national development targets. UNICEF aims to support the Government in developing goals, strategies and measures to ensure safe and sustainable environment for children that should be at the forefront of government priorities. To that end, conducting the CLAC is both timely and essential. This analysis will contribute to achievement of Goal area 4 of UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13 and 15.

1. **Purpose and objectives of the assignment**

Purpose: the analysis is aimed to understand the overall climate, environment, energy and Disaster Risk reduction (CEED) landscape in Moldova in terms of data, policy, programming, gaps, actors etc. and how it relates to children to identify impacts, gaps, and priority areas for UNICEF for further work and integration, in line with the CLAC Guidelines



The study is aimed to generate evidence that UNICEF, and its partners in government, development agencies and civil society can use to identify the crucial environmental and climate change related problems affecting children in Moldova and ways to address them through advocacy and better policy making. This will help to better understand potential risks that might negatively affect planning and implementation of UNICEF 2023-2027 Country Programme of cooperation and sharpen the focus of interventions to address emerging climate-related issues affecting children. The findings of the study will outline priorities in the respective areas of the development agenda of the Government of Moldova concerning clean and sustainable environment for children, as well as climate change and environmental impacts on children rights, to help UNICEF define specific areas of support with the Government and other stakeholders in the country to advance child rights agenda.

Objectives: the assessment should analyse 2023-2027 Country Programme document ( to be approved in September 2022), show CEED issues, policies and programmes through the lens of the child rights agenda and advise UNICEF Moldova on impacts, policy and data gaps as well as priorities in the context of UNICEF’s work for the next 5 years. The report will look at stakeholders, government policies and relevant Government and partner support climate change and environmental protection related programmes in Moldova, overall and in specific sectors. It will provide a better understanding on the actual and likely future impact of climate change and environmental degradation on children and social service sectors. Consequently, it will provide recommendations on how UNICEF Moldova could further incorporate and strengthen work on climate, energy, and environment-related issues in its country programme. Evidence generated by the analysis is expected to contribute to explore climate financing opportunities.

The aim of the CLAC is to aid in identifying:

* Key emerging CEED issues that could present potential risks for planning and implementation of the 2023-2027 Country programme of cooperation
* Impacts of climate and environmental changes on children’s rights;
* Strategic entry points for the CO (mainstreaming and stand-alone);
* Strategic partnerships;
* Opportunities for leveraging climate finance for improved results for children;
* What UNICEF can bring to the table in potential joint proposals and partnerships; and
* Recommendations for building the office’s capacity on climate, energy and environment issues

Key questions:

• Background Data/Information

* What are the main CEE issues based on the level of impact on children and youth in Moldova?
* What are the government priorities on CEE in relation to children and youth ?
* What are related ongoing initiatives on CEE?
* Who are the main players?

• Children needs and CEE issues

* How do the issues identified above affect children?
* What issues from these are major for growth and safety of children?
* Do government strategies/priorities on CEE take into account children’s needs?
* Do sector strategies incorporate CEE issues?
* Do ongoing initiatives in CEE benefit children?
* What are the gaps?

• 2023-2027 UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation and CEE

* How do the issues identified will affect UNICEF initiatives?
* How can UNICEF support inclusion of child needs in government strategies/priorities/commitments on CEE?
* How can UNICEF address gaps in CEE programming to benefit children?

The study will support the work on strengthening inter-sectoral linkages and coordination of activities across programme areas related to CEE for children at the national level in connection to children health, nutrition, education, WASH, protection, inclusion, and well-being. Additionally, UNICEF plans to use the findings to strengthen the capacities of children, youth, and adolescents to make informed decisions, and engage in advocacy and policy dialogues on issues of CEE. Wherever relevant, the sectoral findings will be used when developing training materials and delivering training sessions for frontline workers, government officials, CSOs and other stakeholders.

1. Methodology

A mixed methods approach is recommended in order to give consideration to the methodological guidelines of the CLAC and the principal data collection methods employed included a desk review and analysis of available documentation; in-depth interviews and focus group meetings (either on-line or face-to-face); professional experience, knowledge and judgement; and a validation workshop. The following methodology is considered for carrying out the analysis:

• Get familiar with 2023-2027 Country Programme of Cooperation to link CEED components and planned interventions/areas;

 Desk review of available studies, reports and data i.e. CCCVA and other existing primary and secondary data, including children health, nutrition, education, WASH, child protection, inclusion and well-being, shock responsive social protection or impact mitigation plans as related to the major problems identified;

• Interviews and consultancies with key stakeholders and counterparts (government and NGOs). Focus Groups discussions will be organised, as relevant, to collect additional qualitative information and complement Desk review. The study does not envisage any quantitative primary data collection, yet youth will be consulted, including through the Youth Advisory Board, U-Report platform etc.;

• Defining key challenges and priority areas to address CEED related challenges for children in Moldova and concrete recommendations for UNICEF Moldova programme prioritization and focus areas.

The contractor shall use only reputable sources of information. The contractor shall share a bibliography list with UNICEF prior to analysis. Any causal relationship presented in the study should be based on rational argumentation and backed by well-established evidence and knowledge.

The Assessment is to be carried out under the supervision of the UNICEF Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and Social Policy Specialist and the UNICEF focal point for env and climate change in close and regular consultations with the Ministry of environment and all relevant public bodies.  The Consultant shall also consult with relevant civil society organizations. The assessment is to be presented to and approved by the named parties.

Government ownership will be ensured through dialogue and information sharing with relevant institutions. Because of the impact of the Ukraine crisis on government prioritization, there is a risk that the contributions from Government entities in the drafting of the study will be limited. Nevertheless, UNICEF’s excellent relationship with line ministries and relatively well-developed national data system are deemed sufficient for a successful completion of the research.

The Report is proposed to have the following structure:

* Executive Summary
* Introduction
* CEE situation in the country based on the level of impact on children and youth in relation to 2023-2027 Country Programme of Cooperation outcomes

Current climate, including climate related disasters and other environmental factors

Observed and projected changes in the climate

Other relevant environmental issues

Energy access

* Government responses to / priorities on CEE

CEE policies, priorities and strategies, including DRR

Institutional arrangements (actors, roles and responsibilities, coordination)

Key stakeholders

Ongoing initiatives from government and development partners

* Impact of climate, environment and energy issues on children

Children living in areas exposed to climate and environmental impacts

Access to basic services and infrastructure

WASH

Nutrition / food security

Health including HIV/AIDs

Child Protection

Education

Social inclusion

Gender

Humanitarian situations

* Children and youth voices and participation regarding CEE
* Child-Inclusive CEE policies, strategies and programming
* CEE funding landscape
* 2023-2027 UNICEF Country Programme and linkages to CEE
* Recommendations
* Annexes
* References to the materials and sources of information used

The study report should not be used for academic publishing by the Contractor. The final structure will be discussed with UNICEF.

1. Deliverables, delivery dates and payment schedule\*

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| **Tasks** | **Deliverables and payment schedule** | **Timeline, working days** |
| Develop overall assessment schedule and implementation plan, including list of stakeholders  | Assessment schedule and implementation plan   | 2 days |
| Conduct initial desk review of guidelines, reports and other sources of information  | List of bibliography (to be further complemented by other sources) | 7 days |
| Develop an Inception report**,** that will include timeline, detailed methodology, data collection tools, stakeholders to be consulted, bibliography etc.  | **Inception Report (in English)** up to 20-25 pages of narrative, not including Annexes | 5 days |
| ***First payment – 30%*** | *Sub-total 14 days* |
| Elaborate draft Assessment report to answer the key study questions and clearly give the conclusions and recommends in a way that is substantiated by evidence. | **Draft Report** (in English and Romanian) - to be shared with UNICEF and partners, up to 50-55 pages of narrative, not including Annexes | 16 days |
| Develop visual presentation of key results, conclusions, and recommendations | **Visual presentation** (in English and Romanian) to be shared with UNICEF and partners during consultative meeting | 4 days |
| ***Second payment – 40%*** | *Sub-total 20 days* |
| Prepare and conduct consultative meeting (on-line) to present key findings and recommendations and to collect inputs from UNICEF and partners  | Meeting agenda, participant list and summary of key suggestions and comments (in English)  | 2 days |
| Incorporate the received feedback and finalize the assessment report (up to 55-60 pages of narrative, not including Annexes). The report will contain an executive summary of no more than 5-7 pages (covering a brief description of the context, the purpose of the study, methodology and its major findings, conclusions and recommendations). | **Final assessment report** (in English and Romanian) in a user-friendly format and Summary document to be used for advocacy purposes | 12 days |
| Document the assessment compile and arrange all deliverables to closure the contract | **Documentation of the assessment** | 2 days |
| ***Final payment – 30%*** | *Sub-total 16 days* |
| ***TOTAL 50 working days*** |

*\* Detailed deliverables and exact deadlines will be mutually agreed upon contract signature*

Payments will be rendered upon successful completion of each task, as per the schedule outlined above.

1. Reporting requirements

The Consultant will work under direct supervision of the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and Social Policy Specialist of UNICEF Moldova and also benefit of UNICEF Regional Office for Europe, Central Asia (ECA RO) expertise UNICEF will regularly communicate with the consultant and provide feedback on deliverables performance and all other necessary support to achieve objectives of the assignment, as well as remain aware of any upcoming issues related to Consultant performance and the quality of work. All the activities and deliverables undertaken by the Consultant shall be discussed and planned in consultation with UNICEF.

Each product will be subject to UNICEF review before approval. All deliverables need to be submitted in electronic format (Word) in the languages specified above. The Consultants will ensure translation of the Assessment report, including Executive Summary and the final PPT presentation as per the financial proposal. The costs of the translations (if needed) must be reflected in the financial proposal, with the amount transferred to the Consultant.

1. **Dissemination**

The M&E and Social Policy Specialists, in collaboration with Communication and ECA RO colleagues, will ensure the study is finalized and meets the highest UNICEF quality standards, and that the findings are presented to UNICEF Moldova office to inform programmatic efforts in the country and intersectoral collaboration. UNICEF Moldova relevant programme colleagues e.g. Health, WASH , Education, Youth and Adolescents; Child protection etc. will follow up on the findings of the study and ensure that the key messages are disseminated among the stakeholders at national level. The analysis will be published both in Romanian and English and will made available for use by the Government of Moldova, donors and CSOs

1. Performance indicators for evaluation of results:

The performance of work will be evaluated based on the following indicators:

* Completion of tasks specified in ToR;
* Compliance with the established deadlines for submission of deliverables;
* Quality of work;
* Demonstration of high standards in cooperation and communication with UNICEF and counterparts.
1. Qualifications and experience
* Advanced university degree (Masters) in climate change, environmental science, natural resource management, meteorology, social and economic development, or related areas.
* At least 5 years' experience in international development with research and analysis on climate change and environment related topics and their impact on communities and children.
* Demonstrated expertise in child rights or any of UNICEF's main areas of work (health, WASH, nutrition, child protection, social policy, education, gender, HIV/AIDS).
* Excellent research and report writing skills required with proven experience of conducting of analysis as specified above (excerpts of relevant documents need to be attached to the technical proposal– max. 20 pages).
* Experience in working with international organizations (working with UNICEF/other UN Agencies is an asset).
* Fluency in English (knowledge of Romanian will be an asset).
1. **Content of technical proposal**
* Relevant experience with similar type of assignments (max 300 words)
* Proposed approach and methodology (max 1500 words), including:
	+ Timeline and milestones
	+ Risk and mitigation measures
	+ Ethical considerations and how the consultant will address them
* Annex: Short Sample or links to related work previously conducted by the consultant

For this particular assignment, completion of AGORA course on [Integrating Climate Change in UNICEF’s Planning and Programming](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=29745) will be an asset to have clarity on impact of climate change on children.

In addition, please provide your *Curriculum Vitae*.

1. **Content of financial proposal**

The applicants should fill in the Financial Offer Template and specify the consultancy fee, per day of work, requested for the tasks described in the Terms of Reference in USD.

The final selection will be based on the principle of “best value for money” i.e. achieving desired outcome at lowest possible fee. If not provided by ToR, UNICEF will not reimburse costs that are not directly related to the assignment. This contract does not allow payment of off-hours, medical insurance, taxes, and sick leave.

UNICEF reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of the payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/output is incomplete, not delivered or for failure to meet the agreed deadlines.

In case when a Moldovan resident is selected for contracting, MDL will serve as contract currency, converted at the UN exchange rate applicable at the contract signature date.

1. **Evaluation criteria for selection**

The consultant is expected to reflect in the submission the qualifications, knowledge and experience related to the requirements listed above. Technical evaluation will be performed through a desk review of applications, evaluation of technical proposals, and if necessary, may be supplemented by an interview.

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| ***Technical evaluation criteria for selection*** | ***Evaluation Scale Points*** |
| Advanced university degree (Masters) in climate change, environmental science, natural resource management, meteorology, social and economic development, or related areas | 10 |
| At least 8 years' experience in international development with research and analysis on climate change and environment related topics and their impact on communities and children  | 10 |
| Demonstrated expertise in child rights or any of UNICEF's main areas of work (health, WASH, nutrition, child protection, social policy, education, gender, HIV/AIDS) | 10 |
| Quality of technical proposal | 15 |
| Excellent research and report writing skills required with proven experience of conducting of analysis as specified above (excerpts of relevant documents need to be attached to the technical proposal– max. 20 pages);  | 15 |
| Experience in working with international organizations (working with UNICEF/other UN Agencies is an asset);  | 5 |
| Fluency in English (knowledge of Romanian will be an asset) | 5 |
| **Total score (minimum 50 points required for technical qualification)** | **70** |

The total amount of points to be allocated for the price component is 30. The maximum number of points (30) will be allotted to the lowest price proposal of a technically qualified offer. Points for other offers will be calculated as Points (x) = (lowest offer/ offer x) \* 30.

The selection process is aimed at selecting the applicant who obtains the highest cumulative score (technical evaluation + financial offer evaluation points) following “best value for money” principle.

1. Work location and official travel involved

In-country travel is envisaged for international consultant, unless the situation will change. Considering the time period for implementation of the assignment, majority of the planned tasks could be done remotely, including face-to-face meetings will be possible.

1. Support provided by UNICEF

UNICEF will facilitate the contact with the Government, UN Agencies, youth , other relevant stakeholders and partners and will provide timely feedback to all deliverables to be presented by the Consultant. UNICEF will provide with relevant data, documents, reports etc.

1. **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 [ ]     NO  [ ]  [x]

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)

1. **Ethical considerations**

Potential contractor will need to agree to meet the standards set in the [UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis](https://www.unicef.org/supply/files/ATTACHMENT_IV-UNICEF_Procedure_for_Ethical_Standards.PDF). No major ethical, cultural or organizational risks are foreseen. The study does not envision analysis of personalized data of children.

The Contractor will ensure that the process is in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Ethical Guidelines[[1]](#footnote-2). The Contractor should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty while interacting with stakeholders and beneficiaries. Furthermore, the Contractor should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual information. All participants should be informed about the context and purpose of the Assessment, as well as about the confidentiality of the information shared. The Contractor can use documents and information provided only for the tasks related to these terms of reference.

As per the [DHR PROCEDURE ON CONSULTANTS AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/portals/RF/Regulatory%20Framework%20Library/DHR%20Procedure%20on%20Consultants%20-%20DHR_PROCEDURE_2018_005.pdf), together with the Notification letter, the contractor will be sent the [link on Agora](https://agora.unicef.org/course/view.php?id=15620) containing UNICEF policies on Prohibiting and Combatting Fraud and Corruption; Prohibition of discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority and other relevant policies for their information and acknowledgment. The selected candidate must complete the applicable mandatory online courses on UNICEF’s learning platform prior to signature of contract.  All certificates should be presented as part of the contract.

1. UNEG Guidelines <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/102> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)