UNICEF’s Evaluation Office (EO) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified institutions
(consultancy firms, universities, etc.) for the provision of services to complete an independent
Comprehensive Evaluation of UNICEF’s Strategies and Programme Performance with regard to
Protecting Children from Violence.

2 BACKGROUND

Violence against children (VAC) is a widely prevalent phenomenon in all parts of the world which
affects 100s of millions of children. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines
violence as “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent
treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s),
legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child” (Article 19 CRC). VAC has dire
consequences on girls and boys with respect to their ability to enjoy rights and freedoms, and it
can have devastating effects on their social, physical and emotional well-being and development.
UNICEF’s advocacy and programme response to protecting children from violence spans more
than two decades. A major recent milestone was the development of UNICEF’s Child Protection
Strategy (2008) where the key elements from an earlier Protective Environment Framework
(2002) were grouped into overlapping strategic areas namely, ‘building child protection systems’
and ‘supporting social change’ across contexts (including humanitarian). Various country-level,
regional and global initiatives have since employed this two-pronged approach to combatting VAC
which was also a key focus of UNICEF’s Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2006-2013. Several
studies and evaluations, including a recent meta-synthesis of UNICEF programme evaluations
(2012), have documented lessons learned and contributed to assessing what works and what
doesn’t. To date, however, no evaluation has sought to undertake a systematic, in-depth and
independent assessment of UNICEF’s performance in the field of protecting children from violence.

3 OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The proposed evaluation is expected to be of great importance and use to: (1) strengthening
UNICEF’s global and regional strategies relating to the protection of children from violence,
advancing the post-2015 agenda, including by shaping the profile of actions to prevent and respond to VAC, (3) implementing the 2014-17 MTSP, and (4) informing country-level programme development and response in the coming years. The evaluation findings will also feed into the forthcoming review of the 2008 Child Protection Strategy. Key audiences of the evaluation include national governments, regional entities, UN agencies and special mechanisms (such as the SRSGs), civil society actors such as NGOs, faith-based organisations, child rights advocates and the private sector as well as the donor community engaged directly or indirectly in protecting children from violence. Using a human rights and gender lens the evaluation will:

- Assess UNICEF’s unique leadership, leveraging and convening role at global, regional and country levels in protecting children from violence.
- Assess the adequacy of UNICEF’s global/regional strategies on protecting children from violence and their application at the national level.
- Assess the relevance and appropriateness of UNICEF-supported programmes in addressing VAC with a focus on regions/countries where VAC is a major concern, taking account of the various contexts where children are victims of violence (excluding emergencies).
- Examine the effectiveness, efficiency (programme quality standards, resource intensity) and sustainability of current UNICEF strategies and interventions (at the country and local levels) in addressing VAC in a systematic manner.
- Identify theories of change for protecting children from violence, based on the evidence gleaned on programme strategies that are effective to address different forms of violence in various contexts.
- Provide forward looking conclusions, lessons and actionable recommendations for strengthening UNICEF’s leadership and advocacy, organisational policies and strategies, programme response and partnerships for addressing VAC in various settings, considering both violence prevention and response.

4 SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed evaluation will cover the period since the adoption of the 2008 Child Protection Strategy until the end of the current MTSP, i.e. 2009-2013, with greater emphasis on the last three years. The evaluation will focus on the global Child Protection Strategy and the MTSP as well as country-level programming (6-8 case studies). In addition, it will include a review of regional strategies in two to three regions where region-specific child protection strategies have been launched. As a recent UNICEF global evaluation has examined child protection programmes in the context of emergencies, the scope of the present evaluation will exclude humanitarian settings. However, some of its findings and lessons will have implications for emergency response and preparedness planning.

Considering UNICEF’s core strategies and cross-cutting issues, the evaluation will have an explicit focus on examining efforts to strengthen child protection systems and support social change, including through addressing social norms that contribute to various forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. Within this broad spectrum, the evaluation will assess efforts related to national capacity building (including capacity of government partners, civil society and that of children, families, and communities), advocacy and policy leveraging, partnerships, knowledge management and evidence building. Application of a human rights based approach to VAC programming (including an equity focus), as well as gender responsiveness will also be studied. Widely prevalent forms of violence which affect children include sexual violence including
harassment and rape; female genital mutilation; trafficking for various forms of exploitation; forced and child marriage; and other forms of verbal, emotional, physical and sexual violence, exploitation and abuse. Wherever possible, the evaluation will draw conclusions for addressing specific VAC issues.

5 PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT AND EVALUATION APPROACH

The evaluation is expected to commence in September 2013 and will be staged in three phases: the Inception Phase, the Data Collection and Analysis Phase, and the Reporting Phase. During a comprehensive Inception Phase, in addition to exploring traditional scoping issues and developing an action plan for conducting the exercise, the evaluation team will undertake a mapping of key stakeholders and develop the detailed evaluation methodology. The team will also review findings from major recent evaluations such as the Evaluation of the Joint FGM/C Programme and the Evaluation of Child Protection in Emergencies. After a document review and interviews with selected key stakeholders, the team will visit a pilot case study country to test specific tools and methodologies. In the Data Collection and Analysis Phase, the evaluation team will conduct 6-8 country case studies based on a sample of countries where VAC programmes are currently being implemented, as well as a global review. To this end, the team will visit UNICEF Headquarters, 6-8 UNICEF country offices (COs) and possibly selected regional offices (ROs), in order to gather data using appropriate methods. The evaluation will employ a mixed-methods approach entailing triangulation of the most appropriate qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods. During the Reporting Phase, the evaluation team will, under the overall responsibility of the team leader, draft successive versions of the Evaluation Report for review by UNICEF EO and other stakeholders. An Evaluation Reference Group will be established in support of the evaluation and the evaluation team will report to a Senior Evaluation Officer in UNICEF’s Evaluation Office. The evaluation is expected to be completed within ten months (by mid-2014).

6 DESIRED TEAM COMPOSITION AND PROFILE

Qualified institutions (consultancy firms, universities, etc.) that have the capabilities to meet the following requirements, and are available for the evaluation period indicated, are invited to submit an EOI.

The ideal vendor will assemble a four person team to conduct the evaluation, composed of:

One (1) senior-level **Team Leader** (P5 or D1 Level)
- Holding an advanced university degree (Masters or higher) in social sciences;
- Having extensive evaluation experience (at least 10 years) with strong mixed-methods evaluation skills and openness to using non-traditional and innovative evaluation methods;
- Bringing a strong commitment to delivering timely and high-quality results, i.e. credible evaluations that are used for improving strategic decisions.
- Having extensive technical and practical development expertise, and familiarity with UNICEF’s country-level operations;
- Having in-depth knowledge of the UN’s human rights, gender equality and equity agendas;
- Having a strong team leadership and management track record, as well as excellent interpersonal and communication skills to help ensure that the evaluation is understood and used.
• Specific evaluation experience in the child protection area is strongly desired, but is secondary to a strong mixed-method evaluation background so long as the child protection expertise of the Team Members (see below) is harnessed to boost the team’s collective understanding of issues relating to violence against children.
• The Team Leader must be committed and willing to work in challenging environments and independently, with limited regular supervision.
• S/he must have the ability to concisely and clearly express ideas and concepts in written and oral form as well as the ability to communicate with various stakeholders.
• Language proficiency: Fluency in English is mandatory; a good command of French or Spanish is desirable.

The Team Leader will be responsible for undertaking the evaluation from start to finish, for managing the evaluation team, for the bulk of data collection and analysis, as well as for report drafting in English.

Two (2) Team Member(s) (P3/P4 Level)
• Holding advanced university degrees (Masters-level) in social sciences;
• Each having significant experience in applied research or M&E with some exposure to programmes protecting women and children from violence (at least 5 years relevant experience).
• At least one team member will have strong expertise in gender and human rights based approaches to evaluation and evaluating issues of sexual violence.
• The second team member will have strong child protection programming or monitoring and evaluation expertise.
• All Team Members will ideally have hands-on experience in collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data, but this is secondary to solid expertise working with child protection data (statistics, monitoring, etc.) so long as the Team Leader takes responsibility for building the Team Members’ capacity to collect primary data and to conduct high-quality evaluations.
• Both must be committed and willing to work in a challenging environment and able to produce quality work under limited guidance and supervision.
• Both must have good communication, advocacy and people skills and the ability to communicate with various stakeholders and to express concisely and clearly ideas and concepts in written and oral form.
• Language proficiency: Fluency in English is mandatory; a good command of French or Spanish is desirable.

The Team Members will play a major role in data collection and analysis, and preparation of country case study reports and will make significant contributions to the writing of the main evaluation report.

One (1) Research Assistant
• Holding an undergraduate degree or higher in Statistics or a related field;
• Having at least 3 years of progressively responsible experience in the analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data as well as in data management.
• The Research Assistant supports the team leader in ensuring that the team uses consistent interview protocols, templates for recording and reporting on interviews, standard case
study report formats and a comparative table of findings;

- S/he manages evaluation databases and other resources and supports data analysis;
- S/he may need to accompany the team on selected country visits.

The team is expected to be balanced with respect to gender, origin (developed/developing countries) and linguistic capacity (English/French/Spanish at least must be covered). Back-office support assisting the team with logistics and other administrative matters is also expected. In addition, the provision of support from up to two short-term national consultants per case study country is also expected.

7 SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Interested institutional entities are encouraged to complete and submit the attached EOI form. EOIs should be sent to evalofficeapplications@unicef.org, no later than close of business on 10th June, 2013. Please quote “UNICEF Evaluation: Protecting Children From Violence” as the subject in your correspondence.

This EOI does not constitute a solicitation. We do not require bids or proposals at this stage; we merely seek your expression of interest in participating in the tender. A response to this Call for Expression of Interest does not automatically ensure that you will be selected to participate in the tender. Further details on the evaluation (draft Terms of Reference, ToR) can be sent to interested parties upon request. A final ToR will be provided to those vendors invited to submit a full proposal by way of a Request for Proposal (RFP). Following the RFP, short-listed institutional entities will be invited to participate in an interview.

UNICEF reserves the right to change or cancel requirements at any time during the EOI and/or solicitation process. UNICEF also reserves the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final tender document.

If you have any additional questions about this EOI, please email Krishna Belbase (kbelbase@unicef.org) and Tina Tordjman-Nebe (ttordjmannebe@unicef.org). Emails only, please; calls will not be returned.
PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE: A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF UNICEF’S STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Please fill-in the form (up to 10 pages total) and submit to evalofficeapplications@unicef.org

Full Name of Institutional Entity:

Type of Entity:

User Salutation: □ Dr. □ Ms. □ Mr.

First Name:

Last Name:

Job Title/Role in Entity:

Mobile Phone Number: (please include country & city code)

Fax Number: (please include country & city code)

Contact E-mail Address:

Mailing Address:
Please answer the following mandatory questions:

1. Describe in no more than two pages the organisational and financial profile of your institutional entity, including
   • Its organisational structure, including any associates, partner firms, etc. and the numbers of years it has been in the consultancy business;
   • Its most relevant past experience(s) in relation to the proposed consultancy.

2. Summarise the profile of the proposed evaluation team using no more than a page for the team leader and half a page per team member. Please attach the curriculum vitae of the team leader and members.

   The duration of the assignment will be from September 2013 to June 2014. It is foreseen that the team leader and the team members will devote roughly half of their time to the evaluation.

3. Confirmation that your entity:
   • Has no on-going litigation with the UN;
   • Is not currently removed/invalidated or suspended by the United Nations or UN system organisations;
   • Shall declare if it currently employs or anticipates employing any person(s) who was/were employed by the UN.
The presence of a conflict of interest of any kind (e.g., having worked for or partnered with UNICEF on child protection issues) will automatically disqualify prospective candidates from consideration.