

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

UNICEF EVALUATION OFFICE, New York Global Evaluation of UNICEF Programmes on Child Protection in the Context of Emergencies (CPiE)

Subject: **Global Evaluation of CPiE**
Date of the EOI: 7 December, 2011
Closing Date of the EOI: 21 December, 2011
Address EOI by e-mail to: evalofficeapplications@unicef.org

1.0 PURPOSE

UNICEF Evaluation Office is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from interested individuals or institutions to provide services to conduct a multi-country evaluation of UNICEF programmes on child protection in the context of emergencies.

2.0 BACKGROUND

UNICEF's child protection programming in emergencies is guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) and by Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development. Within the context of the humanitarian cluster system, UNICEF has also committed to lead the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), and co-lead the GBV Area of Responsibility with UNFPA under the Global Protection Cluster, and the Mental Health and Psycho-social Support Reference Group (MHPSS).

UNICEF and its partners have made important strides over the past decade in strengthening the response to protection concerns for children, including preventive actions. Advances have been made in the legal and policy frameworks governing child protection, high-level advocacy, inter-agency coordination, and programme response. Despite the achievements, many challenges remain. For instance, the major natural disasters in Haiti and Pakistan in 2010 highlighted challenges to rapidly scale up child protection in emergency programmes, prevent and respond to separated children and gender-based violence (GBV), provide psychosocial support and establish child-friendly spaces (CFS). The earthquake in Haiti in particular marked a pivotal moment in humanitarian response as global attention was drawn to the importance of strong child protection systems as both a preventive and responsive requirement.

3.0 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed evaluation aims at strengthening child protection response (including preparedness) in the context of emergencies by examining the performance of UNICEF supported child protection strategies and interventions along a continuum of pre-crisis, crisis and post-crisis (recovery) phases so as to consider programme evolution from preventive and responsive perspectives, in line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. The evidence and recommendations provided by the evaluation will be used for improving UNICEF's organisational accountability, policy decisions and guidance, and they will also serve as a systematic knowledge base for use by national governments, donors and other partners who contribute to child protection outcomes. The evaluation has the following **objectives**:

- 1) Based on the OECD-DAC¹ criteria, informed by UNICEF's CCCs, and taking account of specific contexts, determine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coverage, impact (where feasible),

¹ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee

and sustainability of UNICEF's child protection programmes covering emergency preparedness, response and recovery phases.

- 2) Assess the integration of key organizational principles and approaches -- equity, gender, community-participation and human-rights – in child protection programme planning and implementation.
- 3) Identify key successes and gaps (in terms of what works and does not work and why?) in child protection programming and draw lessons learned, both in the context of armed conflict and in natural disaster.
- 4) Provide recommendations, based on evidence gathered, for policy and management decisions; guidance on programme planning and/or operational aspects for strengthening child protection response in the context of emergencies, including leadership, guidance and supportive actions needed from regional offices and headquarters.

The scope of the evaluation covers an assessment of a) UNICEF's work in child protection before, during and after a conflict and/or natural disaster covering preparedness, early response and recovery phases and related transition issues in particular country contexts; b) examination of various roles and support from the HQ and regional level and assessing their performance; and c) drawing country specific as well synthesised findings (on "what works well" and "what does not work and why"), lessons, and recommendations that are broadly applicable.

Team composition and competency requirements: It is proposed that the evaluation team consist of two evaluation experts (a leader and a technical expert) one of whom must have significant research/evaluation background in emergency child protection programmes. The evaluation team could come from a registered institution or be formed by combining individual freelance consultants. The exact division of work will be decided in consultation with the institution/team, but in general, both members will be responsible for each deliverable as the technical work will be divided between both persons. In view of the questions related to gender sensitivity, at least one member of the team is expected to be a woman.

The qualifications / experience required are as follows:

Team Leader:

- Extensive evaluation expertise and experience (at least 8 years) and a strong commitment to undertake the evaluation. Evaluation experience in emergency contexts is desirable.
- Knowledgeable of institutional issues related to humanitarian / development programming (including funding, administration, the role of the UN system, partnerships, human rights, humanitarian law, and sustainable development issues).
- Familiarity with child protection programme issues either as researcher/evaluator or as programme specialist/manager.
- Team leadership and management, interpersonal/communication skills.

Team Member:

- Strong research / evaluation expertise and experience (at least 5 years), including methodological and data collection skills with focus on child / social protection issues.
- Demonstrated skill in conducting evaluations of child protection and or social protection programmes.
- Team work and inter-personal communication and strong commitment to undertake the evaluation.

Team Leader and Member:

- Advanced university degree in social science, preferably with multi-disciplinary training.
- Significant international exposure and experience in working with UN agencies in emergency contexts.
- Established record in conducting high quality, utilisation focused evaluations in child protection or related areas.
- Strong analytical, synthesising, report writing and presentation skills.
- Must be willing to work in a challenging environment affected by an emergency and independently, with limited regular supervision.
- Good communication, advocacy and people skills. 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, good command of French is desirable.

Period of assignment: The expected period of assignment is from February to December 2012. Each team members is expected to devote about a half to two-thirds of the time for the evaluation during that period.

4.0 SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Qualified individuals or institutions are requested to submit the following:

- 1) A brief letter of interest (max 1 page) indicating either a) the position for which the application is submitted (Team Leader; Team Member) if submitted by an individual or, b) the proposed team composition if submitted by an institution. In addition, the letter of interest should concisely address how the applicant's skills and experience meet the required qualification.
- 2) A CV for each proposed team member.
- 3) An electronic submission of one evaluation report the candidate/institution has conducted or in which s/he/it has played a major role.

EOIs should be sent by e-mail to evalofficeapplications@unicef.org no later than 5 PM **New York Time** on 21 December, 2011. Please include <**CPiE Evaluation EOI**> as the subject of the e-mail. Following this EOI, short-listed candidates/institutions will be invited to submit a brief proposal and/or go through an interview. Detailed terms of reference for the evaluation will be sent to short-listed candidates.

Please note the following:

1. Incomplete responses will not be considered.
2. This EOI does not constitute a solicitation. We seek your expression of interest in undertaking the evaluation, and **not** proposals or price quotes.
3. A response to this request for EOI does not automatically ensure selection.
4. UNICEF reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the EOI, and to require compliance with additional conditions in subsequent stages of the solicitation process.