

**THIS MESSAGE IS SENT ON BEHALF OF UNICEF REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CEE/CIS AND IT IS FOR WIDER DISSEMINATION**

The UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS would like to partner with an experienced academic/consultancy institution or a group of individual experts to undertake:

**Evaluation of UNICEF's contribution in five CEE/CIS countries towards the reduction of and closing the inequity gap in under-5 and infant mortality and morbidity**

**Rationale for the evaluation**

The multi-country evaluation aims to document progress in the reduction of under 5/infant mortality and morbidity and to identify lessons learned in the course of action to inform further adjustments in and scaling-up of evidence-based and equity-focused programming. The evaluation will also enable to strengthen advocacy with national governments to advance the child health rights agenda. The findings and recommendations of this evaluation will primarily be intended for policy makers and programme managers from UNICEF, national governments, development partner organizations, and academia.

**Specific objectives of the evaluation**

- To evaluate UNICEF's specific contribution to addressing the health system level bottlenecks and improving the effective coverage with evidence-based maternal, newborn and child health interventions;
- To determine if there are correlations between the reduction of morbidity and/or mortality in children under-5 (cause-specific) and UNICEF-supported system level changes and the improved effective coverage. The contributions and technical support of other development and national partners should also be reflected;
- To review UNICEF's contributions as per Objectives 1 and 2 in the context of assessing overall trends in under-5 and infant mortality and morbidity over the time period of 2000-2012. This will also include equity and gender based analyses, review of the causes of under-5 and infant morbidity and mortality, and the potential influence of external factors and social determinants.

## **Methodology and timeframe**

The detailed design and methodology of the evaluation will be developed by a research consultancy company or a group of individual experts contracted. The general evaluation framework should consist of the following stages:

- **Desk review and analysis** of primary and secondary data sources concerning the region and the countries that were selected for evaluation (to be completed by the end of October, 2013);
- **Development and finalization of an inception report** based on the desk review and analysis (to be completed by the end of November, 2013);
- **Development of the final in-country evaluation methodology**, including a methodology to be piloted in one selected country (to be completed by the end of December, 2013);
- **In-country evaluation and preparation of draft country reports** (to be completed by the end of March, 2014);
- **Submission of the final evaluation report**, which will also include a presentation of the findings and conclusions (to be completed by the end of June, 2014).

## **Response to the call for expression of interest**

Interested applicants should send **their expression of interest** along **with work portfolio by September 10**, to the following addresses, indicating the reference number "RFP: RO/13-1":

Octavian Bivol: [obivol@unicef.org](mailto:obivol@unicef.org)

Oya Afsar: [oafsar@unicef.org](mailto:oafsar@unicef.org)

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## **Important notes to the call for expression of interest:**

*\*Questions and clarifications to the call for expression of interest should also be submitted to the above-mentioned e-mail addresses;*

*\*\*Only those organizations/consultancy companies or individuals/experts who have expressed interest will be contacted by the UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS countries and will be provided with the detailed Terms of Reference for this technical consultancy.*