

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES

LRPS-2026-9206172

16 September 2026

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Wishes to invite you to submit a proposal for

Operational research on Point of Care Testing (POCT) for anaemia screening

1. Request for Proposal

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) wishes to procure the abovementioned services through a competitive bidding process. In this respect, UNICEF would like to invite your organization to submit technical and financial proposals as outlined in this request for proposal and the terms and conditions contained herein.

2. Request for Information

For any query, please contact the respective officials of the Supply & Logistics team by email to: criwaad@unicef.org and copy mdagne@unicef.org. All queries will be entertained up to 5 working days before the bid opening.

IMPORTANT: BIDS ARE NOT TO BE SENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL STATED ABOVE - ANY BIDS SENT TO THE ABOVE OFFICIALS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

3. Pre-bid Meeting: An online pre-bid meeting will be arranged on Monday, 21 Sep 2026; Time: 03.00pm-04.00pm (BST: GMT +6), Microsoft Teams meeting details:

Meeting ID: 363 736 184 564 247

Passcode: rS2kQ2ze

4. Submission Deadline and Mode of Bid Submission

Due date: Thursday, 08 October 2026

Local Dhaka Time: 11:00 am (BST: GMT +6)

The responses of this LRPS should be submitted ONLY to the email ID: ebidsbangladesh@unicef.org;

No staff members should be copied in that email. Proposals can be sent in batches not to exceed UNICEF's e-mail size quota of ten (10) megabytes per e-mail. PLEASE REFER TO DETAILED INFORMATION IN SPECIAL NOTES - PART II, for more Details.

Any proposals received by UNICEF after the submission deadline will be rejected.

THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES HAS BEEN:

Prepared By:

Tarin Riwaad

Date: 16-09-2026

Chowdhury Mohammad Tarin Riwaad

(To be contacted for additional information, NOT FOR SENDING PROPOSALS)

Email : criwaad@unicef.org

Approved By:

Wambua Nzioki

Date: 16-09-2026

Wambua Nzioki

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES FORM

This FORM must be completed, signed and returned to UNICEF.
Proposal must be made in accordance with the instructions contained in this Request for Proposal for Services (RFPS).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

Any Contract resulting from this RFPS shall contain UNICEF General Terms and Conditions for Institutional and Corporate Contracts and any other Specific Terms and Conditions detailed in this RFPS.

INFORMATION

Any request for information regarding this RFPS must be forwarded by email to the person who prepared this document, with specific reference to the RFPS number.

The Undersigned, having read the Terms and Conditions of RFPS No. **LRPS-2026-9206172** set out in the attached document, hereby offers to execute the services specified in this document.

Currency of Proposal: _____

Validity of Proposal: _____

Please indicate which of the following Early Payment Discount Terms are offered by you:

10 Days 3.0% _____ 15 Days 2.5% _____ 20 Days 2.0% _____ 30 Days Net _____
Other _____

Declaration

The undersigned, being a duly authorized representative of the Company, represents and declares that:

1.	The Company and its Management ¹ have not been found guilty pursuant to a final judgment or a final administrative decision of any of the following:	YES	NO
	a. fraud	☐	☐
	b. corruption	☐	☐
	c. conduct related to a criminal organisation	☐	☐
	d. money laundering or terrorist financing	☐	☐
	e. terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities	☐	☐
	f. sexual exploitation and abuse;	☐	☐
	g. child labour, forced labour, human trafficking;	☐	☐
	h. irregularity (non-compliance with any legal or regulatory requirement applicable to the Company or its Management).	☐	☐

¹ #Management" means any person having powers of representation, decision-making or control over the Organization. This may include, for example, executive management and all other persons holding downstream managerial authority, anyone on the board of directors, and controlling shareholders.

2.	The Company and its Management have not been found guilty pursuant to a final judgment or a final administrative decision of grave professional misconduct.	☐	☐
3.	The Company and its Management are not: bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, subject to the administration of assets by a liquidator or a court, in an arrangement with creditors, subject to a legal suspension of business activities, or in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under applicable national law.	☐	☐
4.	The Company and its Management have not been the subject of a final judgment or a final administrative decision finding them in breach of their obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions.	☐	☐
5.	The Company and its Management have not been the subject of a final judgment or a final administrative decision which found they created an entity in a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration, or principal place of business (<i>creating a shell company</i>).	☐	☐
6.	The Company and its Management have not been the subject of a final judgment or a final administrative decision which found the Company was created with the intent referred to in point (5) (<i>being a shell company</i>).	☐	☐

The UNICEF reserves the right to disqualify the Company suspend or terminate any contract or other arrangement between the UNICEF and the Company, with immediate effect and without liability, in the event of any misrepresentation made by the Company in this Declaration.

It is the responsibility of the Company to immediately inform the UNICEF of any changes in the situations declared.

This Declaration is in addition to, and does not replace or cancel, or operate as a waiver of, any terms of contractual arrangements between the UNICEF and the Company.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name and Title: _____

Name of the Company: _____

UNGM #: _____

Postal Address: _____

Email: _____

Item	Service Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Price
10	NUT: Operational Research POCT Anaemia				
	NUT: Operational Research POCT Anaemia	1	PU		

SPECIAL NOTES

PART I # PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1.1 Background and purpose:

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

The purpose of this Request for Proposals for Services (#RFPS”) is to invite proposals for Operational research on Point of Care Testing (POCT) for anaemia screening [as fully detailed in the Terms of Reference/Statement of Work attached at Annex F]

1.2 UNGM

1.2.1 UNICEF is part of the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM). Accordingly, all proposers are requested to become a UNICEF vendor by creating a vendor profile and submitting their national incorporation license/certificate at the Level-1 stage of vendor registration process. For registration and instructions on how to, kindly refer to the attachment or the UNGM site: www.ungm.org/RegistrationProcess

1.2.2 Please note that UNGM registration, including provision of national incorporation license/certificate, should be submitted along with the bid and is a mandatory requirement for any eventual award.

1.2.3 We draw your attention to the link below to the UNICEF Policy on Conduct Promoting the Protection and Safeguarding of Children (the Policy) especially Sections 4.1 and 6.1 that state:

#4.1: UNICEF civil society partners, suppliers or vendors (including corporate consultants and contractors, and academic or research institutions), UNICEF corporate partners, and UNICEF National Committees are expected to ensure that their personnel report all reasonable suspicions that UNICEF staff member or non-staff personnel, or a UNICEF individual consultant or contractor, has engaged in conduct that is prohibited under this Policy.

6.1: UNICEF will promote the adoption by UNICEF’s commercial vendors and suppliers of robust policies for the protection and safeguarding of children. UNICEF will regard the adoption of such policies as a positive factor when selecting vendors and suppliers.” (link attached below)

https://www.unicef.org/supply/files/Executive_Directive_06-16_Child_Safeguarding_Policy_-_1_July_2016_Final.pdf.”

2. SOLICITATION

2.1 This RFPS document is comprised of the following:

- a) This document
- b) Annex-A: The UNICEF General Terms and Conditions of Contract (Services) which are attached to this document
- c) Annex-B: Technical Proposal # Content & Format
- d) Annex-C: Contractor’s experience # format
- e) Annex-D: Financial proposal
- f) Annex-E: Evaluation criteria
- g) Annex-F: Terms of Reference

2.2 This RFPS is an invitation to treat and shall not be construed as an offer capable of being accepted or as creating any contractual, other legal or restitutionary rights. No binding contract, including a process contract or other understanding or arrangement, will exist between the Proposer and UNICEF and nothing in or in connection with this RFPS shall give rise to any liability on the part of UNICEF unless and until a contract is signed by UNICEF and the

successful Proposer.

PART II - PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

1.1 Mode of Submission: Bidders are requested to submit the bid response electronically following the below instruction.

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Electronic submission
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All e-mailed Proposals must be submitted to ebidsbangladesh@unicef.org, the ONLY ACCEPTABLE E-MAIL ADDRESS for receipt of Proposals. No other recipient should be "Cc" or "Bcc" in the e-mail submission.

Proposals can be sent in batches not to exceed UNICEF's e-mail size quota of ten (10) megabytes per e-mail.

All e-mail communication in relation to the Proposal must clearly indicate the reference RFPS number followed by the company name (e.g. RFPS-2025-920XXXX, ABCD Company Ltd) in the "Subject" line of the e-mail.

All Proposals submitted by e-mail must be submitted as PDF (Portable Document Format) files. Email links (e.g. to documents to be downloaded from cloud based folders) are not acceptable unless otherwise specifically requested. Proposals submitted as a link or through a link will be invalidated.

Technical Proposal and Price Proposal must be sent as separate files and clearly indicated in the file name; e.g. 920XXXX Technical Proposal.pdf; 920XXXX Price Proposal.pdf. No price information should be provided in the Technical Proposal. Price proposals should be password protected.

Upon receipt of the Proposal submission, an "acknowledge receipt" will be generated automatically and sent to the sender's e-mail address. The notification serves as the only proof of receipt from UNICEF.

No price information should be provided in the Technical Proposal. Proposals received in any other manner will be invalidated.

Any delays encountered in the mail delivery will be at the risk of the Proposer.

1.2 Acknowledgement of receipt of RFPS. Proposers are requested to inform UNICEF as soon as possible by email/letter to THE DESIGNATED PROCUREMENT OFFICIAL FOR THIS RFP AS MENTIONED IN THE COVER PAGE that they have received this RFPS.

1.3 Questions from Proposers. Proposers are required to submit any questions in respect of this RFPS by [EMAIL] to THE DESIGNATED PROCUREMENT OFFICIAL FOR THIS RFP AS MENTIONED IN THE COVER PAGE.

IMPORTANT: PROPOSALS ARE NOT TO BE SENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL STATED ABOVE # ANY PROPOSALS SENT TO THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

Proposers are required to keep all questions as clear and concise as possible.

Proposers are also expected to immediately notify UNICEF in writing of any ambiguities, errors, omissions, discrepancies, inconsistencies or other faults in any part of the RFPS, providing full details. Proposers will not benefit from such ambiguities, errors, omissions, discrepancies, inconsistencies or other faults.

UNICEF will compile the questions received. UNICEF may, at its discretion, at once copy any anonymized question and its reply to all other invited Proposers and/or post these on the UNICEF website and/or respond to the question at a bid conference. After any such bid conference, a Questions and Answers document may be prepared and shared with the bidders.

1.4 Amendments to RFPS Documents. At any time prior to the Submission Deadline, UNICEF may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective Proposer, modify the RFPS documents by amendment. If the RFPS was available publicly online, amendments will also be posted publicly online. Further, all prospective Proposers that have received the RFPS documents directly from UNICEF will be notified in writing of all amendments to the RFPS documents. In order to afford prospective Proposers reasonable time in which to take the amendment into account in preparing their Proposals, UNICEF may, at its sole discretion, extend the Submission Deadline.

2. LANGUAGE

2.1 The Proposal prepared by the Proposer and all correspondence and documents relating to the Proposal exchanged by the Proposer and UNICEF, will be written in ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

3. VALIDITY OF PROPOSALS; MODIFICATION AND CLARIFICATIONS; WITHDRAWAL

3.1 Validity Period. Proposers must indicate the validity period of their Proposal. Proposals should be valid for a period of not less than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Submission Deadline. A Proposal valid for a shorter period of time shall not be further considered. UNICEF may request the Proposer to extend the validity period. The Proposal of Proposers who decline to extend the validity of their Proposal shall become disqualified as no longer valid.

3.2 Other Changes. All changes to a Proposal must be received by UNICEF prior to the Submission Deadline. The Proposer must clearly indicate that the revised Proposal is a modification and supersedes the earlier version of the Proposal, or state the changes from the original Proposal.

3.3 Withdrawal of Proposal. A Proposal may be withdrawn by the Proposer on e-mailed, faxed or written request received by UNICEF from the Proposer prior to Submission Deadline. Negligence on the part of the Proposer confers no right for the withdrawal of the Proposal after it has been opened.

3.4 Clarifications Requested by UNICEF. During the evaluation of Proposals, UNICEF may, in its sole discretion, seek clarifications from any Proposer in order for UNICEF to fully understand the Proposer's Proposal and assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of Proposals. UNICEF may seek such clarifications through written communications or may request an interview with any Proposer. During this clarification process, no change in the price or substance of the Proposal will be sought, offered or permitted, except as required in order to allow for correction of arithmetical errors discovered by UNICEF.

3.5 References. UNICEF reserves the right to contact any or all references supplied by the Proposer(s) and to seek references from other sources as UNICEF deems appropriate.

4. ELIGIBILITY; PROPOSER INFORMATION

4.1 Proposer. The term #Proposer” refers to those companies that submit a proposal pursuant to this RFPS and #Proposal” refers to all the documents provided by the Proposer in its response to this RFPS. A Proposer will only be eligible for consideration if it complies with the representations set out in Part V of this RFPS, including the representations on ethical standards, including conflicts of interest.

4.2 Joint Venture, Consortium or Association.

(a) If the Proposer is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a joint venture, consortium or association at the time of the submission of the proposal, each such legal entity will confirm in their joint Proposal that:

(i) they have designated one party to act as a lead entity, duly vested with authority to legally bind the members of the joint venture jointly and severally, and this will be evidenced by a Joint Venture Agreement among the legal entities, which will be submitted along with the Proposal; and

(ii) if they are awarded the contract, the designated lead entity will enter into the contract with UNICEF, who will be acting for and on behalf of all the member entities comprising the joint venture.

(b) After the Proposal has been submitted to UNICEF, the lead entity identified to represent the joint venture will not be altered without the prior written consent of UNICEF.

(c) If a joint venture’s Proposal is the Proposal selected for award, UNICEF will award the contract to the joint venture, in the name of its designated lead entity. The lead entity will sign the contract for and on behalf of all other member entities.

4.3 Proposals from Government Organizations. The eligibility of Proposers that are wholly or partly owned by the Government will be subject to UNICEF’s further evaluation and review of various factors such as being registered as an independent entity, the extent of Government ownership/share, receipt of subsidies, mandate, access to information in relation to these RFPS documents, and others that may lead to undue advantage against other Proposers, and the eventual rejection of the Proposal.

4.4 Proposals from organizations where the sole proprietor is a former or retired UNICEF/UN staff member. Any organization, whose sole proprietor is a former or retired staff member of UNICEF (or any other United Nations organization), which submits a Proposal must disclose this previous United Nations employment at the time of submission. Any such Proposal will be treated as though the Proposal came from an individual for the purposes of UNICEF’s standard conditions on contracting former and retired members of staff.

5. PREPARATION OF OFFER

5.1 Proposers are responsible to inform themselves in preparing their Proposal. In this regard, the Proposers will ensure that they:

Examine all terms, requirements and formal submission instructions (e.g. regarding form and timing of submission, marking of envelopes, no price information in technical proposal etc.) included in the RFPS documents (including the Instructions to Proposers section);

Review the RFPS to ensure that they have a complete copy of all documents;

Review the standard UNICEF Contractual Provisions and the UNICEF General Terms and Conditions of Contract (Services) for the supply of services publicly available on the UNICEF Supply website: http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_procurement_policies.html ;

Review the UNICEF policies publicly available on the UNICEF Supply website: http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_procurement_policies.html. In particular, Proposers should familiarize themselves with the obligations imposed on suppliers and their personnel and sub-contractors under the UNICEF Policy Prohibiting and Combatting Fraud and Corruption and the UNICEF Policy on Conduct Promoting the Protection and Safeguarding of Children;

Attend any bid conference if it is mandatory under this RFPS;
Fully inform and satisfy themselves as to requirements of any relevant authorities and laws that apply, or may in the future apply, to the supply of the services.
Proposers acknowledge that UNICEF, its directors, employees and agents make no representations or warranties (express or implied) as to the accuracy or completeness of this RFPS or any other information provided to the Proposers.

5.2 Failure to meet all requirements and instructions in the RFPS documents or to provide all requested information will be at the Proposer's own risk, and may result in rejection of the Proposer's Proposal.

5.3 The Proposal must be organized to follow the format of this RFPS. Each Proposer must respond to the stated requests or requirements, and indicate that the Proposer understands and confirms acceptance of UNICEF's stated requirements. The Proposer should identify any substantive assumption made in preparing its offer. The deferral of a response to a question or issue to any contract negotiation stage is not acceptable. Any item not specifically addressed in the Proposal will be deemed as accepted by the Proposer. Incomplete or inadequate responses, lack of response or misrepresentation in responding to any questions will affect the evaluation of the Proposal.

5.4 All references to descriptive materials should be included in the appropriate Proposal paragraph, though the material/documents themselves may be provided as annexes to the Proposal. The Proposer must also provide sufficient information in the Proposal to address each area of the evaluation criteria as presented in this document to allow a fair assessment of all of the Proposers and their Proposals. It is for UNICEF to determine, in its sole discretion, whether information provided is sufficient.

5.5 The completed and signed Request for Proposal for Services Form must be submitted together with the Proposal. The Request for Proposal for Services Form must be signed by a duly authorized representative of the Organization/Company.

5.6 Proposals must be clearly marked with the RFPS number.

5.7 If answer sheets are provided by UNICEF then these must be completed by the Proposer.

5.8 Technical Proposal: The Technical Proposal should address the criteria and requirements outlined in this RFPS, paying particular attention to its Terms of Reference/Statement of Work and its evaluation criteria. It is important to note that UNICEF actively welcomes innovative proposals and original solutions to the stated service need. **NO PRICE INFORMATION SHOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.**

5.9 Price Proposal: The Price Proposal should be prepared in accordance with the requirements contained in the Terms of Reference/Statement of Work for this RFPS.

5.10 Each Proposer acknowledges that its participation in any stage of the solicitation process for this RFPS is at its own risk and cost. The Proposer is responsible for, and UNICEF is not responsible for, the costs of preparing its Proposal or response to this RFPS, attendance at any pre-submission conference, site visit, meetings or oral presentations, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the solicitation process.

6. PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS; CONFIDENTIALITY

6.1 This RFPS, together with all Proposal documents provided by the Proposer to UNICEF, will be considered the property of UNICEF and Proposals will not be returned to the Proposers.

6.2 Information contained in the Proposal documents, which the Proposer considers to be its confidential information, should be clearly marked "confidential", next to the relevant part of the text, and UNICEF will treat such information accordingly.

6.3 All information and documents provided to the Proposers by UNICEF ("RFPS Materials") shall be treated as confidential by the Proposers. If the Proposer declines to respond to this RFPS, or, if the Proposal is rejected or unsuccessful, the Proposer will promptly return all such RFPS Materials to UNICEF, or destroy or delete all such RFPS Materials. The Proposer shall not use the RFPS Materials for any purpose other than the purpose of preparing a Proposal and shall not disclose the RFPS Materials to any third party, except: (a) with the prior written consent of UNICEF; (b) where the third party is assisting the Proposer in preparing the Proposal, provided the Proposer has previously ensured that party's adherence to this duty of confidentiality; (c) if the relevant RFPS Materials are at the time of this RFPS lawfully in the possession of the Proposer through a party other than UNICEF; (d) if required by law, and provided that the Proposer has previously informed UNICEF in writing of its obligation to disclose the RFPS Materials; or (e) if the RFPS Materials are generally and publicly available other than as a result of breach of confidence by the person receiving the RFPS Materials.

7. MULTIPLE PROPOSALS AND PROPOSALS FROM RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

7.1 Proposers shall not submit more than one Proposal as part of this RFPS process.

7.2 If the Proposer is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a joint venture, consortium or association at the time of the submission of the Proposal then neither the lead entity nor the member entities of the joint venture may submit another Proposal, either in its own capacity or as a lead entity or a member entity for another joint venture submitting another Proposal.

7.3 UNICEF reserves the right to reject separate Proposals submitted by two or more Proposers if the Proposers are related organizations and are found to have any of the following:

- (a) they have at least one controlling partner, director or shareholder in common; or
- (b) any one of them receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from the other(s); or
- (c) they have a relationship with each other, that gives one or more Proposers access to confidential information about, or influence over, the other Proposal(s); or
- (d) they are subcontractors to each other's Proposal, or a subcontractor to one Proposal also submits another Proposal under its name as lead Proposer; or
- (e) an expert proposed to be in the team of one Proposer participates in more than one Proposal received for this solicitation process.

PART III - AWARD/ADJUDICATION OF PROPOSALS

1. AWARD

1.1 Proposal Evaluation Process. The evaluation is carried out by UNICEF in accordance with UNICEF's regulations, rules and practices and all determinations are made in UNICEF's sole discretion.

After opening the Proposals, UNICEF will carry out the following steps in the following order:

- First, each Proposal will be evaluated for compliance with the mandatory requirements of this

RFPS. Proposals deemed not to meet all of the mandatory requirements will be considered non-compliant and rejected at this stage without further consideration. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions contained in this RFPS, including, but not limited to, failure to provide all required information, may result in a Proposal being disqualified from further consideration.

- Second, UNICEF will evaluate the Technical Proposal part for compliance with the technical requirements stated in this RFPS on the basis of the Proposal evaluation approach set out below.

- Third, UNICEF will undertake a commercial evaluation of the Price Proposal part of technically compliant Proposals on the basis of the Proposal evaluation approach set out below.

1.2 Proposal Evaluation Approach.

Weighted scoring evaluation approach

Following closure of the RFP, proposals will be evaluated by a UNICEF evaluation team to assess its merits. The evaluation will be restricted to the contents of the proposals, bidder profile, relevant experience, client list, financial status and price proposal.

A two stage procedure will be followed in evaluating proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any evaluation of the financial proposal. Evaluators of the technical proposals shall have no access to the financial Proposals until the technical evaluation is completed.

The evaluation criteria will be a split between technical and commercial (price proposal) scores (75 / 25).

a) Technical Evaluation

Technical Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of their responsiveness to the terms of reference, applying the evaluation criteria and the point system specified in Annex-E. Each Technical Proposal will be given a technical score. Technical Proposals receiving the minimum qualifying points or higher, will be considered technically responsive. After the completion of the technical evaluation, the financial proposal will be opened. Proposals which are considered non-technically compliant and non-responsive, will not be given further consideration.

b) Price Proposal (commercial evaluation)

The financial scores will be arrived at based on the formula specified below, whereby the lowest evaluated Financial Proposal (Fm) will be given the maximum financial score (Sf) of 25 points. The financial scores of the other proposals will be in inverse proportion to the lowest price.

The evaluation formula is outlined as follows:

$Sf = 25 \times Fm/F$, in which Sf is the financial score, Fm is the lowest price and F the price of the proposal under consideration.

The Proposer(s) achieving the highest combined technical and price score will (subject to any negotiations and the various other rights of UNICEF detailed in this RFPS) be awarded the Contract(s).

From the time the proposals are opened to the time the contract is awarded, bidders shall not contact UNICEF on any matter and any attempt to influence UNICEF in its evaluation of the proposals and award recommendation, may result in rejection of the proposal.

1.3 Multiple Arrangements. UNICEF reserves the right to make multiple arrangements for any service(s) where UNICEF considers it to be in its best interest to do so.

1.4 Negotiation. UNICEF reserves the right to negotiate with the Proposer(s) that has/have attained the best rating/ranking, i.e. those providing the overall best value Proposal.

1.5 Award Notification. UNICEF will only notify the Proposer(s) that has/have been awarded the Contract(s) resulting from this solicitation process; UNICEF may, but is not required to, notify the other Proposers of the outcome of this solicitation process.

2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (SERVICES)

2.1 UNICEF's General Terms and Conditions of Contract (Services) will apply to any contract(s) awarded in connection with this RFPS. By signing the Request for Proposal for Services Form, each Proposer is deemed to have confirmed its acceptance of the UNICEF General Terms and Conditions (Services). The Proposer understands that if it proposes any amendments or additional terms to the UNICEF General Terms and Conditions (Services), these must be clearly detailed in the Proposal and may negatively affect the evaluation of the Proposal.

3. RIGHTS OF UNICEF

3.1 UNICEF reserves the following rights:

- (a) to accept any Proposal, in whole or in part; to reject any or all Proposals; or to cancel this solicitation process in its entirety;
- (b) to verify any information contained in Proposer's response (and the Proposer will provide UNICEF with its reasonable cooperation with such verification);
- (c) to invalidate any Proposal received from a Proposer that, in UNICEF's sole opinion has previously failed to perform satisfactorily or complete contracts on time, or UNICEF believes is not in a position to perform the contract;
- (d) to invalidate any Proposal that, in UNICEF's sole opinion, fails to meet the requirements and instructions stated in this RFPS;
- (e) to suspend negotiations or withdraw an award to a Proposer at any time up until a contract has been signed with such Proposer. UNICEF is not required to provide any justification, but will give notice prior to any such suspension of negotiations or withdrawal of award.

3.2 UNICEF is not liable to any Proposer for any costs, expense or loss incurred or suffered by such Proposer in connection with this RFPS or solicitation process, including, but not limited to, any costs, expense or loss incurred as result of UNICEF exercising any of its rights in paragraph 3.1 above.

PART IV - REQUIREMENTS

1. PRICE AND PAYMENT

1.1 Price. The fee for the services and deliverables will be treated as inclusive of all costs, expenses, charges or fees that the Proposer may incur in connection with the performance of the work. The Proposer is invited to offer any unconditional discounts. Further, the Proposer may offer early payment discounts, i.e. payment within a specific period of time faster than UNICEF's standard payment terms of 30 days.

1.2 Payment Terms Invoices may be issued to UNICEF only after the services (or components of the services) have been provided and the deliverables (or installments of the deliverables) have been delivered (a) in accordance with the contract and (b) to UNICEF's satisfaction. The standard terms of payment are net 30 days, after receipt of invoice. Payment will be effected by bank transfer in the currency of the contract.

The Proposer will suggest a payment schedule for the contract that is linked to clear milestones and/or deliverables identified in the Terms of Reference/Statement of Work.

1.3 Currency (a) The currency of the Proposal shall be in Bangladesh TAKA for National bidders and US Dollars for International bidders. UNICEF will reject any proposals submitted in another currency. (b) If the above paragraph (a) explicitly permits two or more specified currencies for the Proposals, then for evaluation purposes only, offers submitted in a currency other than US Dollars will be converted into US Dollars using the United Nations rate of exchange in effect on the submission deadline date.

1.4 Taxes. Article II, Section 7, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities provides, inter alia, that the United Nations, including UNICEF as a subsidiary organ, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs restrictions, duties, and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. All prices/rates quoted in the Proposal must be net of any direct taxes and any other taxes and duties, unless otherwise specified in the RFPS documents.

1.5 Pre-Payment. Please note that UN Financial Rules and Regulations do not permit prepayment such as COD or LC. The standard payment terms are net 30 days from the receipt of the invoice and proof of delivery/acceptance of deliverables.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 No Reliance. Except as expressly set out in the RFPS documents, UNICEF will have no obligation to provide any assistance to the contractor and UNICEF makes no representations as to the availability of any facilities, equipment, materials, systems or licenses which may be helpful or useful for the performance of the work. If the Proposer requires any facilities, equipment, materials, systems or licenses in order to do the work, this must be explicitly detailed in its Proposal.

2.2 Sub-contractors. Proposers must identify in their Proposal, any products which may be offered by themselves, but originate from another supplier and/or country. Further, Proposers must identify in their proposal any planned subcontracting of services. All subcontracting arrangements will be reviewed by UNICEF as part of its evaluation of the Proposal.

2.3 Experts. If so required in the Terms of Reference/Statement of Work each key expert profile requested in the Terms of Reference/Statement of Work must sign an exclusivity and availability statement. The purpose of Exclusivity and Availability Statement is as follows:

(a) The key experts proposed in the Proposal must not be part of any other Proposer's Proposal being submitted for this RFPS process. They must therefore engage themselves exclusively to the Proposer.

(b) Each key expert must also undertake to be available, able and willing to work for all the period foreseen for his/her input during the implementation of the contract as indicated in the Terms of Reference/Statement of Work and the Proposal.

Having selected a Proposal partly on the basis of an evaluation of the key experts presented in the Proposal, UNICEF expects the contract to be executed by these specific experts. As the expected date of mobilization is given in the RFPS, UNICEF will only consider substitutions after the deadline for the submission of offers in cases of unexpected delays in the commencement date beyond the control of the Proposer, or exceptionally because of the incapacity of a key expert for health reasons or due to force majeure or other circumstances which may justify a replacement and which would not have any effect on the selection of the Proposal. The desire of a Proposer to use an expert on another project or a change of mind on the part of an expert

about the contract will not be accepted as a reason for substitution of any of the key experts.

2.4 Joint Ventures. The description of the organization of the joint venture/consortium/association must clearly define the expected role of each of the entities in the joint venture in delivering the requirements of this RFPS, both in the Proposal and the Joint Venture Agreement. All entities that comprise the joint venture will be subject to the eligibility and qualification assessment by UNICEF.

Where a joint venture is presenting its track record and experience in a similar undertaking as those required in this RFPS, it should present such information in the following manner:

- a) Those that were undertaken together by the joint venture; and
- b) Those that were undertaken by the individual entities of the joint venture expected to be involved in the performance of the services defined in this RFPS.

Previous contracts completed by individual experts working privately but who are permanently or were temporarily associated with any of the member firms cannot be claimed as the experience of the joint venture or those of its members, but should only be claimed by the individual experts themselves in their presentation of their individual credentials.

3. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

3.1 Liquidated damages. Any contracts awarded in connection with this RFPS will include the following clause on liquidated damages:

#In addition to, and without prejudice to any of the other rights and remedies of UNICEF including, but not limited to, those set out in the UNICEF General Terms and Conditions of Contract (Services), if the Contractor fails to provide the Services or the Deliverables in accordance with the time schedule set out in the Contract, or if UNICEF determines that the Services or Deliverables do not conform to the requirements of the Contract, UNICEF may claim liquidated damages from the Contractor and, at UNICEF's option, the Contractor will pay such liquidated damages to UNICEF or UNICEF will deduct such liquidated damages from the Contractor's invoice(s). Such liquidated damages will be calculated as follows: one half of one per cent (0.5%) of the Contract Fee for the delayed Services and Deliverables for each day of delay, or in the case of a Fee calculated on a time-based rate, one half of one per cent (0.5%) of the time-based rate for all the Contractor Personnel required to provide the relevant Services or Deliverables, until performance of conforming Services or delivery of conforming Deliverables, up to a maximum of ten per cent (10%) of the value of the Contract. The payment or deduction of such liquidated damages will not relieve the Contractor from any of its other obligations or liabilities pursuant to the Contract."

PART V - PROPOSER REPRESENTATIONS

1. PRICE # MOST FAVOURED CUSTOMER

1.1 The Proposer confirms that the fees, rates and charges and related pricing terms with respect to the services specified in the Proposal are the most favourable pricing terms available to any customer of the Proposer (or any of the Proposer's affiliates). If at any time during the term of any contract resulting from the Proposal, any other customer of the Proposer (or of any of the Proposer's affiliates) obtains more favourable pricing terms than those provided to UNICEF, the Proposer will retroactively adjust the fee and related pricing terms under the contract to conform to the more favourable terms and the Proposer will promptly pay UNICEF any amounts owing to UNICEF as a result of such retroactive fee adjustment.

2. GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS

By submitting its Proposal in response to this RFPS, the Proposer confirms to UNICEF as at the Submission Deadline:

2.1 The Proposer has (a) the full authority and power to submit the Proposal and to enter into any resulting contract, and (b) all rights, licenses, authority and resources necessary, as applicable, to develop, source and supply the services and to perform its other obligations under any resulting contract. The Proposer has not and will not enter into any agreement or arrangement that restrains or restricts any person's rights to use, sell, dispose of or otherwise deal with any service, deliverable or outcome that may be acquired under any resulting contract.

2.2 All of the information it has provided to UNICEF concerning the services and the Proposer is true, correct, accurate and not misleading.

2.3 The Proposer is financially solvent and is able to supply the services to UNICEF in accordance with the requirements described in this RFPS.

2.4 The use or supply of the services does not and will not infringe any patent, design, trade-name or trade-mark.

2.5 The development and supply of the services has complied, does comply, and will comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

2.6 The Proposer will fulfill its commitments with the fullest regard to the interests of UNICEF and will refrain from any action which may adversely affect UNICEF or the United Nations.

2.7 It has the personnel, experience, qualifications, facilities, financial resources and all other skills and resources to perform its obligations under any resulting contract.

2.8 The Proposer agrees to be bound by the decisions of UNICEF, including but not limited to, decisions as to whether the Proposer's Proposal meets the requirements and instructions stated in this RFPS and the results of the evaluation process.

3. ETHICAL STANDARDS

UNICEF requires that all Proposers observe the highest standard of ethics during the entire solicitation process, as well as the duration of any contract that may be awarded as a result of this solicitation process. UNICEF also actively promotes the adoption by its suppliers of robust policies for the protection and safeguarding of children and the prevention and prohibition of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

By submitting its Proposal in response to this RFPS, the Proposer makes the following representations and warranties to UNICEF as at the Submission Deadline:

3.1 In respect of all aspects of the solicitation process the Proposer has disclosed to UNICEF any situation that may constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest or could reasonably be perceived as a conflict of interest. In particular, the Proposer has disclosed to UNICEF if it or any of its affiliates is, or has been in the past, engaged by UNICEF to provide services for the preparation of the design, specifications, cost analysis/estimation, and other documents to be used for the procurement of the services requested under this RFPS; or if it or any of its affiliates has been involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this RFPS.

3.2 The Proposer has not unduly obtained, or attempted to unduly obtain, any confidential information in connection with the solicitation process and any contract that may be awarded as a result of this solicitation process.

3.3 No official of UNICEF or of any United Nations System organisation has received from or on behalf of the Proposer, or will be offered by or on behalf of the Proposer, any direct or indirect benefit in connection with this RFPS including the award of the contract to the Proposer. Such direct or indirect benefit includes, but is not limited to, any gifts, favours or hospitality.

3.4 The following requirements with regard to former UNICEF officials have been complied with and will be complied with:

(a) During the one (1) year period after an official has separated from UNICEF, the Proposer may not make a direct or indirect offer of employment to that former UNICEF official if that former UNICEF official was, during the three years prior to separating from UNICEF, involved in any aspect of a UNICEF procurement process in which the Proposer has participated.

(b) During the two (2) year period after an official has separated from UNICEF, that former official may not, directly or indirectly on behalf of the Proposer, communicate with UNICEF, or present to UNICEF, about any matters that were within such former official's responsibilities while at UNICEF.

3.5 Neither the Proposer nor any of its affiliates, or personnel or directors, is subject to any sanction or temporary suspension imposed by any United Nations System organisation or other international inter-governmental organisation. The Proposer will immediately disclose to UNICEF if it or any of its affiliates, or personnel or directors, becomes subject to any such sanction or temporary suspension during the term of the contract. If the Proposer or any of its affiliates, or personnel or directors becomes subject to any such sanction or temporary suspension during the term of any resulting contract, UNICEF will be entitled to suspend the contract for a period of time up to thirty (30) days or terminate the contract, at its sole choice, with immediate effect upon delivery of a written notice of suspension or termination, as the case may be, to the Proposer. If UNICEF chooses to suspend the contract it will be entitled to terminate the contract at the end of the thirty (30) days' suspension at UNICEF's sole choice.

3.6 The Proposer will (a) observe the highest standard of ethics; (b) use its best efforts to protect UNICEF against fraud, in the solicitation process and in the performance of any resulting contract; and (c) comply with the applicable provisions of UNICEF's Policy Prohibiting and Combatting Fraud and Corruption which can be accessed on the UNICEF website at http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_procurement_policies.html. In particular, the Proposer will not engage, and will ensure that its personnel, agents and sub-contractors do not engage, in any corrupt, fraudulent, coercive, collusive or obstructive conduct as such terms are defined in UNICEF's Policy Prohibiting and Combatting Fraud and Corruption.

3.7 The Proposer will comply with all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations bearing upon its participation in this solicitation and the UN Supplier Code of Conduct (available at the United Nations Global Marketplace website - www.ungm.org).

3.8 Neither the Proposer nor any of its affiliates, is engaged, directly or indirectly, (a) in any practice inconsistent with the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including Article 32, or the International Labour Organisation's Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 182 (1999); or (b) in the manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of anti-personnel mines or components utilised in the manufacture of anti-personnel mines.

3.9 The Proposer has taken and will take all appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation or abuse of anyone by its personnel including its employees or any persons engaged by the Proposer to perform any services in the Proposer's participation in this solicitation. For these purposes, sexual activity with any person less than eighteen years of age, regardless of any

laws relating to consent, will constitute the sexual exploitation and abuse of such person. The Proposer has taken and will take all appropriate measures to prohibit its personnel including its employees or other persons engaged by the Proposer, from exchanging any money, goods, services, or other things of value, for sexual favours or activities or from engaging in any sexual activities that are exploitive or degrading to any person.

3.10 The Proposer confirms that it has read UNICEF's Policy on Conduct Promoting the Protection and Safeguarding of Children. The Proposer will ensure that its Personnel understand the notification requirements expected of them and will establish and maintain appropriate measures to promote compliance with such requirements. The Proposer will further cooperate with UNICEF's implementation of this Policy.

3.11 The Proposer will inform UNICEF as soon as it becomes aware of any incident or report that is inconsistent with the undertakings and confirmations provided in this Article 3.

3.12 Each of the provisions in this Article 3 of Part V constitutes an essential condition of participation in this solicitation process. In the event of a breach of any of these provisions, UNICEF is entitled to disqualify the Proposer from this solicitation process and/or any other solicitation process, and to terminate any contract that may have been awarded as a result of this solicitation process, immediately upon notice to the Proposer, without any liability for termination charges or any liability of any kind. In addition, the Proposer may be precluded from doing business with UNICEF and any other entity of the United Nations System in the future.

4. AUDIT

4.1 From time to time, UNICEF may conduct audits or investigations relating to any aspect of a contract awarded in relation to this RFPs, including but not limited to the award of the contract and the Proposer's compliance with the provisions of Article 3 above. The Proposer will provide its full and timely cooperation with any such audits or investigations, including (but not limited to) making its personnel and any relevant data and documentation available for the purposes of such audits or investigations, at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions, and granting UNICEF and those undertaking such audits or investigations access to the Proposer's premises at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions in connection with making its personnel and any relevant data and documentation available. The Proposer will require its sub-contractors and its agents to provide reasonable cooperation with any audits or investigations carried out by UNICEF.

5. VALUE ADDED TAX

Reimbursement of VAT: The applicable VAT rate for the contracted goods/services will be settled as per applicable/ prevailing government VAT rates law. In order for UNICEF to make payment of the applicable VAT and thereafter submit claim for refund of the same from the relevant government VAT authorities, the service provider will be required to submit Tax invoice with proof of valid VAT payment with mandatory particulars/contents of legal VAT requirements and acceptable to government VAT authority, please note the details below:

- i) ORIGINAL INVOICE: In the invoice, the bill amount and VAT amount has to be segregated.
- ii) MUSHOK: Vendors need to submit the original copy of Mushok-6.3. It has to be certified by the Revenue Officer or Assistant Revenue Officer of relevant VAT circle of the vendor. Also, it has to be submitted within 3 months of issuing Mushok.
- iii) TREASURY CHALLAN/ Mushok-6.2 and Mushok-9.1: Vendor needs to submit the original copy of Treasury Challan or photocopy copy of Treasury Challan attested from the relevant VAT circle. Vendors who follow procedure for VAT submission/adjustment on a monthly basis, they need to submit attested copy of Mushak-6.2 and Mushok-9.1 for relevant transaction (instead of Treasury Challan). It has to be submitted within 3 months of issuing Mushok-6.3.

While filling up Automated Challan/ A-Challan/E-Challan, the vendor should use UNICEF's BIN number. Vendor is paying the VAT amount on behalf of UNICEF that should also be Stated Clearly in the Challan Form.

If the vendor is submitting VAT for multiple organizations then they must provide overleaf page/detail breakdown of the total amount. In case of missing TR Challan provide Mushak 6.2 and 9.1(attested). Vendor needs to submit the original copy of Treasury Challan or photocopy copy of Treasury Challan attested from the relevant VAT circle. Also, it has to be submitted within 3 months of issuing MUSHOK-6.3.

MUSHOK-6.3 should be dated "Prior or Same" date of Treasury Challan's date.

iv) If VAT is applicable, Vendor should claim it as part of the original invoice (applicable both for partial or full payment).

6.0 STRIKES / HARTALS

Should hartal(s) be declared on the RFP closing day the time and day for closing/opening of the bid will remain unchanged. In such a situation if the proposals were not submitted then the bidder(s) are requested to submit their bids (Technical & Financial proposals) through electronic submission as outlined in the mode of submission.

INSTRUCTION TO PROPOSERS

1. MARKING AND RETURNING PROPOSALS

1.1 Proposals shall be submitted in the manner specified earlier in this solicitation document. Detailed submission guidance at paragraphs 1.7, 1.8 and/or 1.9 should then be followed accordingly.

1.2 The Bid Form/Request for Proposal for Services Form must be signed, and submitted together with the Proposal. The Bid Form/Request for Proposal for Services Form should be signed by the duly authorized representative of the submitting company.

1.3 Proposals must be clearly marked with the RFP(S) number and the name of the company submitting the Proposal.

1.4 Proposers should note that Proposals received in the following manner will be invalidated:

- a) with incorrect (as applicable) postal address, email address or fax number;
- b) received after the stipulated closing time and date;
- c) failure to quote in the currency(ies) stated in the RFP(S);
- d) in a different form than prescribed in the RFP(S).

1.5 Technical Proposal: The Technical Proposal should address the criteria and requirements outlined in this RFP(S), paying particular attention to its schedules/Terms of Reference/Statement of Work and its evaluation criteria. It is important to note that UNICEF actively welcomes innovative proposals and original solutions to the stated service/goods need.

NO PRICE INFORMATION SHOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.

1.6 Price Proposal: The Price Proposal should be prepared in accordance with the requirements contained in the schedules/Terms of Reference/Statement of Work for this RFP(S).

1.7 Sealed Proposals (as applicable)

1.7.1 See paragraph 1.1 above concerning applicability of this paragraph.

1.7.2 The Proposal must be sent for the attention of unit/team and address as specified in this RFP/RFPS. Proposals not sent in this manner will be disqualified.

1.7.3 They must be clearly marked as follows:

* Outer sealed envelope:

Name of company

[RFP(S) NO.]

[NAME OF UNIT & UNICEF OFFICE ADDRESS]

* Inner sealed envelope - Technical Proposal (1 original and 2 copies): Name of company, RFP(S) number - technical proposal

* Inner sealed envelope - Price Proposal (1 original and 2 copies): Name of company, RFP(S) number - price proposal

No price information should be provided in the Technical Proposal.

Proposals received in any other manner will be invalidated.

1.7.4 In case of any discrepancy between an original and a copy, the original will prevail.

1.7.5 Any delays encountered in the mail delivery will be at the risk of the Proposer.

1.8 Faxed Proposals (as applicable)

1.8.1 See paragraph 1.1 above concerning applicability of this paragraph.

1.8.2 Faxed Proposals must be returned to the ONLY ACCEPTABLE FAX NUMBER for Proposals as specified in this RFP(S) Document. Proposers should note that Proposals received at any other fax number will be invalidated.

No price information should be provided in the Technical Proposal.

1.9 E-mailed Proposals (as applicable)

1.9.1 See paragraph 1.1 above concerning applicability of this paragraph.

1.9.2 All e-mailed Proposals must be submitted to the ONLY ACCEPTABLE E-MAIL ADDRESS as specified in this solicitation document. No other recipient should be "Cc" or "Bcc" in the e-mail submission. Proposals not sent in this manner will be disqualified.

1.9.3 All Proposals submitted by e-mail must be submitted as email attachments. The Technical Proposal and Price Proposal must be sent as separate attachments and clearly indicated as such in the file name (e.g. Company ABC Technical Proposal, Company ABC Price Proposal). Email links (e.g. to documents to be downloaded from cloud based folders) are not acceptable unless otherwise specifically requested. Proposals submitted as a link or through a link will be invalidated.

2. OPENING OF PROPOSALS

2.1 Proposals received prior to the stated closing time and date will be kept unopened. UNICEF will open Proposals when the specified time has arrived and no Proposal received thereafter will be considered.

2.2 UNICEF will accept no responsibility for the premature opening of a Proposal which is not properly addressed or identified.

2.3 In cases when a Public Opening is held, the invited proposers, or their authorized representative, may attend the public Proposal opening at the time, date and location specified in the RFP(S) documents.

3. UNGM REGISTRATION

3.1 UNICEF is part of the United Nations Global Marketplace(UNGM). Accordingly, all proposers are encouraged to become a UNICEF vendor by creating a vendor profile in the UNGM website: www.ungm.org

4. AWARD NOTIFICATION

4.1 UNICEF reserves the right to make a public notification of the outcome on an RFP(S) advising product/service, awarded supplier and total value of award.

ANNEX A

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (Services)

Definitions and UNICEF Supply Website

1.1 In these General Terms and Conditions (Services), the following terms have the following meaning:

"Affiliates" means, with respect to the Contractor, any of its corporate affiliates or associates, including parent entities, subsidiaries, and other entities in which it owns a substantial interest.

"Confidential Information" means information or data that is designated as confidential at the time of exchange between the Parties or promptly identified as confidential in writing when furnished in intangible form or disclosed orally, and information, the confidential or proprietary nature of which, is or should be reasonably apparent from the inherent nature, quality or characteristics of such information.

"Contract" means the services contract that incorporates these General Terms and Conditions of Contract (Services). It includes contracts for services issued by UNICEF, whether or not they are issued under a long-term arrangement or similar contract.

"Contractor" means the contractor named in the Contract.

"Deliverables" means the work product and other output of the Services required to be delivered by Contractor as part of the Services, as specified in the relevant section of the Contract.

"Disabling Code" means any virus, back door, timer or other limiting routine, instruction or design, or other malicious, illicit or similar unrequested code that may have the consequence (whether by design or unintentionally) of disrupting, disabling, harming, circumventing security controls or otherwise impeding in any manner the normal operation or performance of (i) any software or service or (ii) any UNICEF information system or network.

"End User" means, in the event that the Services or Deliverables involve the use of any information systems, any and all UNICEF employees, consultants and other personnel and any other external users collaborating with UNICEF, in each case, authorized by UNICEF to access and use the Services and/or Deliverables.

"Fee" is defined in Article 3.1.

"Host Government" means a Government with which UNICEF has a programme of development cooperation, and includes a Government of a country in which UNICEF provides humanitarian assistance.

Contractor's "Key Personnel" are: (i) Personnel identified in the proposal as key individuals (as a minimum, partners, managers, senior auditors) to be assigned for participation in the performance of the Contract; (ii) Personnel whose resumes were submitted with the proposal; and (iii) individuals who are designated as key personnel by agreement of the Contractor and UNICEF during negotiations.

"Parties" means the Contractor and UNICEF together and a "Party" means each of the Contractor and UNICEF.

Contractor's "Personnel" means the Contractor's officials, employees, agents, individual sub-contractors and other representatives.

"Security Incident" means, with respect to any information system, service or network used in the delivery of the Services or Deliverables, one or more events that (a) indicates that the security of such information system, service, or network may have been breached or compromised and (b) that such breach or compromise could very likely compromise the security of UNICEF's Confidential Information or weaken or impair UNICEF's operations. Security Incident includes any actual, threatened or reasonably suspected unauthorized access to, disclosure of, use of or acquisition of UNICEF Data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of the UNICEF Data, or the ability of UNICEF or End Users to access the UNICEF Data.

"Services" means the services specified in the relevant section of the Contract.

"UNICEF Data" means any and all information or data in digital form or processed or held in digital form that (a) are provided to the Contractor by, or on behalf of, UNICEF and/or End Users under the Contract or through UNICEF's and/or End Users' use of the Services or in connection with the Services, or (b) are collected by the Contractor in the performance of the Contract.

"UNICEF Supply Website" means UNICEF's public access webpage available at http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_procurement_policies.html, as may be updated from time to time.

1.2 These General Terms and Conditions of Contract, UNICEF's Policy Prohibiting and Combatting Fraud

and Corruption, UNICEF's Policy on Safeguarding (as updated from time to time), the UN Supplier Code of Conduct and UNICEF's Information Disclosure Policy referred to in the Contract, as well as other policies applicable to the Contractor, are publicly available on the UNICEF Supply Website. The Contractor represents that it has reviewed all such policies as of the effective date of the Contract.

2. Provision of Services and Deliverables; Contractor's Personnel; Sub-Contractors

Provision of Services and Deliverables

2.1 The Contractor will provide the Services and deliver the Deliverables in accordance with the scope of work set out in the Contract, including, but not limited to, the time for delivery of the Services and Deliverables, and to UNICEF's satisfaction. Except as expressly provided in the Contract, the Contractor will be responsible at its sole cost for providing all the necessary personnel, equipment, material and supplies and for making all arrangements necessary for the performance and completion of the Services and delivery of the Deliverables under the Contract.

2.2 The Contractor acknowledges that, other than as expressly set out in the Contract, UNICEF will have no obligation to provide any assistance to the Contractor and UNICEF makes no representations as to the availability of any facilities, equipment, materials, systems or licenses which may be helpful or useful for the fulfillment by the Contractor of its obligations under the Contract. If UNICEF provides access to and use of UNICEF premises, facilities or systems (whether on site or remotely) to the Contractor for the purposes of the Contract, the Contractor will ensure that its Personnel or sub-contractors will, at all times (a) use such access exclusively for the specific purpose for which the access has been granted and (b) comply with UNICEF's security and other regulations and instructions for such access and use, including, but not limited to, UNICEF's information security policies. The Contractor will ensure that only those of its Personnel that have been authorized by the Contractor, and approved by UNICEF, have access to UNICEF's premises, facilities or systems.

2.3 The Contractor will use its best efforts to accommodate reasonable requests for changes (if any) to the scope of work of the Services or time for provision of the Services or delivery of the Deliverables. If UNICEF requests any material change to the scope of work or time for delivery, UNICEF and the Contractor will negotiate any necessary changes to the Contract, including as to the Fee and the time schedule under the Contract. Any such agreed changes will become effective only when they are set out in a written amendment to the Contract signed by both UNICEF and the Contractor. Should the Parties fail to agree on any such changes within thirty (30) days, UNICEF will have the option to terminate the Contract without penalty notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract.

2.4 The Contractor will neither seek nor accept instructions from any entity other than UNICEF (or entities authorized by UNICEF to give instructions to the Contractor) in connection with the provision of the Services or development and delivery of the Deliverables.

2.5 Title to any equipment and supplies which may be provided to the Contractor by UNICEF, will remain with UNICEF. Such equipment and supplies will be returned to UNICEF at the conclusion of the Contract or when no longer needed by the Contractor in the same condition as when they were provided to the Contractor, subject to normal wear and tear. The Contractor will pay UNICEF the value of any loss of, damage to, or degradation of, the equipment and supplies beyond normal wear and tear.

Non-conforming Services and Consequences of Delay

2.6 If the Contractor determines it will be unable to provide the Services or deliver the Deliverables by the date stipulated in the Contract, the Contractor will (i) immediately consult with UNICEF to determine the most expeditious means for delivery of the Services and/or Deliverables; and (ii) take necessary action to expedite delivery of the Services and/or Deliverables, at the Contractor's cost (unless the delay is due to force majeure as defined in Article 6.8 below), if reasonably so requested by UNICEF.

2.7 The Contractor acknowledges that UNICEF may monitor the Contractor's performance under the Contract and may at any time evaluate the quality of the Services provided and the Deliverables to determine whether or not the Services and Deliverables conform to the Contract. The Contractor agrees to provide its full cooperation with such performance monitoring and evaluation, at no additional cost or expense to UNICEF, and will provide relevant information as reasonably requested by UNICEF, including, but not limited to, the date of receipt of the Contract, detailed status updates, costs to be charged and payments made by UNICEF or pending. Neither the evaluation of the Services and Deliverables, nor failure to undertake any such evaluation, will relieve the Contractor of any of its warranty or other obligations under the Contract.

2.8 If the Services or Deliverables provided by the Contractor do not conform to the requirements of the Contract or are delivered late or incomplete, without prejudice to any of its other rights and remedies, UNICEF can, at its option:

ANNEX A

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(a) by written notice, require the Contractor, at the Contractor's expense, to remedy its performance, including any deficiencies in the Deliverables, to UNICEF's satisfaction within thirty (30) days after receipt of UNICEF's notice (or within such shorter period as UNICEF may determine, in its sole discretion, is necessary as specified in the notice);

(b) require the Contractor to refund all payments (if any) made by UNICEF in respect of such non-conforming or incomplete performance;

(c) procure all or part of the Services and/or Deliverables from other sources, and require the Contractor to pay UNICEF for any additional cost beyond the balance of the Fee for such Services and Deliverables;

(d) give written notice to terminate the Contract for breach, in accordance with Article 6.1 below, if the Contractor fails to remedy the breach within the cure period specified in Article 6.1 or if the breach is not capable of remedy;

(e) require the Contractor to pay liquidated damages as set out in the Contract.

2.9 Further to Article 11.5 below, the Contractor expressly acknowledges that if UNICEF takes delivery of Services or Deliverables that have been delivered late or otherwise not in full compliance with the requirements of the Contract, this does not constitute a waiver of UNICEF's rights in respect of such late or non-compliant performance.

Contractor's Personnel and Sub-Contractors

2.10 The following provisions apply with regard to the Contractor's Personnel:

(a) The provisions of Article 7 (Ethical Standards) will apply to the Contractor's Personnel as expressly stated in Article 7.

(b) The Contractor will be responsible for the professional and technical competence of the Personnel it assigns to perform work under the Contract and will select professionally qualified, reliable and competent individuals who will be able to effectively perform the obligations under the Contract and who, while doing so, will respect the local laws and customs and conform to a high standard of moral and ethical conduct.

(c) The qualifications of any Personnel whom the Contractor may assign or may propose to assign to perform any obligations under the Contract will be substantially the same as, or better than, the qualifications of any personnel originally proposed by the Contractor.

(d) At any time during the term of the Contract, UNICEF can make a written request that the Contractor replace one or more of the assigned Personnel. UNICEF will not be required to give an explanation or justification for this request. Within seven (7) working days of receiving UNICEF's request for replacement the Contractor must replace the Personnel in question with Personnel acceptable to UNICEF. This provision also extends to Personnel of the Contractor who have "account manager" or "relationship manager" type functions.

(e) If one or more of Contractor's Key Personnel become unavailable, for any reason, for work under the Contract, the Contractor will (i) notify the UNICEF contracting authority at least fourteen (14) days in advance; and (ii) obtain the UNICEF contracting authority's approval prior to making any substitution of Key Personnel. In notifying the UNICEF contracting authority, the Contractor will provide an explanation of the circumstances necessitating the proposed replacement(s) and submit justification and qualification of replacement Personnel in sufficient detail to permit evaluation of the impact on the engagement.

(f) The approval of UNICEF of any Personnel assigned by the Contractor (including any replacement Personnel) will not relieve the Contractor of any of its obligations under the Contract. The Contractor's Personnel, including individual sub-contractors, will not be considered in any respect as being the employees or agents of UNICEF.

(g) All expenses of the withdrawal or replacement of the Contractor's Personnel will, in all cases, be borne exclusively by the Contractor.

2.11 The Contractor will obtain the prior written approval and clearance of UNICEF for all institutional sub-contractors it proposes to use in connection with the Contract. The approval of UNICEF of a sub-contractor will not relieve the Contractor of any of its obligations under the Contract. The terms of any sub-contract will be subject to, and will be construed in a manner that is fully in accordance with, all of the terms and conditions of the Contract.

2.12 The Contractor confirms that it has read UNICEF's Policy on Safeguarding (as updated from time to

time). The Contractor will ensure that its Personnel understand the notification requirements expected of them and will establish and maintain appropriate measures to promote compliance with such requirements. The Contractor will further cooperate with UNICEF's implementation of this policy.

2.13 The Contractor will supervise its Personnel and sub-contractors and will be fully responsible and liable for all Services performed by its Personnel and sub-contractors and for their compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contract.

2.14 The Contractor will comply with all applicable international standards and national labor laws, rules and regulations relating to the employment of national and international staff in connection with the Services, including, but not limited to, laws, rules and regulations associated with the payment of the employer's portions of income tax, insurance, social security, health insurance, worker's compensation, retirement funds, severance or other similar payments. Without limiting the provisions of this Article 2 or Article 4 below, the Contractor will be fully responsible and liable for, and UNICEF will not be liable for (a) all payments due to its Personnel and sub-contractors for their services in relation to the performance of the Contract; (b) any action, omission, negligence or misconduct of the Contractor, its Personnel and sub-contractors; (c) any insurance coverage which may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of the Contract; (d) the safety and security of the Contractor's Personnel and sub-contractors' personnel; or (e) any costs, expenses, or claims associated with any illness, injury, death or disability of the Contractor's Personnel and sub-contractors' personnel, it being understood that UNICEF will have no liability or responsibility with regard to any of the events referred to in this Article 2.14.

3. Fee; Invoicing; Tax Exemption; Payment Terms

3.1 The fee for the Services is the amount in the currency specified in the fee section of the Contract (the "Fee"), it being understood that such amount is specified in United States dollars unless otherwise expressly provided for in the fee section of the Contract. Unless expressly stated otherwise in the Contract, the Fee is inclusive of all costs, expenses, charges or fees that the Contractor may incur in connection with the performance of its obligations under the Contract; provided that, without prejudice to or limiting the provisions of Article 3.3 below, all duties and other taxes imposed by any authority or entity must be separately identified. It is understood and agreed that the Contractor will not request any change to the Fee after the Services or Deliverables have been provided and that the Fee cannot be changed except by written agreement between the Parties before the relevant Service or Deliverable is provided. UNICEF will not agree to changes to the Fee for modifications or interpretations of the scope of work if those modifications or interpretations of the scope of work have already been initiated by the Contractor. UNICEF will not be liable to pay for any work conducted or materials provided by the Contractor that are outside the scope of work or were not authorized in advance by UNICEF.

3.2 The Contractor will issue invoices to UNICEF only after the Contractor has provided the Services (or components of the Services) and delivered the Deliverables (or installments of the Deliverables) in accordance with the Contract and to UNICEF's satisfaction. The Contractor will issue (a) one (1) invoice in respect of the payment being sought, in the currency specified in the Contract and in English, indicating the Contract identification number listed on the front page of the Contract; and (b) provide a clear and specific description of the Services provided and Deliverables delivered, as well as supporting documentation for reimbursable expenses if any, in sufficient detail to permit UNICEF to verify the amounts stated in the invoice.

3.3 The Contractor authorizes UNICEF to deduct from the Contractor's invoices any amount representing direct taxes (except charges for utilities services) and customs restrictions, duties and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for UNICEF's official use in accordance with the exemption from tax in Article II, Section 7 of the Convention of the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, 1946. In the event any governmental authority refuses to recognize this exemption from taxes, restrictions, duties or charges, the Contractor will immediately consult with UNICEF to determine a mutually acceptable procedure. The Contractor will provide full cooperation to UNICEF with regard to securing UNICEF's exemption from, or refund of amounts paid as, value-added taxes or taxes of a similar nature.

3.4 UNICEF will notify the Contractor of any dispute or discrepancy in the content or form of any invoice. With respect to disputes regarding only a portion of such invoice, UNICEF will pay the Contractor the amount of the undisputed portion in accordance with Article 3.5 below. UNICEF and the Contractor will consult in good faith to promptly resolve any dispute with respect to any invoice. Upon resolution of such dispute, any amounts that have not been charged in accordance with the Contract will be deducted from the invoice(s) in which they appear and UNICEF will pay any agreed remaining items in the invoice(s) in accordance with Article 3.5 within thirty (30) days after the final resolution of such dispute.

3.5 UNICEF will pay the uncontested amount of the Contractor's invoice within thirty (30) days of receiving both the invoice and the required supporting documents, as referred to in Article 3.2 above. The amount paid will reflect any discount(s) shown under the payment terms of the Contract. The Contractor will not be entitled to interest on any late payment or any sums payable under the Contract nor any accrued interest on payments

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withheld by UNICEF in connection with a dispute. Payment will not relieve the Contractor of its obligations under the Contract and will not be deemed to be acceptance by UNICEF of, or waiver of any of UNICEF's rights with regard to, the Contractor's performance.

3.6 Each invoice will confirm the Contractor's bank account details provided to UNICEF as part of the Contractor's registration process with UNICEF. All payments due to the Contractor under the Contract will be made by electronic funds transfer to that bank account. It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that the bank details supplied by it to UNICEF are up-to-date and accurate and notify UNICEF in writing by an authorized representative of the Contractor of any changes in bank details together with supporting documentation satisfactory to UNICEF.

3.7 The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that UNICEF may withhold payment in respect of any invoice if, in UNICEF's opinion, the Contractor has not performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract, or if the Contractor has not provided sufficient documentation in support of the invoice.

3.8 UNICEF will have the right to set off, against any amount or amounts due and payable by UNICEF to the Contractor under the Contract, any payment, indebtedness or other claim (including, without limitation, any overpayment made by UNICEF to the Contractor) owing by the Contractor to UNICEF under the Contract or under any other contract or agreement between the Parties. UNICEF will not be required to give the Contractor prior notice before exercising this right of set-off (such notice being waived by the Contractor). UNICEF will promptly notify the Contractor after it has exercised such right of set-off, explaining the reasons for such set-off, provided, however, that the failure to give such notification will not affect the validity of such set-off.

3.9 Each of the invoices paid by UNICEF may be subject to a post-payment audit by UNICEF's external and internal auditors or by other authorised agents of UNICEF, at any time during the term of the Contract and for three (3) years after the Contract terminates. UNICEF will be entitled to a refund from the Contractor of amounts such audit or audits determine were not in accordance with the Contract regardless of the reasons for such payments (including but not limited to the actions or inactions of UNICEF staff and other personnel).

4. Representations and Warranties; Indemnification; Insurance

Representations and Warranties

4.1 The Contractor represents and warrants that as of the effective date and throughout the term of the Contract: (a) the Contractor has the full authority and power to enter into the Contract and to perform its obligations under the Contract and the Contract is a legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms; (b) all of the information it has previously provided to UNICEF, or that it provides to UNICEF during the term of the Contract, concerning the Contractor and the provision of the Services and the delivering of the Deliverables is true, correct, accurate and not misleading; (c) it is financially solvent and is able to provide the Services to UNICEF in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract; (d) it has, and will maintain throughout the term of the Contract, all rights, licenses, authority and resources necessary, as applicable, to provide the Services and deliver the Deliverables to UNICEF's satisfaction and to perform its obligations under the Contract; (e) the work product is and will be original to the Contractor and does not and will not infringe any copyright, trademark, patent or other proprietary right of any third party; and (f) except as otherwise expressly stated in the Contract, it has not and will not enter into any agreement or arrangement that restrains or restricts any person's rights to use, sell, dispose of or otherwise deal with any Deliverable or other work resulting from the Services. The Contractor will fulfill its commitments with the fullest regard to the interests of UNICEF and will refrain from any action which may adversely affect UNICEF or the United Nations.

4.2 The Contractor further represents and warrants, as of the effective date and throughout the term of the Contract, that it and its Personnel and sub-contractors will perform the Contract and provide the Services and Deliverables (a) in a professional and workmanlike manner; (b) with reasonable care and skill and in accordance with the highest professional standards accorded to professionals providing the same or substantially similar services in a same industry; (c) with priority equal to that given to the same or similar services for the Contractor's other clients; and (d) in accordance with all laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations bearing upon the performance of its obligations under the Contract and the provision of the Services and Deliverables.

4.3 The representations and warranties made by the Contractor in Articles 4.1 and 4.2 above are made to and are for the benefit of (a) each entity (if any) that makes a direct financial contribution to UNICEF to procure the Services and Deliverables; and (b) each Government or other entity (if any) that receives the direct benefit of the Services and Deliverables.

Indemnification

4.4 The Contractor will indemnify, hold and save harmless and defend, at its own expense, UNICEF, its

officials, employees, consultants and agents, each entity that makes a direct financial contribution to UNICEF to procure the Services and Deliverables and each Government or other entity that receives the direct benefit of the Services and Deliverables, from and against all suits, claims, demands, losses and liability of any nature or kind, including their costs and expenses, by any third party and arising out of the acts or omissions of the Contractor or its Personnel or sub-contractors in the performance of the Contract. This provision will extend to but not be limited to (a) claims and liability in the nature of workers' compensation, (b) product liability, and (c) any actions or claims pertaining to the alleged infringement of a copyright or other intellectual property rights or licenses, patent, design, trade-name or trade-mark arising in connection with the Deliverables or other liability arising out of the use of patented inventions or devices, copyrighted material or other intellectual property provided or licensed to UNICEF under the terms of the Contract or used by the Contractor, its Personnel or sub-contractors in the performance of the Contract.

4.5 UNICEF will report any such suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses or liability to the Contractor within a reasonable period of time after having received actual notice. The Contractor will have sole control of the defence, settlement and compromise of any such suit, proceeding, claim or demand, except with respect to the assertion or defence of the privileges and immunities of UNICEF or any matter relating to UNICEF's privileges and immunities (including matters relating to UNICEF's relations with Host Governments), which as between the Contractor and UNICEF only UNICEF itself (or relevant Governmental entities) will assert and maintain. UNICEF will have the right, at its own expense, to be represented in any such suit, proceeding, claim or demand by independent counsel of its own choosing.

Insurance

4.6 The Contractor will comply with the following insurance requirements:

(a) The Contractor will have and maintain in effect with reputable insurers and in sufficient amounts, insurance against all of the Contractor's risks under the Contract (including, but not limited to, the risk of claims arising out of or related to the Contractor's performance of the Contract), including the following:

(i) Insurance against all risks in respect of its property and any equipment used for the performance of the Contract;

(ii) General liability insurance against all risks in respect of the Contract and claims arising out of the Contract in an adequate amount to cover all claims arising from or in connection with the Contractor's performance under the Contract;

(iii) All appropriate workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance, or its equivalent, with respect to its Personnel and sub-contractors to cover claims for death, bodily injury or damage to property arising from the performance of the Contract; and

(iv) Such other insurance as may be agreed upon in writing between UNICEF and the Contractor.

(b) The Contractor will maintain the insurance coverage referred to in Article 4.6(a) above during the term of the Contract and for a period after the Contract terminates extending to the end of any applicable limitations period with regard to claims against which the insurance is obtained.

(c) The Contractor will be responsible to fund all amounts within any policy deductible or retention.

(d) Except with regard to the insurance referred to in paragraph (a)(iii) above, the insurance policies for the Contractor's insurance required under this Article 4.6 will (i) name UNICEF as an additional insured; (ii) include a waiver by the insurer of any subrogation rights against UNICEF; and (iii) provide that UNICEF will receive thirty (30) days' written notice from the insurer prior to any cancellation or change of coverage.

(e) The Contractor will, upon request, provide UNICEF with satisfactory evidence of the insurance required under this Article 4.6.

(f) Compliance with the insurance requirements of the Contract will not limit the Contractor's liability either under the Contract or otherwise.

Liability

4.7 The Contractor will pay UNICEF promptly for all loss, destruction or damage to UNICEF's property caused by the Contractor's Personnel or sub-contractors in the performance of the Contract.

5. Intellectual Property and Other Proprietary Rights; Data Protection; Confidentiality

Intellectual Property and Other Proprietary Rights

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5.1 Unless otherwise expressly provided for in the Contract:

(a) Subject to paragraph (b) of this Article 5.1, UNICEF will be entitled to all intellectual property and other proprietary rights including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how, documents, data and other materials ("Contract Materials") that (i) the Contractor develops for UNICEF under the Contract and which bear a direct relation to the Contract or (ii) are produced, prepared or collected in consequence of, or during the course of, the performance of the Contract. The term "Contract Materials" includes, but is not limited to, all maps, drawings, photographs, plans, reports, recommendations, estimates, documents developed or received by, and all other data compiled by or received by, the Contractor under the Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that Contract Materials constitute works made for hire for UNICEF. Contract Materials will be treated as UNICEF's Confidential Information and will be delivered only to authorized UNICEF officials on expiry or termination of the Contract.

(b) UNICEF will not be entitled to, and will not claim any ownership interest in, any intellectual property or other proprietary rights of the Contractor that pre-existed the performance by the Contractor of its obligations under the Contract, or that the Contractor may develop or acquire, or may have developed or acquired, independently of the performance of its obligations under the Contract. The Contractor grants to UNICEF a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use such intellectual property or other proprietary rights solely for the purposes of and in accordance with the requirements of the Contract.

(c) At UNICEF's request, the Contractor will take all necessary steps, execute all necessary documents and generally assist in securing such proprietary rights and transferring them (or, in the case, intellectual property referred to in paragraph (b) above, licensing) them to UNICEF in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law and of the Contract.

Confidentiality

5.2 Confidential Information that is considered proprietary by either Party or that is delivered or disclosed by one Party ("Discloser") to the other Party ("Recipient") during the course of performance of the Contract or in connection with the subject matter of the Contract will be held in confidence by the Recipient. The Recipient will use the same care and discretion to avoid disclosure of the Discloser's Confidential Information as the Recipient uses for its own Confidential Information and will use the Discloser's Confidential Information solely for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the Recipient. The Recipient will not disclose the Discloser's Confidential Information to any other party:

(a) except to those of its Affiliates, employees, officials, representatives, agents and sub-contractors who have a need to know such Confidential Information for purposes of performing obligations under the Contract; or

(b) unless the Confidential Information (i) is obtained by the Recipient from a third party without restriction; (ii) is disclosed by the Discloser to a third party without any obligation of confidentiality; (iii) is known by the Recipient prior to disclosure by the Discloser; or (iv) at any time is developed by the Recipient completely independently of any disclosures under the Contract.

5.3 If the Contractor receives a request for disclosure of UNICEF's Confidential Information pursuant to any judicial or law enforcement process, before any such disclosure is made, the Contractor (a) will give UNICEF sufficient notice of such request in order to allow UNICEF to have a reasonable opportunity to secure the intervention of the relevant national government to establish protective measures or take such other action as may be appropriate and (b) will so advise the relevant authority that requested disclosure. UNICEF may disclose the Contractor's Confidential Information to the extent required pursuant to resolutions or regulations of its governing bodies.

5.4 Subject to Article 5.3, the Contractor may not communicate at any time to any other person, Government or authority external to UNICEF, any information known to it by reason of its association with UNICEF that has not been made public, except with the prior written authorization of UNICEF; nor will the Contractor at any time use such information to private advantage.

Data Protection and Security

5.5 The Parties agree that, as between them, all UNICEF Data, together with all rights (including intellectual property and proprietary rights), title and interest to such UNICEF Data, will be the exclusive property of UNICEF, and the Contractor has a limited, nonexclusive license to access and use the UNICEF Data as provided in the Contract solely for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Contract. Except for the foregoing license, the Contractor will have no other rights, whether express or implied, in or to any UNICEF Data or its content.

5.6 The Contractor confirms that it has a data protection policy in place that meets all applicable data

protection standards and legal requirements and that it will apply such policy in the collection, storage, use, processing, retention and destruction of UNICEF Data. The Contractor will comply with any guidance or conditions on access and disclosure notified by UNICEF to Contractor in respect of UNICEF Data.

5.7 The Contractor will use its reasonable efforts to ensure the logical segregation of UNICEF Data from other information to the fullest extent possible. The Contractor will use safeguards and controls (such as administrative, technical, physical, procedural and security infrastructures, facilities, tools, technologies, practices and other protective measures) that are necessary and sufficient to meet the Contractor's confidentiality obligations in this Article 5 as they apply to UNICEF Data. At UNICEF's request, the Contractor will provide UNICEF with copies of the applicable policies and a description of the safeguards and controls that the Contractor uses to fulfil its obligations under this Article 5.7; provided that any such policies and description provided by the Contractor will be treated as the Contractor's Confidential Information under the Contract. UNICEF may assess the effectiveness of these safeguards, controls and protective measures and, at UNICEF's request, the Contractor will provide its full cooperation with any such assessment at no additional cost or expense to UNICEF. The Contractor will not, and will ensure that its Personnel will not, transfer, copy, remove or store UNICEF Data from a UNICEF location, network or system without the prior written approval of an authorized official of UNICEF.

5.8 Except as otherwise expressly stated in the Contract or with UNICEF's express prior written consent, the Contractor will not install any application or other software on any UNICEF device, network or system. The Contractor represents and warrants to UNICEF that the Services and Deliverables provided under the Contract will not contain any Disabling Code, and that UNICEF will not otherwise receive from the Contractor any Disabling Code in the performance of the Contract. Without prejudice to UNICEF's other rights and remedies, if a Disabling Code is identified, the Contractor, at its sole cost and expense, will take all steps necessary to: (a) restore and/or reconstruct any and all UNICEF Data lost by UNICEF and/or End Users as a result of Disabling Code; (b) furnish to UNICEF a corrected version of the Services without the presence of Disabling Codes; and (c) as needed, re-implement the Services.

5.9 In the event of any Security Incident, the Contractor will, as soon as possible following the Contractor's discovery of such Security Incident and at its sole cost and expense: (a) notify UNICEF of such Security Incident and of the Contractor's proposed remedial actions; (b) implement any and all necessary damage mitigation and remedial actions; and (c) as relevant, restore UNICEF's and, as directed by UNICEF, End Users' access to the Services. The Contractor will keep UNICEF reasonably informed of the progress of the Contractor's implementation of such damage mitigation and remedial actions. The Contractor, at its sole cost and expense, will cooperate fully with UNICEF's investigation of, remediation of, and/or response to any Security Incident. If the Contractor fails to resolve, to UNICEF's reasonable satisfaction, any such Security Incident, UNICEF can terminate the Contract with immediate effect.

Service Providers and Sub-Contractors

5.10 The Contractor will impose the same requirements relating to data protection and non-disclosure of Confidential Information, as are imposed upon the Contractor itself by this Article 5 of the Contract, on its service providers, subcontractors and other third parties and will remain responsible for compliance with such requirements by its service providers, subcontractors and other third parties.

End of Contract

5.11 Upon the expiry or earlier termination of the Contract, the Contractor will:

(a) return to UNICEF all of UNICEF's Confidential Information, including, but not limited to, UNICEF Data, or, at UNICEF's option, destroy all copies of such information held by the Contractor or its sub-contractors and confirm such destruction to UNICEF in writing; and

(b) will transfer to UNICEF all intellectual and other proprietary information in accordance with Article 5.1(a).

6. Termination; Force Majeure

Termination by Either Party for Material Breach

6.1 If one Party is in material breach of any of its obligations under the Contract, the other Party can give it written notice that within thirty (30) days of receiving such notice the breach must be remedied (if such breach is capable of remedy). If the breaching Party does not remedy the breach within the thirty (30) days' period or if the breach is not capable of remedy, the non-breaching Party can terminate the Contract. The termination will be effective thirty (30) days after the non-breaching Party gives the breaching Party written notice of termination. The initiation of conciliation or arbitral proceedings in accordance with Article 9 (Privileges and Immunities; Settlement of Disputes) below will not be grounds for termination of the Contract.

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Additional Termination Rights of UNICEF

6.2 In addition to the termination rights under Article 6.1 above, UNICEF can terminate the Contract with immediate effect upon delivery of a written notice of termination, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind:

- (a) in the circumstances described in, and in accordance with, Article 7 (Ethical Standards); or
- (b) if the Contractor breaches any of the provisions of Articles 5.2-5.11 (Confidentiality; Data Protection and Security); or
- (c) if the Contractor (i) is adjudged bankrupt, or is liquidated, or becomes insolvent, or applies for a moratorium or stay on any payment or repayment obligations, or applies to be declared insolvent, (ii) is granted a moratorium or a stay, or is declared insolvent, (iii) makes an assignment for the benefit of one or more of its creditors, (iv) has a receiver appointed on account of the insolvency of the Contractor, (v) offers a settlement in lieu of bankruptcy or receivership or (vi) has become, in UNICEF's reasonable judgment, subject to a materially adverse change in its financial condition that threatens to substantially affect the ability of the Contractor to perform any of its obligations under the Contract.

6.3 In addition to the termination rights under Article 6.1 and Article 6.2 above, UNICEF can terminate the Contract at any time by providing written notice to the Contractor in any case in which UNICEF's mandate applicable to the performance of the Contract or UNICEF's funding applicable to the Contract is curtailed or terminated, whether in whole or in part. UNICEF can also terminate the Contract on sixty (60) day's written notice to the Contractor without having to provide any justification.

6.4 As soon as it receives a notice of termination from UNICEF, the Contractor will take immediate steps to bring the performance of any obligations under the Contract to a close in a prompt and orderly manner, and in doing so, reduce expenses to a minimum, and will not undertake any further or additional commitments as of and following the date it receives the termination notice. In addition, the Contractor will take any other action that may be necessary, or that UNICEF may direct in writing, in order to minimise losses or protect and preserve any property, whether tangible or intangible, related to the Contract that is in the possession of the Contractor and in which UNICEF has or may be reasonably expected to acquire an interest.

6.5 If the Contract is terminated by either Party, the Contractor will immediately deliver to UNICEF any finished work which has not been delivered and accepted prior to the receipt of a notice of termination, together with any data, materials or work-in-process related specifically to the Contract. If UNICEF obtains the assistance of another party to continue the Services or complete any unfinished work, the Contractor will provide its reasonable cooperation to UNICEF and such party in the orderly migration of Services and transfer of any Contract-related data, materials and work-in-process. The Contractor will at the same time return to UNICEF all of UNICEF's Confidential Information and will transfer to UNICEF all intellectual and other proprietary information in accordance with Article 5.

6.6 If the Contract is terminated by either Party no payment will be due from UNICEF to the Contractor except for Services and Deliverables provided to UNICEF's satisfaction in accordance with the Contract, but only if such Services and Deliverables were required or requested before the Contractor's receipt of the notice of termination or, in the case of termination by the Contractor, the effective date of such termination. The Contractor will have no claim for any further payment beyond payments in accordance with this Article 6.6, but will remain liable to UNICEF for all loss or damages which may be suffered by UNICEF by reason of the Contractor's default (including but not limited to cost of the purchase and delivery of replacement or substitute Services or Deliverables).

6.7 The termination rights in this Article 6 are in addition to all other rights and remedies of UNICEF under the Contract.

Force Majeure

6.8 If one Party is rendered permanently unable, wholly, or in part, by reason of force majeure to perform its obligations under the Contract, the other Party may terminate the Contract on the same terms and conditions as are provided for in Article 6.1 above, except that the period of notice will be seven (7) days instead of thirty (30) days. "Force majeure" means any unforeseeable and irresistible events arising from causes beyond the control of the Parties, including acts of nature, any act of war (whether declared or not), invasion, revolution, insurrection, terrorism or other acts of a similar nature or force. "Force majeure" does not include (a) any event which is caused by the negligence or intentional action of a Party; (b) any event which a diligent party could reasonably have been expected to take into account and plan for at the time the Contract was entered into; (c) the insufficiency of funds, inability to make any payment required under the Contract, or any economic conditions, including but not limited to inflation, price escalations, or labour availability; or (d) any event

resulting from harsh conditions or logistical challenges for the Contractor (including civil unrest) associated with locations at which UNICEF is operating or is about to operate or is withdrawing from, or any event resulting from UNICEF's humanitarian, emergency, or similar response operations.

7. Ethical Standards

7.1 Without limiting the generality of Article 2 above, the Contractor will be responsible for the professional and technical competence of its Personnel including its employees and will select, for work under the Contract, reliable individuals who will perform effectively in the implementation of the Contract, respect the local laws and customs, and conform to a high standard of moral and ethical conduct.

7.2 (a) The Contractor represents and warrants that no official of UNICEF or of any United Nations System organisation has received from or on behalf of the Contractor, or will be offered by or on behalf of the Contractor, any direct or indirect benefit in connection with the Contract, including the award of the Contract to the Contractor. Such direct or indirect benefit includes, but is not limited to, any gifts, favours or hospitality.

(b) The Contractor represents and warrants that the following requirements with regard to former UNICEF officials have been complied with and will be complied with:

(i) During the one (1) year period after an official has separated from UNICEF, the Contractor may not make a direct or indirect offer of employment to that former UNICEF official if that former UNICEF official was, during the three years prior to separating from UNICEF, involved in any aspect of a UNICEF procurement process in which the Contractor has participated.

(ii) During the two (2) year period after an official has separated from UNICEF, that former official may not, directly or indirectly on behalf of the Contractor, communicate with UNICEF, or present to UNICEF, about any matters that were within such former official's responsibilities while at UNICEF.

(c) The Contractor further represents that, in respect of all aspects of the Contract (including the award of the Contract by UNICEF to the Contractor and the selection and awarding of sub-contracts by the Contractor), it has disclosed to UNICEF any situation that may constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest or could reasonably be perceived as a conflict of interest.

7.3 The Contractor further represents and warrants that neither it nor any of its Affiliates, or Personnel or directors, is subject to any sanction or temporary suspension imposed by any United Nations System organisation or other international inter-governmental organisation. The Contractor will immediately disclose to UNICEF if it or any of its Affiliates or Personnel or directors, becomes subject to any such sanction or temporary suspension during the term of the Contract.

7.4 The Contractor will (a) observe the highest standard of ethics; (b) use its best efforts to protect UNICEF against fraud, in the performance of the Contract; and (c) comply with the applicable provisions of UNICEF's Policy Prohibiting and Combatting Fraud and Corruption. In particular, the Contractor will not engage, and will ensure that its Personnel, agents and sub-contractors do not engage, in any corrupt, fraudulent, coercive, collusive or obstructive conduct as such terms are defined in UNICEF's Policy Prohibiting and Combatting Fraud and Corruption.

7.5 The Contractor will, during the term of the Contract, comply with (a) all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations bearing upon the performance of its obligations under the Contract and (b) the standards of conduct required under the UN Supplier Code of Conduct (available at the United Nations Global Marketplace website - www.ungm.org).

7.6 The Contractor further represents and warrants that neither it nor any of its Affiliates is engaged, directly or indirectly, (a) in any practice inconsistent with the rights set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including Article 32, or the International Labour Organisation's Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No. 182 (1999); or (b) in the manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of anti-personnel mines or components utilised in the manufacture of anti-personnel mines.

7.7 The Contractor represents and warrants that it has taken and will take all appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation or abuse of anyone by its Personnel including its employees or any persons engaged by the Contractor to perform any services under the Contract. For these purposes, sexual activity with any person less than eighteen years of age, regardless of any laws relating to consent, will constitute the sexual exploitation and abuse of such person. In addition, the Contractor represents and warrants that it has taken and will take all appropriate measures to prohibit its Personnel including its employees or other persons engaged by the Contractor, from exchanging any money, goods, services, or other things of value, for sexual favours or activities or from engaging in any sexual activities that are exploitive or degrading to any person. This provision constitutes an essential term of the Contract and any breach of this representation and warranty will

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GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

entitle UNICEF to terminate the Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind.

7.8 The Contractor will inform UNICEF as soon as it becomes aware of any incident or report that is inconsistent with the undertakings and confirmations provided in this Article 7.

7.9 The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that each of the provisions in this Article 7 constitutes an essential term of the Contract.

(a) UNICEF will be entitled, in its sole discretion and at its sole choice, to suspend or terminate the Contract and any other contract between UNICEF and the Contractor with immediate effect upon written notice to the Contractor if: (i) UNICEF becomes aware of any incident or report that is inconsistent with, or the Contractor breaches any of, the undertakings and confirmations provided in this Article 7 or the equivalent provisions of any contract between UNICEF and the Contractor or any of the Contractor's Affiliates, or (ii) the Contractor or any of its Affiliates, or Personnel or directors becomes subject to any sanction or temporary suspension described in Article 7.3 during the term of the Contract.

(b) In the case of suspension, if the Contractor takes appropriate action to address the relevant incident or breach to UNICEF's satisfaction within the period stipulated in the notice of suspension, UNICEF may lift the suspension by written notice to the Contractor and the Contract and all other affected contracts will resume in accordance with their terms. If, however, UNICEF is not satisfied that the matters are being adequately addressed by the Contractor, UNICEF may at any time, exercise its right to terminate the Contract and any other contract between UNICEF and the Contractor.

(c) Any suspension or termination under this Article 7 will be without any liability for termination or other charges or any other liability of any kind.

8. Full Cooperation with Audits And Investigations

8.1 From time to time, UNICEF may conduct inspections, post-payment audits or investigations relating to any aspect of the Contract including but not limited to the award of the Contract, the way in which the Contract operates or operated, and the Parties' performance of the Contract generally and including but not limited to the Contractor's compliance with the provisions of Article 7 above. The Contractor will provide its full and timely cooperation with any such inspections, post-payment audits or investigations, including (but not limited to) making its Personnel and any relevant data and documentation available for the purposes of such inspections, post-payment audits or investigations, at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions, and granting UNICEF and those undertaking such inspections, post-payment audits or investigations access to the Contractor's premises at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions in connection with making its Personnel and any relevant data and documentation available. The Contractor will require its sub-contractors and its agents, including, but not limited to, the Contractor's attorneys, accountants or other advisers, to provide reasonable cooperation with any inspections, post-payment audits or investigations carried out by UNICEF.

9. Privileges and Immunities; Settlement of Disputes

9.1 Nothing in or related to the Contract will be deemed a waiver, express or implied, deliberate or inadvertent, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including UNICEF and its subsidiary organs, under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, 1946, or otherwise.

9.2 The terms of the Contract will be interpreted and applied without application of any system of national or sub-national law.

9.3 The Parties will use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to the Contract. Where the Parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation will take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then in force, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the Parties. Any dispute, controversy or claim between the Parties arising out of the Contract which is not resolved within ninety (90) days after one Party receives a request from the other Party for amicable settlement can be referred by either Party to arbitration. The arbitration will take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then in force. The venue of the arbitration will be New York, NY, USA. The arbitral proceedings will be conducted in English. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal will be based on general principles of international commercial law. The arbitral tribunal will have no authority to award punitive damages. In addition, the arbitral tribunal will have no authority to award interest in excess of the United States Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) then prevailing and any such interest will be simple interest only. In light of the privileges and immunities of UNICEF, references in the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules to the place of arbitration shall connote only the actual location for the arbitral proceedings but shall not mean the "seat" or "juridical seat" or "juridical place" for such proceedings. The Parties will be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result

of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy, claim or dispute.

10. Notices

10.1 Any notice, request or consent required or permitted to be given or made pursuant to the Contract will be in writing, and addressed to the persons listed in the Contract for the delivery of notices, requests or consents. Notices, requests or consents will be delivered in person, by registered mail, or by confirmed email transmission. Notices, requests or consents will be deemed received upon delivery (if delivered in person), upon signature of receipt (if delivered by registered mail) or twenty-four (24) hours after confirmation of receipt is sent from the addressee's email address (if delivered by confirmed email transmission).

10.2 Any notice, document or receipt issued in connection with the Contract must be consistent with the terms and conditions of the Contract and, in case of any ambiguity, discrepancy or inconsistency, the terms and conditions of the Contract will prevail.

10.3 All documents that comprise the Contract, and all documents, notices and receipts issued or provided pursuant to or in connection with the Contract, will be deemed to include, and will be interpreted and applied consistently with, the provisions of Article 9 (Privileges and Immunities; Settlement of Disputes).

11. Other Provisions

11.1 The Contractor acknowledges UNICEF's commitment to transparency as outlined in UNICEF's Information Disclosure Policy and confirms that it consents to UNICEF's public disclosure of the terms of the Contract should UNICEF so determine and by whatever means UNICEF determines.

11.2 The failure of one Party to object to or take affirmative action with respect to any conduct of the other Party which is in violation of the terms of the Contract will not constitute and will not be construed to be a waiver of the violation or breach, or of any future violation, breach or wrongful conduct.

11.3 The Contractor will be considered as having the legal status of an independent contractor as regards UNICEF. Nothing contained in the Contract will be construed as making the Parties principal and agent or joint venturers.

11.4 The Contractor will not, without the prior written consent of UNICEF, assign, transfer, pledge or make other disposition of the Contract, or of any part of the Contract, or of any of the Contractor's rights or obligations under the Contract.

11.5 No grant of time to the Contractor to cure a default under the Contract, nor any delay or failure by UNICEF to exercise any other right or remedy available to UNICEF under the Contract, will be deemed to prejudice any rights or remedies available to UNICEF under the Contract or constitute a waiver of any rights or remedies available to UNICEF under the Contract.

11.6 The Contractor will not seek or file any lien, attachment or other encumbrance against any monies due or to become due under the Contract, and will not permit any other person to do so. It will immediately remove or obtain the removal of any lien, attachment or other encumbrance that is secured against any monies due or to become due under the Contract.

11.7 The Contractor will not advertise or otherwise make public for purposes of commercial advantage or goodwill that it has a contractual relationship with UNICEF or the United Nations. Except as regards references to the name of UNICEF for the purposes of annual reports or communication between the Parties and between the Contractor and its Personnel and sub-contractors, the Contractor will not, in any manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of UNICEF or the United Nations, or any abbreviation of the name of the United Nations, in connection with its business or otherwise without the prior written permission of UNICEF.

11.8 The Contract may be translated into languages other than English. The translated version of the Contract is for convenience only, and the English language version will govern in all circumstances.

11.9 No modification or change in the Contract, and no waiver of any of its provisions, nor any additional contractual relationship of any kind with the Contractor will be valid and enforceable against UNICEF unless set out in a written amendment to the Contract signed by an authorised official of UNICEF.

11.10 The provisions of Articles 2.14, 3.8, 3.9, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11.1, 11.2 and 11.7 will survive provision of the Services and delivery of the Deliverables and the expiry or earlier termination of the Contract.

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL - CONTENT & FORMAT

The technical proposal of the bidders should contain the following minimum information. Bidders are free to provide, any other information that they deem fit and relevant in support of their bid.

Section- 1. Contractor's company/firm

- a) In this section the contractor should highlight about their company, how it is organised (organisation structure), its capability and a brief about its key personnel and for whom the contractor has undertaken similar assignments along with the name of the contact person and contact details of its clients.
- b) Provide information of 3-5 assignments for which your company and your company's personnel were contracted. Please highlight those assignments similar to the one requested by UNICEF. Please use the format specified in Annex-C.

Section-2: Description of the Approach, Methodology and Work Plan

Technical approach, methodology and work plan are key components of the Technical Proposal. You are suggested to present this section of the technical proposal into 4 chapters:-

- a) Technical Approach and Methodology. In this chapter you should explain your understanding of the objectives of the assignment, approach to the services, methodology for carrying out the activities and obtaining the expected output, and the degree of detail of such output. You should highlight the problems being addressed and their importance, and explain the technical approach you would adopt to address them. You should also explain the methodologies you propose to adopt and highlight the compatibility of those methodologies with the proposed approach. **DO NOT CUT AND PASTE TEXTS FROM THE TOR SHARED WITH YOUR COMPANY**. The associated risks should also be highlighted and the methods to mitigate those risks should be proposed.
- b) Work Plan. In this chapter you should propose the main activities of the assignment, their content and duration, phasing and interrelations, milestones (including interim approvals by the Client), and delivery dates of the reports. The proposed work plan should be consistent with the technical approach and methodology, showing understanding of the ToR and ability to translate them into a feasible working plan. A list of the final technical documents, including reports, drawings, and tables to be delivered as final output, should be included here.
- c) Organization and staffing of the team for this assignment. In this chapter you should propose the structure and composition of your team which will be deployed for this assignment. You should list the main disciplines of the assignment, the key expert responsible and proposed technical and support staff along with their curriculum vitae (CVs).
- d) Team composition and tasks assigned. Please provide the details as per the following

Name of staff	Area of expertise	Position assigned	Firm	Task Assigned	No. of days of input

CONTRACTOR'S EXPERIENCE – FORMAT

Assignment name:	Country: Location within country:
Name of Client:	Address:
Duration of assignment (months): Start date (month/year): Completion date (month/year):	Total No. of staff-months of the assignment:
Approx. value of the contract (in current BDT):	
Name of associated Contractors, if any:	No. of professional staff-months provided by associated Contractors:
Name of associated Contractors, if any:	Name of senior professional staff of your firm involved and functions performed (indicate most significant profiles such as Project Director/Coordinator, Team Leader etc):
Narrative description of Project:	
Description of actual services provided by your staff within the assignment:	

FINANCIAL DOCUMENT - SUMMARY AND BREAKDOWN OF PROFESSIONAL FEES & EXPENSES

Bidder to provide the summary of costs in the following template and related breakdown should be attached with the summary as annexures. **Local Bidders should quote in BDT and international bidders in USD.**

(A) Professional Fees				
Name	Description of Role / Function	Number of person days	Suggested Fee rate	Estimated total amount
Total Fees (A)				
(B) Other Cost (Administrative cost for travel, stationery, communication, management fee, etc.)				
Total Fees (B)				
(C) Travel Costs				
Air travel				
Rail Travel				
Local Transportation				
Total Fees (C)				
(D) Daily sustenance allowance of team member (DSA)				
Total Fees (D)				
Total Proposed Cost (A) + (B) + (C) + (D)				
VAT on the requested service – please mention the percentage (%) (where VAT is not applicable bidder should indicate 0%)				

- All travel should be budgeted for economy class.
- DSA rate should be quoted as per the latest ICSC circular.

Note: The signed PDF copy of the Financial Proposal should also be attached along with Excel sheet.

PLEASE LINK THE PAYMENTS TO DELIVERABLES AS SPECIFIED IN THE TOR
(THE BIDDER IS FREE TO PROPOSE ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS LINKED TO DELIVERABLES)

S.No	Deliverables to be approved by UNICEF prior to submission	Amount in BDT
1		
2		
3		
4		

EVALUATION PROCESS AND METHOD (to be followed for this RFP)

Evaluation Criteria for Technical Proposal

Evaluation Criteria	Points
A. Relevant Experience of the Institution/Agency	15
Institutional track record in public health, maternal health/nutrition, anaemia, laboratory diagnostics, PHC, or implementation/operational research (minimum 10 years)	5
Demonstrated experience conducting diagnostic evaluation/validation, point-of-care testing, laboratory or field-based diagnostic research	4
Experience conducting health research and/or implementation research within PHC/ANC or comparable routine service-delivery settings	3
Track record of similar assignments for government, UN/development partners, including peer-reviewed publications or technical products relevant to the assignment	3
B. Proposed Technical Approach and Methodology	30
Soundness and clarity of the overall study design, including diagnostic validation, implementation research, facility readiness, quantitative and qualitative components	6
Technical robustness of the POC Hb validation methodology, including reference/comparator method, paired testing, diagnostic performance measures, agreement analysis, and assessment of misclassification	7
Approach for evaluating POC Hb testing under routine PHC/ANC conditions, including involvement of frontline health workers, training/competency assessment, workflow integration, and observation of adherence to testing procedures	5
Appropriateness of sampling strategy, sample-size determination, study-site selection, participant recruitment, and data-collection methods	4
Approach to QA/QC, biosafety/IPC, specimen collection and handling, device/error monitoring, data quality, research ethics and participant referral	5
Approach to assessing feasibility, acceptability, operational requirements and costs and translating findings into implementation/integration SOPs and scale-up recommendations	3
C. Qualifications and Experience of Proposed Team	15
Team Leader/Principal Investigator - qualifications and relevant experience in implementation/operational research, PHC/ANC, anaemia and/or diagnostic evaluation	5
Co-PI/Laboratory & POC Diagnostics Lead - qualifications and relevant experience in Hb measurement, POCT, diagnostic validation and laboratory QA/QC	4
Data Manager/Biostatistician - qualifications and experience in diagnostic-performance analysis, agreement analysis and research data management	3
Field research team - qualifications and experience in health-facility research, mixed-method data collection and implementation research	3
D. Work Plan, Timeline and Risk Management	9
Realistic and well-structured work plan aligned with study phases and deliverables	4

Clear field implementation, supervision and quality-assurance arrangements across selected PHC facilities	3
Identification of key implementation/technical risks and appropriate mitigation measures	2
E. Knowledge Translation, Dissemination and Sustainability	6
Approach to translating study findings into POC Hb implementation/integration SOPs, training and QA requirements, and recommendations for PHC/ANC scale-up	3
Dissemination plan, stakeholder engagement, policy brief and peer-reviewed manuscript/publication	3
TOTAL TECHNICAL SCORE	75

For this RFP, the **Technical Proposal** has a total score of **75 points**. Bidders must score a minimum of **53 points out of 75** to be considered technically compliant and for the Financial Proposals to be opened. The financial proposal has a total score of **25 points**.

The final selection of the bidder will be based on a quality and cost basis as specified in the RFP.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INSTITUTIONAL CONTRACT

Summary:

Title	Operational research on Point of Care Testing (POCT) for anaemia screening
Purpose	To generate operational and implementation evidence on: Operational research to assess low-cost point-of-care diagnostic solutions for Anemia screening for the integration in PHC and ANC services
Location	The study will be implemented in selected 2-3 upazilas in 2-3 districts Bangladesh.
Estimated Duration	286 days in a span of 16 months from the date of contract signing
Reporting to Technical Supervisor of this assignment	Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Bangladesh

1. Background and Context

Persistent maternal anemia, poor quality diets, and low coverage of essential nutrition services contribute to high maternal morbidity and adverse birth outcomes, including low birth weight^{1,2}. Despite decades of nutrition interventions, anemia among women of reproductive age has remained persistently high at around 30 percent⁵ (among the non-pregnant and non lactating women- NPNL), indicating limited progress in reducing the burden. Recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2025 data indicate that more than half of pregnant women, 53.1 percent or approximately 1.9 million pregnancies each year are affected by anemia, stagnant for nearly a decade³. Emerging evidence highlights that anemia in Bangladesh is multifactorial and not solely driven by iron deficiency⁴. National data suggest that iron deficiency explains only a small proportion of anemia (approximately 14 percent), while a large share is associated with other micronutrient deficiencies^{5,6}. Nearly three-quarters of non-pregnant, non-lactating

¹ WHO. *Haemoglobin concentrations for the diagnosis of anaemia and assessment of severity*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011

² Rahman MM, Abe SK, Rahman MS, et al. Maternal anemia and risk of adverse birth and health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: systematic review and meta-analysis. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 2016;103(2):495–504

³ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNICEF Bangladesh. *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2025: Key Findings / Final Report*. Dhaka: BBS and UNICEF; 2025

⁴ Rahman, S., Ahmed, T., Rahman, A. S., Alam, N., Ahmed, A. M. S., Ireen, S., Chowdhury, I. A., Chowdhury, F. P., Rahman, S. M. M., Ali, N., Choudhury, F. P., & Cravioto, A. (2016). Micronutrient deficiencies among children and women in Bangladesh: Progress and challenges. *Journal of Nutritional Science*, 5, e46. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jns.2016.39>

⁵ Institute of Public Health Nutrition, Directorate General of Health Services, & Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. (2014). *National micronutrient survey 2011-12*. Government of Bangladesh

women suffer from two or more micronutrient deficiencies, reflecting chronic dietary inadequacies and indicating that many women enter pregnancies with multiple deficiencies ⁵. Additional contributing factors include low dietary diversity (around 40 percent)⁶, infections and inflammation, inherited blood disorders such as thalassemia, environmental exposures including elevated blood levels, and recurrent climate-related shocks that further compromise food security and nutrition. This complex etiology highlights the need for diagnostic assessment to determine whether anemia is related to iron deficiency, other micronutrient deficiencies, or non-nutritional physiological factors, as well as to assess its severity, so that pregnant women can be appropriately risk-stratified and provided with tailored treatment or referral based on clinical need.

The Government of Bangladesh is transitioning from a single-nutrient Iron/Iron-Folate Acid supplementation to Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) as part of a more comprehensive and context-specific strategy for anemia prevention and management. Through this approach, primary health care services will be strengthened, and MMS will be distributed to all registered pregnant women at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level, where many women first seek Antenatal Care (ANC) services. Despite the network of more than 14,000 PHC service delivery points, diagnostic capacity for anemia at the PHC level is very limited. Some PHC facilities continue to rely on low-sensitivity and non-specific screening methods, such as Tallquist method, which is mainly due to limited government resources for the PHC level. PHC facilities lack infrastructure, laboratory equipment or continuous reagent supply. Anemia testing facilities are mainly available at secondary and tertiary level facilities. This gap in diagnosis in the primary healthcare level delays the identification of anemia severity, and the initiation of appropriate anemia treatment, consequently the effectiveness of quality maternal nutrition service during ANC contacts is heavily hampered. The Maternal Nutrition Operational Guideline 2025 highlights that pregnant women with severe anemia should be identified early and provided with appropriate treatment and referral. This reinforces the need for a point of care diagnostic of anemia at the primary health care level to support early detection, severity classification, risk stratification, and timely referral.

As the quality maternal nutrition interventions including MMS to be scaled up nationwide, without adequate diagnostic support at the PHC level it limits effective risk stratification, timely referral, and appropriate management of anemia. In addition, limited public-sector diagnostic capacity also pushes many women to seek testing in private facilities, resulting in high out-of-pocket expenditures (out-of-pocket expenditure rose from 68.5% to in 2020 to 73% in 2023) ⁷. It is against this backdrop to identify low-cost, simple and scalable point-of-care solutions for reliable anemia screening in PHC settings. Innovations in minimally invasive or non-invasive point-of-care diagnostics present a transformative opportunity to strengthen early detection, improve case management, and enhance the overall quality of ANC services within PHC settings.

2. Rationale / Purpose of the evidence activity

It will assess low-cost, minimally invasive or non-invasive point-of-care diagnostic solutions for anaemia screening that can be integrated in the PHC settings in the routine ANC services. This activity will generate operational evidence that will support addressing current gaps in PHC diagnostic capacity and supporting

⁶ Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), UNICEF, icddr, and GAIN. *Bangladesh National Micronutrient Survey 2019–20*. Dhaka: IPHN; 2021/2022

⁷ [Out-of-pocket expenditure \(% of current health expenditure\) - Bangladesh | Data](#)

timely identification, referral and management of anaemia as MMS and maternal nutrition services are being expanded.

3. Objectives

The main objective is to identify low-cost, simple, and scalable POC Hb testing option/s for anemia screening and to conduct a detailed costing analysis of the selected POC option for the integration into routine ANC services at the PHC level. The study will focus on how this intervention can be introduced, adopted, implemented, supervised, monitored, documented, and sustained under routine delivery conditions and at scale.

4. Scope

The scope of work include the following:

- a) Conduct a desk review and landscape analysis of available minimally invasive and non-invasive Hb testing options, including a the full requirement analysis and associated initial costing and recurrent costing estimates.
- b) Conduct stakeholder consultations with relevant stakeholders, including government counterparts, technical experts both at national and global level, and programme managers, to review the proposed POC Hb testing options
- c) Assess diagnostic performance of selected POC Hb testing options against an appropriate reference method under routine service delivery conditions
- d) Conduct a detailed requirements analysis for the selected POC Hb testing option(/s), including required equipment, consumables, supply availability, operating requirements, advantages, limitations, and cost implications for integration into PHC and ANC services
- e) Support to organize a national dissemination to share the study findings, diagnostic performance results, costing analysis, implementation requirements, and scale-up recommendations with government and relevant stakeholders

The activities are organized into three phases to support systematic management, sequencing and monitoring of the assignment.

Phase I: Preparatory and diagnostic phase: Development of the inception report, desk review, POC landscape analysis and rapid facility assessment to refine the study approach and assess ANC/PHC readiness.

Phase II: Protocol finalization and implementation readiness phase: Finalization of the protocol, tools, SOPs and workplan, stakeholder consultation, ethical approval, site preparation, procurement and training of service providers.

Phase III: Implementation, monitoring and reporting phase: Implementation of POC Hb testing, supportive supervision, quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, manuscript and KM product finalization and dissemination.

5. Research Questions

The research aims to answer the following questions:

- i) What is the diagnostic performance of selected low-cost POC haemoglobin testing options under routine ANC service delivery conditions?

- ii) How feasible and acceptable is the integration of POC haemoglobin testing within routine ANC services at PHC facilities and ANC corners?
- iii) What operational, cost, and health system requirements are needed for integration and scale-up of POC haemoglobin testing within the national ANC programme?

6. Methodology

a. Design

This research will use an observational diagnostic performance study. The diagnostic performance will compare selected POC Hb testing option/s against an appropriate reference method under routine ANC service delivery conditions at the selected PHC and/or ANC service delivery conditions. For the diagnostic performance assessment, each eligible pregnant women attending ANC services will be tested using both the selected POC Hb testing method and the reference method. Each enrolled Pregnant women will receive both tests, following standardized procedures and informed consent. This paired testing approach will allow comparison of Hb values and anemia classification within the same participant to assess the diagnostic performance of POC devices.

b. Selection of POC options

The agency will conduct a desk review and landscape analysis of available minimally invasive and non-invasive Hb testing options. The review will assess available evidence on performance, sample type, operational requirements, use conditions, consumables, quality control requirements, device handling, availability for testing in Bangladesh settings, advantages, limitations, initial cost, and recurrent cost. This desk review will also inform the selection of POC Hb testing option(s) to be assessed under routine service delivery conditions in rural Bangladesh.

c. Study site and Sample size

Study sites will be selected in consultation with UNICEF and relevant government counterparts. The selection will consider routine ANC service delivery platforms at the PHC level where POC Hb testing could be practically integrated.

The study will cover a wide range of Hb values by including participants with 'Mild', 'Moderate' and 'Severe' grades of anaemia as per national guideline as well as those without anaemia. Assuming 50 % prevalence of anaemia, to assess the accuracy of POC Hb for classifying individuals as anaemic or non-anemic as compared with the reference methods with sensitivity and specificity both 80 %, with 5 % precision and 95 % confidence interval, the required sample size was estimated to be 492. With a design effect of 1.5 and with 5 % attrition, a final sample size of 774 was considered adequate for the study.

d. Sampling procedure

Within selected facilities, eligible pregnant women attending ANC services during the data collection period will be screened for eligibility. Detailed eligibility criteria will be discussed with various stakeholders during the inception phase. Below is the broad eligibility criteria and site selection.

- *Pregnant women eligibility:* Detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria will be clearly defined in the protocol, from the POC validation study. Participants with history of bleeding or clotting disorders, severely ill patients, those on drugs (anticoagulants, anti-platelet medications) or patients with history of blood transfusion in the previous year will be excluded from the study.
- *Upazila* with existing community-based engagement activities are being implemented.
- *Site location/PHC facilities:*
 - will be selected on the basis of having an ANC attendee of >30% in the government approximately 10 PHC facilities (from the PHC facility respective catchment area).
 - *Estimated minimum testing volumes of ≥ 10* per week is tentatively calculated based on average 450 ANC1 coverage/Upazilas Health Complex/month and 70 ANC1/CC/month.
 - *Availability of existing CBC testing equipment/ analyzers* or other functional standard haemoglobin measurement availability to support reference haemoglobin measurement for the diagnostic performance assessment.

If needed sample transportation option will be assessed in consultation with UNICEF and government.

e. Testing procedure

For each enrolled pregnant woman, the selected POC Hb test and the reference method will be conducted during the same ANC contact or within the shortest possible interval defined in the protocol. The protocol and SOPs will clearly define the sample type, collection procedure, order of testing, IPC measures, device operation, quality control procedures, result recording, and management of invalid tests (if any). The same procedure will be followed across all the study sites.

f. Qualitative data collection

The study will combine qualitative data collection methods with quantitative findings. Qualitative data will be collected through key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and stakeholder consultations with pregnant women, service providers at ANC corners, laboratory personnel, health managers. A semi-structured interview guideline will be developed during the inception phase. Interviews and discussions will be conducted by trained data collectors after obtaining informed consent. From pregnant women, the study will collect information on their experience of receiving POC Hb testing, acceptability of blood collection method, understanding of test results, trust in the test, preference between POC options, and willingness to use POC in future during ANC visits, and perceived benefits or concerns.

g. Data analysis

Data will be cleaned, coded and analysed using appropriate statistical software. Continuous variables, such as Hb concentration, will be presented as mean, standard deviation and 95 per cent confidence interval, while categorical variables, such as anaemia status and anaemia severity, will be presented as frequencies and percentages (following literature review of POC validation studies and STAR methods used across south-east Asia). The diagnostic performance of the selected POC Hb method will be assessed against the reference method using paired analysis. Mean differences in Hb values will be

assessed, and agreement between the two methods will be examined using concordance correlation coefficient (CCC). Anaemia classification by POC will be compared with the reference method to estimate sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value, including classification of anaemia severity. Additionally, to assess the overall discriminatory ability of the POC Hb method AUC can be analysed.

h. Risks and Limitations:

The study findings may be influenced by variations in implementation readiness, service utilization, and provider capacity across different geographic and service delivery settings. Access to some hard-to-reach areas and workplace settings may be constrained by seasonal conditions, operational challenges, or administrative requirements.

As this is an operational research study conducted under routine programme conditions, findings may not be fully generalizable to all settings in Bangladesh. The study will focus on feasibility, acceptability, and implementation considerations rather than measuring clinical efficacy or long-term health outcomes.

Potential risks related to participant availability, staff turnover, data quality, and programme implementation delays will be mitigated through stakeholder engagement, standardized tools and protocols, training of data collection teams, and routine supervision and quality assurance mechanisms.

7. Ethical Considerations

This body of work, including programme implementation and evidence generation, will be conducted in line UNICEF ethical standards namely [UNICEF Policy on Ethics in Evidence Activities Involving People as Participants or Subjects](#).

The hired firm is expected to clearly describe the ethical considerations, including how the above guidelines will be followed. This should include training of all data collectors and supervisors on research ethics, informed consent, confidentiality, respectful communication, safeguarding, and appropriate engagement with pregnant women, mothers, caregivers, newborns, health workers, and communities.

Ethical clearance must be obtained from the relevant Institutional Review Board before implementation of the study. Each report should also include a dedicated section describing how ethical considerations were identified and addressed during study design, data collection, analysis, and report writing.

Any sensitive issues, safeguarding concerns, adverse events, referral mechanisms or ethical concerns arising during implementation must be immediately reported to UNICEF.

All data collected through this body of work, including programme implementation and evidence generation, will remain the intellectual property of UNICEF and shall not be used for any purpose other than those approved by the Institutional Review Board and agreed with UNICEF.

The study will also follow a human rights-based, child rights, and gender-sensitive approach. Applicable data should be disaggregated, age, disability, geography, and other relevant equity dimensions where appropriate.

8. Use of Findings

The findings will be used to inform government Ministry of health and family Welfare (MoHFW), Director General of Health Services (DGHS) and Director General of Family Planning services (DGFP) for decision-making on the design, integration, implementation, and scale-up of POC haemoglobin testing within existing health systems. The evidence generated will support the development and refinement of service packages, SBC strategies, implementation tools, monitoring frameworks, and operational guidelines. Findings will also inform resource planning, costing, capacity development, and programme implementation approaches.

The results will be disseminated through technical consultations, policy dialogues, and stakeholder workshops and will contribute to national policies, strategies, and programme planning. Lessons learned and recommendations will be used to support institutionalization and phased scale-up within government systems.

9. Publication Plan

Findings from this evidence activity will be documented in a final technical report and disseminated through technical consultations, policy dialogues, and stakeholder workshops. The evidence generated will be developed into UNICEF-approved knowledge products, including policy briefs, learning briefs, presentation materials, and other technical products to support programme planning and decision-making.

Findings will be prepared for publication in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at national, regional, or international technical forums. Publications will cover findings and recommendations on POC haemoglobin testing.

All publications and dissemination products will follow UNICEF review, clearance, authorship, data-sharing, and permission requirements. No findings, datasets, reports, manuscripts, presentations, or other materials will be externally disseminated without prior written approval from UNICEF.

10. Schedule of Tasks & Timeline

S. No.	Major Task	Deliverable	Deadline for Completion of Deliverable	Estimated Travel Required
Phase 1 main deliverable: Final Approved inception report, draft protocol and health facility assessment report				
1	Inception report detailing the study approach, methodology, workplan, protocol, data collection tools, sampling strategy, ethical considerations, and analysis plan	Inception report	Within 1 month of contract signing	No travel required
2	Conduct desk review and POC landscape analysis, including review of available minimally invasive and non-invasive haemoglobin testing	Desk review and POC landscape analysis report	Within 2.5 month of contract signing	No travel required

	technologies, validation studies, global guidance, and Bangladesh ANC/PHC context			
3	Conduct rapid assessment of ANC services in selected PHC facilities, ANC corners, outreach and relevant service delivery platforms to assess readiness, provider capacity, anaemia detection practices, referral linkage, and reporting systems	Rapid assessment report	Within 3 months of contract signing	Selected districts/upazilas; 5-7 days
Phase 2 main deliverable: Final study protocol, implementation status				
4	Drafting and finalizing study protocol, methodology, sampling plan, SOPs, study matrix, data collection tools, analysis plan, and implementation workplan	a) Draft protocol b) Final protocol and tools	Within 4.5 months of contract signing	No travel required
5	Organize stakeholder consultation to review protocol, methodology, SOPs, and data collection tools and revise based on feedback	Consultation report and revised documents	Within 4.5 months of contract signing	4-5 days
6	Obtain ethical clearance and required administrative approvals	Ethical clearance and approvals obtained	Within 5-6 months of contract signing	No travel required
7	Procure/distribute selected POC devices, accessories, and required implementation materials to selected facilities, where applicable	Implementation sites prepared and operational	Within 7 months of contract signing	Selected districts/upazilas
8	Orient and train service providers, supervisors, and relevant personnel on POC implementation, SOPs, recording, reporting, and referral procedures and counselling approaches for anaemia prevention, treatment adherence, and referral compliance	Training report	Within 7-8 months of contract signing	Selected districts/upazilas; 5-7 days
9	Implement POC haemoglobin testing during routine ANC contacts in selected	Implementation progress report	Within 8-11 months of contract signing	Periodic field visits

	facilities and service delivery platforms, including counselling and communication support for pregnant women based on test results			
Phase 3 main deliverable: Final implementation report				
10	Conduct supportive supervision, mentoring, and implementation monitoring	Supervision and monitoring reports	Within 8-11 months of contract signing	Periodic field visits
11	Assess referral linkage and management of moderate and severe anaemia cases within existing health systems	Referral assessment report	Within 8-11 months of contract signing	Selected facilities; 3-5 days
12	Assess recording, reporting, and integration of POC data within existing health information systems	Reporting and integration assessment report	Within 9-12 months of contract signing	As part of monitoring visits
13	Monitor availability and utilization of POC devices, supplies during implementation	Supply utilization report	Within 9-12 months of contract signing	As part of monitoring visits
14	Conduct quantitative and qualitative data collection, including diagnostic performance assessment of selected POC options	Cleaned datasets, transcripts, and diagnostic performance analysis	Within 9-12 months of contract signing	Selected districts/upazilas; approximately 20-30 days
Phase 4 main deliverable: Final finding report and manuscript				
15	Analyze findings and submit draft report to UNICEF and government counterparts	Draft technical report	Within 12-14 months of contract signing	No travel required
16	Revise and finalize report, prepare policy brief, scale-up recommendations, presentation materials, dissemination workshop outputs, and manuscript draft(s)	Final report and knowledge products including Journal Publication as in a package	Within 14-16 months of contract signing	Dissemination workshop; 2-3 days

11. Estimated duration of contract

The estimated duration of the contract will be 16 months tentative from October 2026 – January 2028.

12. Team composition, Qualifications & Experience required

a) Team Leader / Principal Investigator

Qualification:

- Advanced university degree, preferably PhD, DrPH, MD with postgraduate training in Public Health, Epidemiology, Implementation Science, Maternal Health, Nutrition, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated expertise in implementation research, diagnostic evaluation, epidemiological methods, health systems research, and research ethics.

Experience:

- Minimum 10 years of progressively responsible experience in public health, implementation research, maternal nutrition, anaemia, diagnostics, or primary healthcare research.
- Proven experience serving as Principal Investigator or Senior Technical Lead for multi-site operational or implementation research.
- Experience designing and leading studies involving point-of-care diagnostics, haemoglobin testing, ANC services, PHC systems, or maternal anaemia programmes.
- Experience in protocol development, ethical review, quality assurance, and coordination with government, academic, and development partners.
- Demonstrated experience translating research into technical reports, policy recommendations, and peer-reviewed publications.
- Previous experience working in Bangladesh or comparable LMIC health systems is highly desirable.

Skills Required:

- Scientific leadership in implementation and operational research, observational study.
- Design and oversight of diagnostic accuracy and feasibility studies.
- Protocol, SOP, and statistical analysis plan development.
- Research ethics, safeguarding, informed consent, and data governance.
- Knowledge of maternal anaemia, ANC services, PHC delivery platforms, and national anaemia guidelines.
- Mixed-methods research, stakeholder engagement, and policy translation.
- Technical writing, presentation, and quality assurance.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Provide overall scientific, technical, and managerial leadership for the POCT haemoglobin study.
- Lead the design and finalization of the study protocol, methodology, sampling strategy, statistical analysis plan, and SOPs.
- Oversee implementation of the POC haemoglobin testing validation framework, including comparison with the reference standard and operational feasibility assessment.
- Ensure compliance with ethical, regulatory, biosafety, safeguarding, and quality assurance requirements.
- Supervise implementation across study sites, including facility readiness assessment, workflow evaluation, data collection, and stakeholder engagement.

- Review and approve all study instruments, training materials, and quality-control procedures.
- Lead interpretation of diagnostic, implementation, and health-system findings and develop evidence-based recommendations for PHC and ANC integration.
- Ensure timely delivery of all technical outputs, including inception, interim, and final reports, policy briefs, manuscripts, and dissemination materials.
- Represent the study in technical consultations, government review meetings, and dissemination workshops.

b) Co-Principal Investigator (Laboratory / POC Diagnostics Lead)

Qualification:

- Advanced university degree in Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Pathology, Haematology, Medical Technology, Biomedical Sciences, Epidemiology, Public Health, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated expertise in point-of-care diagnostics, haemoglobin measurement, diagnostic validation, laboratory quality assurance, and biosafety.
- Professional registration with the relevant medical or laboratory council, where applicable, is desirable.

Experience:

- Minimum 8 years of relevant experience in laboratory diagnostics, clinical research, diagnostic evaluation, or public health laboratory systems.
- Demonstrated experience with haemoglobin measurement technologies and diagnostic validation or method-comparison studies.
- Experience with capillary and/or venous blood collection, specimen management, laboratory SOPs, and quality-control procedures.
- Experience introducing or evaluating POC diagnostic technologies in PHC, ANC, or other decentralized service-delivery settings.
- Experience training and supervising laboratory personnel, healthcare providers, and/or field research teams.
- Experience in Bangladesh or comparable LMIC settings is highly desirable.

Skills Required:

- POC haemoglobin testing and laboratory diagnostics.
- Diagnostic validation and method-comparison studies.
- Laboratory QA/QC and device performance monitoring.
- Specimen collection, handling, biosafety, and IPC.
- Development of laboratory/testing SOPs and competency-assessment procedures.
- Identification and investigation of invalid results, device errors, operator errors, and pre-analytical/analytical errors.
- Interpretation and reporting of diagnostic-performance findings.
- Training, supervision, and technical troubleshooting.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Lead all laboratory and POCT technical components of the study.
- Support technical assessment and selection of candidate POC haemoglobin devices.
- Develop and standardize SOPs for POC Hb testing, reference testing, specimen collection, handling, and quality control.
- Establish and oversee the reference haemoglobin measurement procedure and method-comparison process.
- Ensure standardized testing procedures across study sites and operators.
- Lead training, competency assessment, and supportive supervision of personnel conducting Hb testing.
- Monitor device functionality, quality-control results, invalid/error rates, and testing deviations and ensure corrective actions.
- Support interpretation of diagnostic performance, operational feasibility, and suitability of devices for routine ANC/PHC use.
- Contribute to technical reports, recommendations, manuscripts, and dissemination.

c) Data Manager / Biostatistician

Qualification:

- Advanced university degree in Biostatistics, Statistics, Epidemiology, Data Science, Health Informatics, Public Health, or a related quantitative discipline.
- Formal training in statistical analysis, research data management, and electronic data-collection systems.

Experience:

- Minimum 7 years of relevant experience in health research data management and statistical analysis.
- Demonstrated experience managing multi-site health research datasets and electronic data-collection systems.
- Experience developing data management plans, statistical analysis plans, validation rules, and data-quality monitoring systems.
- Demonstrated experience in diagnostic accuracy or method-comparison analysis, including sensitivity, specificity, predictive values, agreement, and classification performance.
- Experience analysing implementation, operational, or health-system research data using quantitative methods.
- Experience contributing to technical reports and peer-reviewed publications.

Skills Required:

- Statistical programming using R, Stata, SAS, SPSS, Python, or equivalent.
- Diagnostic-performance and agreement analysis.
- Database design, data cleaning, validation, and quality assurance.
- Linkage and reconciliation of POC Hb results, reference Hb results, participant records, and facility-level data.
- Development of automated data-quality checks and monitoring outputs.

- Data security, confidentiality, documentation, and reproducible analysis.
- Preparation of analytical tables, figures, and scientific outputs.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Develop and maintain the Data Management Plan and Statistical Analysis Plan in collaboration with the PI and Co-PI.
- Design and maintain the electronic study database and data-validation procedures.
- Establish procedures for accurate linkage of participant information, POC Hb results, and reference laboratory results.
- Monitor completeness, consistency, protocol deviations, missing data, outliers, duplicate records, and implausible Hb values.
- Produce routine data-quality and field-performance monitoring reports.
- Conduct statistical analyses of diagnostic accuracy, agreement, misclassification, and operational performance, as specified in the protocol.
- Analyse implementation outcomes, facility readiness, workflow, acceptability, and other quantitative study outcomes.
- Maintain clean analytical datasets, codebooks, syntax/code, and complete analysis documentation.
- Generate tables, figures, and analytical outputs and contribute to reports, manuscripts, and dissemination materials.

d) Field Researchers / Enumerators

Qualification:

- Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Nutrition, Nursing, Medical Technology, Statistics, Social Sciences, Anthropology, or a related discipline.
- Training in research ethics, informed consent, and electronic data collection.
- For personnel assigned to Hb testing/specimen-related activities, appropriate POCT, specimen collection, biosafety, and IPC training is required.

Experience:

- Minimum 2-3 years of experience in quantitative and/or qualitative health research.
- Experience conducting health-facility assessments, participant interviews, KIIs, FGDs, observations, or health programme evaluations.
- Experience using electronic data-collection platforms such as KoboToolbox, ODK, REDCap, SurveyCTO, or equivalent.
- Experience working with pregnant women, ANC providers, PHC facilities, or maternal health programmes is highly desirable.
- Previous experience in diagnostic or implementation research is desirable.

Skills Required:

- Participant screening, recruitment, and informed consent.
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection.

- Facility readiness and workflow assessment.
- Electronic data capture and field-level data-quality checking.
- Accurate documentation of POC Hb testing and associated study records.
- Research ethics, confidentiality, biosafety, and IPC.
- Strong interpersonal and interviewing skills.
- Ability to follow SOPs consistently and report deviations or operational problems promptly.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Conduct participant screening, recruitment, and informed consent according to the approved protocol.
- Administer questionnaires and undertake facility readiness assessments, observations, KIIs, FGDs, and other assigned data-collection activities.
- Perform or support POC Hb testing and specimen-related procedures only where appropriately trained, competency-assessed, and authorized under the study protocol.
- Record POC and reference-test information accurately and ensure correct linkage with participant study IDs.
- Maintain testing logs, device/error records, field documentation, and other required quality-control records.
- Ensure timely and accurate electronic submission of study data.
- Follow research ethics, confidentiality, safeguarding, biosafety, and IPC requirements.
- Immediately report protocol deviations, invalid tests, device problems, adverse events, and other field-level issues to supervisors.
- Support participant counselling and referral according to the approved study protocol.
- Participate in training, competency assessment, supervision, and quality-assurance activities.

Language:

- Fluency in Bangla is required.
- Ability to communicate in relevant local dialects is desirable.
- Working knowledge of English is desirable.

e) Involvement of Frontline PHC Health Workers in POCT Implementation:

- As the objective of the study is to assess the feasibility and integration of POC haemoglobin testing under routine PHC service-delivery conditions, frontline health workers from the selected PHC facilities will be directly involved in implementation of the POC testing.
- Selected health workers will be trained and competency-assessed on sample collection, POC haemoglobin testing, infection prevention and control, interpretation and recording of results, device handling, and quality-control procedures. Following training, they will conduct POC testing as part of routine service delivery under study supervision.
- Their performance will be systematically observed to assess adherence to testing procedures, accuracy and completeness of testing and recording, invalid/error rates, operational challenges, time and workflow implications, and ability to perform the procedures under routine PHC conditions.

- The study will assess both device performance and operator-related factors that may influence the reliability and feasibility of POC haemoglobin testing in real-world settings. Findings from this assessment will inform the development of the implementation and integration SOPs, training requirements, quality-assurance mechanisms, supervision arrangements, and recommendations for potential scale-up within PHC and ANC services.

14) Duty Station and travel

The agency conducting the research will be based in Dhaka, Bangladesh with travel to selected districts and upazilas as required for training, data collection, supervision, stakeholder consultations, and dissemination of the findings. Travel will be required for field data collection, pre-testing of tools, training, supervision, monitoring, stakeholder consultations, and dissemination activities, as outlined in the deliverables and workplan. The specific locations, number of visits, duration, and estimated travel days should be clearly proposed by the agency in the technical and financial proposal, based on the final sampling plan and selected study sites. The bidder shall include all estimated travel-related costs in the financial proposal, accommodation, per diem, local transport, and any other travel-related expenses required to complete the assignment.

15) Management and Supervision

- **Contractor:** The contracted research agency will be responsible for the overall implementation of the evidence activity, including preparation of the inception report, study protocol, methodology, sampling plan, data collection tools, SOPs, analysis plan, field implementation plan, ethical clearance, data management, analysis, reporting, dissemination materials, and manuscript development. The agency will ensure that all activities are conducted in line with approved protocols, ethical standards, and UNICEF quality requirements. The agency will also be responsible for training and supervising data collectors, ensuring data quality, maintaining proper record keeping, safeguarding confidentiality, reporting any suspected adverse events or ethical concerns immediately to UNICEF, and ensuring secure data handling, storage, and transfer.
- **UNICEF** will provide overall technical guidance, management oversight, and quality assurance throughout the assignment. The Nutrition Section will provide technical management of the assignment and ensure alignment with programme priorities, government systems, and national scale-up needs. The Planning, Monitoring, Research and Evaluation function will support research quality assurance, including review of methodology, tools, ethical processes, analysis, and reporting. The Chief of Nutrition will have overall accountability for the assignment and approval of major deliverables. UNICEF will also coordinate engagement with relevant government counterparts, technical working groups, development partners, and other stakeholders. Supply and Procurement will remain the focal point for all administrative, financial, and commercial queries and correspondence, including contract amendment.

16) Payment Schedule

Payments will be made upon the manager's acceptance of the deliverables. The payment schedule is provided in table below and will be deliverable based.

No.	Deliverable	Deadline	Payment schedule
Phase 1 (table 10, activity serial 1 - 3)	Approved inception report and draft protocol	Within 1 month of contract signing	25%
Phase 2 (table 10, activity serial 4 - 9)	- Health facility assessment report. - Finalisation of the protocol (including ethical clearance and data collection tools) - site selection, training of the service providers	Within 3 months of contract signing by December 2026	25%
Phase 3 (table 10 - 14)	- Implementation progress report - Cleaned datasets, transcripts, and diagnostic performance analysis	Within 12 months of contract signing	35%
Phase 4 (activity serial 15 - 16)	- Data Analysis and draft technical report - Final report and knowledge products package	Within 15-16 months of contract signing	15%

17. Request for proposal

A two-stage evaluation procedure shall be applied in the assessment of proposals. The technical proposal will be evaluated first, and only those proposals that meet the minimum technical threshold will proceed to the financial evaluation stage. Interested bidders are therefore required to submit the following documentation as part of their bid:

A. Technical proposal

The technical proposal should include the following:

1. The proposed team, with the following required content:

- Resume of the Principal Investigator. This criterion will be assessed against the elements provided in the section Qualifications of the team, and more precisely against the depth and length of the experience, and the strength of expertise and skills mentioned in this section.
- Resumes of the other team members. This criterion will be assessed against the elements provided in the section qualifications and more precisely against the depth and length of the experience, and the strength of expertise and skills mentioned in this section.

2. A technical proposal based on the elements outlined in these ToR, and addressing the following elements (2 pages only):

- Brief background of the firm and experience in conducting research participation diagnostics.
- a critical reflection of the research methodology demonstrating the capability of identifying what is required to develop and finalize methodology, within the boundaries of this ToR; the technical note needs to provide a critical reflection on the approach and should note that the full methodology will be developed further during the inception phase. The following needs to be at least covered:
 - understanding of the assignment
 - appropriateness of the proposed data collection methods, and potential analysis approaches with their rationale
 - identification of potential risks and their mitigation measures.
- a description of the approach for ensuring that the quality of the research process and of the deliverables is in line with the quality expectations of UNICEF (see above) also taking into account the limitations and risks, and that the ethical considerations are well addressed during the entire research process.

3. A tentative workplan and complementarity of the research team (2 pages)

- a tentative workplan based on the ToR, with comments and proposed adjustments, and specifying the involvement of each research team member in each phase in line with the financial proposal, and therefore their level of effort on the assignment.
- a summary table of the research team, summarizing how the experts fit the requirements described above and indicating their specific responsibilities during the implementation of the research and reflecting their complementarity and collective strength as a team. A description of the relevant support staff (other than the key research experts) who will contribute to the implementation of the research, including the responsibilities for the contract management and the quality assurance.

B. Financial Offer

The Financial Proposal shall be submitted in a separate file, clearly named Financial Proposal. No financial information shall be contained in the Technical Proposal. The final proposal should include the following elements:

1. The cost breakdown by professional fees (with for each team member with their daily rate, number of days and total fees) and travel expenses.
2. The cost breakdown by project deliverables (against the payment moments described in this ToR. This includes estimated number of working days, consultancy fees, all office administrative costs as well as any additional requirements needed to complete research or that might have an impact on cost or delivery of products.

Tarin Riwaad