

## CPE Egypt ToR

### Background

#### Country Context

1. Egypt is located on the northeast corner of the African continent. It is bordered by Libya to the west, Sudan to the south, the Red Sea to the east, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north. The total area of the country covers approximately one million square kilometers. However, much of the land is desert, and only 7.7 percent of Egypt's area is inhabited. The Egyptian government has a policy of land reclamation and fostering of new settlements in the desert. Despite these efforts, the majority of Egyptians live either in the Nile Delta located in the north of the country or in the narrow Nile Valley south of Cairo. Administratively, Egypt is divided into 27 governorates. The four Urban Governorates (Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez) have no rural population. Each of the other 23 governorates is subdivided into urban and rural areas.

2. Egypt has the largest and most densely settled population in the MENA region, with a population of 98.8 million residing in the country and growing at a pace of 2.6 percent per annum. Forty percent among them are children under the age of 18 and almost one in every five is an adolescent. With the largest part of the population residing in only eight percent of the total land area and about 44 percent of them living in urban areas, the concentration of people within such a small proportion of the national land mass creates specific challenges for the Government of Egypt in its resource attribution decision-making.

3. As of 31 January 2018, UNHCR Egypt has registered 221,675 refugees and asylum seekers. Fifty-seven percent of them are from Syria while 43 percent are from 55 different countries including Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen and others.

4. Egypt achieved important progress in child wellbeing and rights over the past two decades, including a strong reduction of child and maternal mortality, high rates of immunization coverage, almost universal access to basic education, rights of persons with disabilities, and children without care.

5. However, poverty is widespread in Egypt and disproportionately affects children by lowering their chances of survival and development, with long lasting effects. In 2012 / 13, around 9.2 million Egyptian children (aged 0-17) were living in extreme monetary poverty. An additional 7.5 million children were vulnerable to falling in poverty, with levels of consumption just above the national poverty line. The percentage of children in extreme monetary poverty grew continuously in the last 15 years, from 21 percent in 1999/2000 to 28.8 percent in 2012/13. The bulk of extreme poor children are in the rural areas of Upper Egypt (4.9 million children living in poverty), but urban governorates accounts for a large part of the increase in poverty in recent years, reflecting the impact of the prolonged economic stagnation that started in 2011, and the concentration of poverty in urban slums.

6. Poverty among children is multidimensional and it is manifested in severe deprivation in health and nutrition, poor education outcomes, inadequate housing and lack of access to water and sanitation, poor socialization and lack of access to development opportunities. Household income and resources, availability and access to quality social services and social infrastructure, as well as family's and community's time, skills and resources are all important factors to fulfill the rights of children to a decent standard of living and being free from poverty.

7. Egypt had nearly three in every ten children who were multidimensionally poor in 2014, which accounted for approximately ten million children. Addressing the challenge of child poverty, in its different dimensions, requires an enabling environment of inclusive growth, and a functioning integrated social protection system, sensitive to children's rights. The reform of social protection - from a system based on consumption subsidies, benefiting mainly the richest, to a system of cash transfers better targeted to the poor, especially to families with children— along with

an increase in investments on quality basic social services is essential to effectively tackle poverty and support national human and economic development.

8. Egypt is a low middle-income country. The recent macroeconomic and structural reforms stabilized the economy and have allowed the country to enter the global COVID-19 crisis with improving fiscal and external accounts. However, the adverse repercussions of the pandemic have since undermined this recent progress, shedding light on longstanding challenges. These include sluggish private sector activity and job-creation, especially in the formal sector, underperforming non-oil exports and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), elevated government debt-to-GDP ratio (despite its significant reduction in recent years), below-potential revenue mobilization, and an unfavorable budget structure, with limited allocations to key sectors, such as health and education.

9. Real growth declined from 5.6 percent in FY2018/19 to 3.6 percent during FY2019/20, as the COVID-19 crisis caused a year-on-year contraction of 1.7 percent during April to June (Q4-FY2019/20). Growth inched upward in July to September and October to December (Q1- and Q2-FY2020/21), with the lifting of a nighttime curfew and easing of social distancing measures, albeit remaining low at 0.7 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Unemployment declined to 7.2 percent by Q2-FY2020/21 (after spiking at 9.6 percent six months earlier), as the initial drop in total employment at the outset of the COVID-19 crisis was reversed, and both labor force participation and employment rates rebounded from their large initial dip, though remaining below potential at 43.5 percent and 40.4 percent of the working-age population. Key sectors, such as tourism, manufacturing, the Suez Canal and oil and gas extractives continue to be severely impacted by restrictions on international travel, the slump in demand, and disruptions to supply chains and trade, both domestically and abroad.

10. At the outset of the COVID-19 crisis, the government devised an emergency response package worth LE100 billion (1.7 percent of FY2019/20 GDP). Key measures include an exceptional monetary grant to irregular workers and the expansion of existing cash transfer programs. Forbearance measures were introduced in the form of delayed tax filing and loan repayments, in addition to subsidized credit for targeted sectors. The Central Bank of Egypt reduced rates by 400 basis-points to ease liquidity and enable individuals to access credit at favorable terms. This monetary expansion came against the backdrop of subdued inflation, registered at 5.7 percent in FY2019 / 20, which further declined to 4.5 percent during the H1-FY2020 / 21.

11. International reserves are sufficient, at USD 40.1 billion at end-January 2021, although still below their pre-crisis peak of USD 45.5 billion. External accounts were still bolstered by remittances, rebounding foreign portfolio inflows, and external financing, notably from the IMF, Eurobond issuances, and an innovative Green-bond. Growth is forecast to decline from 3.6 percent in FY2019 / 20 to 2.3 percent in FY2020 / 21, in light of the ongoing effect of the pandemic, and especially the renewed surge in the COVID-19 cases since end-2020. The slowing of economic activity is expected to have adverse social implications.

12. Under the scenario that the COVID-19 vaccine is steadily rolled out through 2021 and early-2022, Egypt is expected to slowly start regaining its pre-pandemic growth momentum by FY2021/22/23. A downside scenario for growth over the forecast horizon would happen if the vaccination process becomes more protracted or variants of the disease cause further disruption, with lockdowns repeatedly imposed.

13. The multi-dimensional health and economic crisis caused by the pandemic underscores the importance of advancing the human capital agenda, fast-tracking digital transformation, and strengthening social protection. A second wave of pending reforms, designed to unleash private sector activity and address Egypt's long-standing structural challenges, is crucial to create better employment opportunities and improve livelihoods.

## Egypt Country Programme

14. UNICEF's work in Egypt is focused on promoting sustainable development with multidimensional equity for children, embodying the fair chance for every child principle.

15. UNICEF's programme in Egypt contributes to strengthen the knowledge base for more child-sensitive social protection and improve three fundamental elements of the early childhood years (health, nutrition and

development). UNICEF's work on learning and protection covers all children of all ages, focusing on the most vulnerable children (children with disabilities and adolescent girls).

16. In line with national priorities, UNICEF work in Egypt focuses on Early Childhood Development bridging the first 1000 days through the first years of formal education, as a key means by which multiple threats to children may be addressed through cross-sectoral linkages. The expected results of UNICEF's work in Egypt will contribute to national efforts and priorities and the 2030 National Sustainable Development Strategy; as well as the United Nations Partnership for Development Framework (UNPDF 2018-2022).

17. UNICEF Egypt's Country Program is supporting the Government of Egypt to ensure that:

- Poor and vulnerable children increasingly benefit from child sensitive and integrated social protection systems and child responsive national policies and public spending;
- Vulnerable mothers, newborns and children have better access to, and utilization of, quality essential package of maternal, neonatal and child health care services;
- Nutritional situation for children is improved through strengthening the preparedness and institutional capacity of the Nutrition system and operationalizing the nutrition sensitive policies in the country;
- More children and adolescents have equitable access to quality learning opportunities relevant to their cognitive, social and economic empowerment;
- More children in Egypt are increasingly protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect including in those in emergency situations;
- There is a positive influence on social beliefs related to child care and gender perceptions with a particular focus on positive parenting, reducing child violence and reducing the prevalence of harmful practices (FGM, early marriage) affecting girls; and
- Improved national M&E systems for better Production and utilization of rigorous evidence/data for SDS/SDG monitoring to improve inclusive social programs and policies for children.

18. According to the Country Programme Document 2018-2022:

- The social inclusion and data programme component ensures that, by 2022, poor and vulnerable children are better identified and increasingly benefit from child sensitive and integrated social protection systems and child responsive national policies and public spending.
- The survival and early development programme component ensures that, by 2022, more vulnerable children aged 0 to 6 years, have improved survival, and are nurtured and stimulated for improved early childhood development. It brings together three subcomponents to promote synergistic, intersectoral approaches: health, nutrition and ECD.
- The learning and protection programme component ensures that, by 2022, more vulnerable children, adolescents and youth experience improved learning and are increasingly protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. This covers children of all ages, but includes a focus on adolescents, especially girls, given their particular vulnerabilities.
- The programme effectiveness component supports efficient and effective planning, management, monitoring and quality assurance of the programme, and ensures close linkages and coordination between UNICEF and the implementation of the UNPDF, 2018-2022, and the national Vision 2030. It emphasizes partnerships and advocacy, and key cross-cutting areas to support results across all outcomes. Partnerships particularly focuses on private sector partners for resource mobilization and on advocacy for child friendly business practices. Cross-sectoral approaches include communication for development, gender mainstreaming, integration of disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and support to subnational coordination.

19. Across all programme components, UNICEF key partnerships include, within government, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood,

Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, National Population Council, National Human Rights Council, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Education and Technical Education, National Nutrition Institute, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Communications. These are complemented by partnerships with other national actors, civil society and non-governmental organizations, religious leaders and academia. The World Bank and European Union continue to be important partners alongside United Nations organizations, including the World Food Programme, World Health Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and United Nations Population Fund, plus the International Organization for Migration.

## Purpose and Objective

20. In line with the UNICEF Evaluation Policy, Country Programme Evaluations are mandatory for every second programming cycle. As the Egypt Country Office did not have a Country Programme Evaluation during its last programming cycle and is therefore mandated to conduct a Country Programme Evaluation at this point.

### Purpose

21. It is within this context, that the government of Egypt and UNICEF Egypt Country Office (ECO) will begin discussions about the priorities, strategies, and resource requirements of the next Country Programme (CP) for the period 2023-2026.

22. To inform this work a Country Programme Evaluation is being undertaken to allow the office to evaluate the current country programme and how UNICEF has fared. The evaluation seeks to understand factors that have facilitated or hindered achievement of results for children and identify key lessons and recommendations for the upcoming country programme. Furthermore, the evaluation will look into alignment of the current country programme to national priorities.

### Objectives

23. The objective of the independent evaluation of the UNICEF country programme 2018 - 2022 is to produce an independent and useful evaluation report that provides accountability and learning. The Evaluation is forward looking and inform the development of the new CPD (2023-2027).

24. More specifically the evaluation will:

- Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the program and of the results achieved, the focus will be on relevance and effectiveness.
- Assess the extent that the UNICEF CPD 2018-2022 upstream policy, strategy and other system level support in education reform, child protection, and youth empowerment, ECD, and child survival contribute in promoting child rights in alignment to the emerging national Egyptian priorities and towards contributing to SDGs? What are the factors that have facilitated or hindered achievement of results for children and the key lessons, accelerators and recommendations to inform the upcoming country Programme?
- Assess the extent UNICEF CPD was effective and contributed to more vulnerable children<sup>1</sup>, adolescence and youth in improving learning, protection, participation, better health and wellbeing? What could be done differently to address the vulnerability through upcoming country programme.
- Assess the extent the design and the interventions of the Country Programme Document integrate cross cutting issues such as gender, youth, child rights, children with disability, equity, etc?
- Provide concrete recommendations to improve the design and relevance of the Country Programme to the UNICEF Strategic Plan (relevant Egypt planning tools)

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<sup>1</sup> Including children with disabilities, adolescent girls.

## Scope

25. The Country Programme Evaluation will focus on the CP 2018 – 2022. The evaluation will draw on the CPD document, CPD Results and Resources framework, as well as the evaluations already conducted and the Mid-term Review of the country programme. The evaluation will look at the program at a high level focusing on strategic and high-level issues rather with a zoom on promoting child rights in alignment to emerging national priorities and towards contributing to the SDGs. And to what extent UNICEF CPD was effective and contributed to more vulnerable children and how did it apply cross cutting issues such as gender, youth children with disability throughout the country program.

## Evaluability

26. The country programme includes agreements of the work programme by sector as well as strategic notes that describe the activity

27. The programme has undergone several deep dives as well as a midterm review that have documented much of the key issues of the country programme as well as the progress to date.

28. The mid-term review includes reflection on the pathways for change.

## Evaluation Questions

29. The evaluation questions are relatively high level with potential sub-questions that should help the consultant develop the evaluation matrix included in the annex. The Consultant is expected to design the methodology and questions that are expected to effectively inform the objectives of this assignment. The questions are selected taking the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria into account but not assessing connectedness or impact given the nature of the programme.

30. The main purpose of this evaluation is for learning and accountability. It is both summative and formative Summative and formative to inform the new Country Program development process building on the MTR.

## Coherence

- To what extent is the country programme supporting national priorities and SDGs? How has the programme aligned with the COVID response of the government?

## Relevance

- To what extent does the country programme align with the key priorities for boys and girls in different categories in Egypt?

## Efficiency

- To what extent has the programme used the most cost-efficient implementation methods?
- To what extent have the programme management arrangements been efficient?

## Effectiveness

- To what extent has the country programme achieved its objectives and results or is likely to achieve them?
- How were cross-cutting issues taken into account?
- What worked well in achieving Country Programme results that should be replicated or scaled up at the design of the next country programme?
- What factors (political, sociological, economic, etc.) have affected the outcomes, either positively or negatively? How have these factors limited or facilitated progress towards the outputs?
- What are the unanticipated effects of the country programme either positively or negatively?
- How has COVID 19 affected the country programme?

## Sustainability

- To what extent have initiatives from the country programme resulted in Government of Egypt policies and procedures supporting boys and girls?
- To what extent has capacity building for government resulted in improved services for boys and girls?

## Methodology

30. Based on United Nations Evaluations Group (UNEG) and UNICEF guidance on evaluation including the norms and standards, the guidance on how to integrate gender into evaluation. Ethical Guidelines for UN Evaluations and the UNICEF procedure for ethical standards in research, evaluation, data collection and analysis will guide the overall process. UNICEF adapted evaluation report standards and Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System (GEROS). The evaluation should incorporate the human rights-based and gender perspective and be based on results-based management principles and logical framework analysis.

31. The Consultant will develop the detailed evaluation design during the inception phase – in close consultation with the MENARO Regional Advisor Evaluation managing the evaluation, and key evaluation stakeholders. The Evaluation should rely on diverse quantitative and qualitative information that will need to be triangulated. The stakeholders for this evaluation are relevant Government partners with whom UNICEF has joint annual work plans. Where possible and appropriate, the evaluation should seek to obtain evidence as to what may or may not have occurred in the absence of UNICEF's programme.

32. The evaluation will use data from primary and secondary sources, including desk review of documentation and information and interviews with key stakeholders. A participatory and transparent process will be followed to engage with multiple stakeholders at all stages of the evaluation process.

## Limitations

33. The evaluation might have to be conducted remotely which has some negative implications on the conduct of key informant interviews and will make the organization of focus group discussions challenging. To mitigate the challenges the consultant will conduct additional interviews to have a broad input into the process. Access to monitoring systems might also allow the consultant to have a better understanding of the activities.

## Governance

34. The evaluation will be guided by a steering committee that will approve the terms of reference and endorse the inception report. It might also be guiding the evaluation should any unforeseen development need addressing. The direct management of the evaluation will be done by the regional evaluation advisor. The Egypt Country Office will ensure that all relevant documentation is available to the consultants and support the arrangement of meetings with relevant stakeholders (partners, UNICEF staff).

35. The Consultant is required to clearly identify any potential ethical issues and raise them with the evaluation manager.

## Specific Tasks Deliverables and Timetable

<b>Task</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Work Days</b>
Preparatory and Inception phase Conduct desk review of existing literature documents / reports related to implementation of the Country Programme.	1. Inception report with annexes of the evaluation matrix and data collection tools including ethical	10 days

<p>Conduct an analysis of theories of change in strategy notes and their assumptions to identify gaps and issues that need validation in the data collection and analysis of the evaluation</p> <p>Engagement with key stakeholders on inception report</p> <p>Refine the evaluation methodology and develop an evaluation matrix.</p> <p>Detailed data collection tools including research protocols.</p>	<p>protocols for discussion at the Steering Committee</p> <p>2. Answers to questions from the ethical clearance process if required.</p> <p>3. Final inception report including responses to the issues raised by the Steering Committee and the ethical clearance process.</p>	
<p>Data collection phase:</p> <p>Data collection from all identified target population (online FGDs, interviews)</p> <p>Process and analyze collected data, and draft the report on the results of the Evaluation</p> <p>Preparation and delivery of emerging findings</p>	<p>1. Presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations to the key stakeholders</p>	15 days
<p>Drafting, validation and completion phase:</p> <p>Data analysis and drafting, taking into account the feedback received during the preliminary findings phase.</p> <p>Responding to all comments received in the comments matrix</p> <p>Finalization of the report.</p>	<p>1. Draft Evaluation Report for commenting.</p> <p>2. Responses to all comments received in the comments matrix</p> <p>3. Final evaluation report meeting UNICEF quality standards; including an executive summary</p>	15 days
<b>Total Number of Days</b>		<b>40 days</b>

## Required Qualifications

- At least a master's degree from an accredited academic institution in, evaluation, economics, development studies, social sciences or equivalent.
- A minimum of 10 evaluations conducted of which at least three as team leader or lead consultant.
- Proven track record in evaluating similar national programmes of UN or UNICEF.
- Strong analytical skills, as well as ability to process qualitative and quantitative data.
- In-depth understanding of issues in child rights, equity and gender sensitive analysis.
- Understanding of programming modalities in high-income countries.
- Preferably can speak and understand Arabic

## Contractual Issues

### Reporting Requirements

36. Draft and final deliverables are to be submitted in English to UNICEF as per agreed timelines.

### Location and Duration

37. While the majority of the work will be undertaken remotely; travel to Egypt will be facilitated if the situation allows within the context of COVID-19.

## Travel

38. Travel to Egypt will be facilitated if the situation allows within the context of COVID-19.
39. The candidate shall include the estimate cost of travel in the financial proposal (the travel cost has to be indicated separately from the service fee). It is essential to clarify in the TOR that i) travel cost shall be calculated based on economy class travel, regardless of the length of travel and ii) costs for accommodation, meals and incidentals shall not exceed applicable daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rates, as promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC at <http://icsc.un.org>).
40. All travel arrangements, including insurance and visas, will be managed and paid by the consultant. Therefore, expected travel costs must be included as a budget item in the financial proposal.

*Note: UNICEF will not reimburse for non-returnable tickets of non-reimbursable accommodation already booked by the service provider in case of cancellation of an event/assignment.*

## Information Communication Technology considerations (please check if applicable)

- Access to electronic Information Resources
- UNICEF email ID
- ICT Hardware (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## Contract Management

41. This assignment will be supervised by the Regional Advisor Evaluation; UNICEF MENA Regional Office.
42. The Social Policy Manager and the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will be the focal points from the Egypt Country Office.
43. The Operations focal point for this contract will be the Operations Officer from the Egypt Country Office.

## Frequency of Performance Reviews and Performance Indicators for the Assignment

44. The consultancy will be evaluated on a regular basis through detailed review of submitted deliverables and regular check-in calls. A final evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the consultancy to assess service delivery.

## Payment Schedule

Accepted Inception report	15 per cent of total contract value
Presentation of preliminary findings	20 per cent of total contract value
Accepted final evaluation report meeting UNICEF quality standards; including an executive summary	65 per cent of total contract value

## Application Process

45. Interested candidates should submit a CV and a cover letter outlining how they match the qualifications required as well as a financial proposal.
46. Bidders are expected to submit a lump sum **financial proposal** to complete the entire assignment based on the terms of reference. The financial proposal should include an estimate of travel costs. However, the final travel component will be agreed based on the effective work calendar. Travel costs will be pre-approved and reimbursed by UNICEF as per the UNICEF rules and regulations for travel for consultants/non-staff.

47. Bidder shall be required to include the estimate cost of travel in the financial proposal. Please note that i) travel cost shall be calculated based on economy class travel, regardless of the length of travel and ii) costs for accommodation, meals and incidentals shall not exceed applicable daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rates, as promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). Details can be found at <http://icsc.un.org>.

48. The hiring manager and the country office will review the received CVs and cover letters to assess that candidates meet or exceed the requirements for the assignment. For those who meet or exceed the requirements the selection will be done based on the financial proposal.

### UNICEF Recourse in Case of Unsatisfactory Performance

49. In case of unsatisfactory performance, the payment will be withheld until quality deliverables are submitted. If the firm/individual is unable to complete the assignment, the contract will be terminated by notification letter sent 30 days prior to the termination date. In the meantime, UNICEF will initiate another selection process in order to identify appropriate candidate.

### Conditions

50. The contractor will work on its own computer(s) and use its/his/her own office resources and materials in the execution of this assignment. **The contractor's fee shall therefore be inclusive of all office administrative costs.**

51. Granting access to UNICEF ICT resources for consultants/non-staff is considered as 'exception,' and therefore shall only be granted upon authorization by the head of the office on justification/need basis. This includes creation of a UNICEF email address, as well as access to ICT equipment such as laptops and mobile devices.

52. All persons engaged under a UNICEF service contract through an individual contract or consultancy shall be subject to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/CodeOfConduct>

Please also see UNICEF's Standard Terms and Conditions attached.