

INCEPTION REPORT- DRAFT

**Evaluability and Baseline Assessment
of UNICEF Pacific's Child Protection
Programme**

**MANiTOU
INCORPORATED**

6 DECEMBER 2022

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ABBREVIATIONS

| ACRONYMS | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| CICL | Children in conflict with the law |
| CP | Child Protection |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| FSM | Federated States of Micronesia |
| IPV | Intimate Partner Violence |
| KEQs | Key Evaluation Questions |

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. REPORT CONTENTS

This Inception Report, with three main sections, outlines the scope, methods, data sources, and timeline for the Evaluability and Baseline Assessment of UNICEF Pacific’s Child Protection (CP) Programme.

1.2. BACKGROUND

GLOBAL STANDARDS AND UNICEF CP STRATEGIES IN THE PACIFIC

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and its two Optional Protocols and other key international human rights instruments, outline the States’ responsibility to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In addition to the CRC, the Sustainable Development Goals sets specific targets for CP.¹ Moreover, UNICEF’s 2008 CP Strategy calls for creating a protective environment “where girls and boys are free from violence, exploitation and unnecessary separation from family and where laws, services, behaviours and practices minimize children’s vulnerability, address known risk factors, and strengthen children’s own resilience”.² Similarly, it is noted that UNICEF’s 2021-2030 CP Strategy and UNICEF’s subsequent guidance, (a) Protection Systems Strengthening: Approach, Benchmarks, Interventions; and (b) Measuring the Maturity of Child Protection Systems: A Guide on How to Use the CPSS Benchmarks, provide a clear vision and corresponding tools designed to support UNICEF’s work in the area of CP.³

Similarly, the UNICEF 2007 East Asia and Pacific Region Child CP Strategy emphasises the need for a holistic approach, identifying and addressing community attitudes, practices, behaviours and other causes underpinning children’s vulnerability, engaging these within children’s immediate environment (children themselves, family, and community), and ensuring an adequate system for delivery of holistic prevention, early intervention, and response services.⁴

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN IN PICTS

As evidenced in the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Evaluability and Baseline Assessment of UNICEF Pacific’s CP Programme, the Pacific has among the highest rates of violence against women and children. For, example, baseline studies in several Pacific Island Countries and

¹ These targets include violence against women and girls (5.2), harmful traditional practices (5.3), child labour (8.7), provision of safe spaces (11.7), violence and violent deaths (16.1), abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children (16.2) and birth registration (16.9).

² E/ICEF/2008/5/Rev.1 of 20 May 2008. UNICEF Child Protection Strategy, para 2.

³ UNICEF (2020). Child Protection Strategy 2021-2030; UNICEF. (2021) Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approach; Benchmarks; Interventions, UNICEF, New York; and UNICEF (2021). Child Protection Systems Strengthening Approaches, Benchmarks and Interventions; Measuring the Maturity of Child Protection Systems.

⁴ UNICEF. (2022). Terms of Reference for the Evaluability and Baseline Assessment of UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme, page 1.

Territories (PICTs) show that two out of three women are exposed to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). In addition, four out of five children are exposed to violence in the home.⁵ Pacific children are also exposed to high rates of family violence in their homes.

1.3. UNICEF PACIFIC'S CP PROGRAMME

The overall **purpose** of UNICEF Pacific's CP Five-Year Multi-Country Programme is to enhance children's rights to protection against all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Ultimately, by eliminating these childhood violations, girls and boys will:

- (i) be better able to achieve their educational potential;
- (ii) be guaranteed improved health outcomes; and
- (iii) assume their role as productive members of their societies, communities, and families.

UNICEF PACIFIC CP PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

The UNICEF Pacific CP Programme has multiple interventions, including technical and financial support for different stakeholders in the social welfare sector at national and subnational levels. Before presenting these interventions, however, it is necessary to present the programme's one Outcome and three Outputs.

Outcome

By 2027, children and adolescents in the Pacific are better protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation, harmful practices, and psychological distress, including in emergencies.

UNICEF will contribute to the achievement of the Outcome through the following three Outputs:

- Output 1:** Child protection systems and structures have strengthened evidence, legal, policy and coordination frameworks to plan, coordinate, monitor and adequately resource the delivery and expansion of quality and resilient child protection services.
- Output 2:** Government and other service providers have strengthened capacities to deliver quality, inclusive, and integrated child protection services.
- Output 3:** Caregivers, communities, youth, adolescents and children are better informed, equipped, and supported to generate transformative and protection-focused, gender-equal social norms, as well as prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices.

Based on the stage of development of each country's child protection system, UNICEF Pacific's interventions include [but are not limited to] support for:

- Generating evidence and disaggregated data
- A national multi-sector multi-stakeholder child protection mechanism
- A national child protection policy (if one does not exist)

⁵ UNICEF Pacific data.

- An overarching legislation and **specific legislation** on adoption, juvenile justice, corporal punishment, child labour, child marriage, child sexual exploitation, cyber-safety, and any other crimes against children
- The establishment of a child protection working group composed of frontline service providers working on child protection case management and referrals with inter-agency guidelines and referral pathway
- A social welfare sectoral annual and multi-annual national **plans and budgets**
- Training in child protection social work, including in emergency contexts, through a combination of a foundational course accredited by a regional Pacific educational institution as a Certificate
- Management information systems (includes case management (CP MIS))
- To Accredited NGO service providers to have formal agreements between the responsible ministry to deliver services⁶
- The ministries responsible for CP to establish strong linkages with communities and community-based mechanisms that promote prevention, detection, response, and reporting of serious cases
- Pre- and in-service **child friendly court training** for judges, magistrates, prosecutors, and lawyers in various areas⁷
- Child protection **guidelines** for health workers in various areas⁸
- Child protection in school guidelines which include provisions to prevent and respond to all forms of violence in schools⁹
- Civil Registration Authority in (i) legislation/policy reform to ensure birth registration is free and decentralized; (ii) training of personnel involved in birth notification and registration; (iii) provision of computers and printers on outer islands; (iv) supervision and monitoring; (v) public awareness campaigns on the importance of birth registration and where and how to register
- Interventions for adults and caregivers, communities, and children and adolescents, using comprehensive social and behaviour change strategies (in cooperation with government and community-based mechanisms and CSOs) to effect social and behaviour change for the prevention of GBV, IPV/DV, and violence against children.¹⁰

The **tentative** programme implementation diagramme (see below) connects activities to the three Outputs, and the one Outcome. There is a box in the middle, entitled “Blank Space”, which is a space holder for approaches used as well as conditions which may facilitate (or impede) progress.

⁶ Services include temporary shelter, family-based care, counselling, family support and guidance i.e., home visits, community-based rehabilitation, supervision of children in conflict with the law (CICL), and early intervention programmes for at-risk youth.

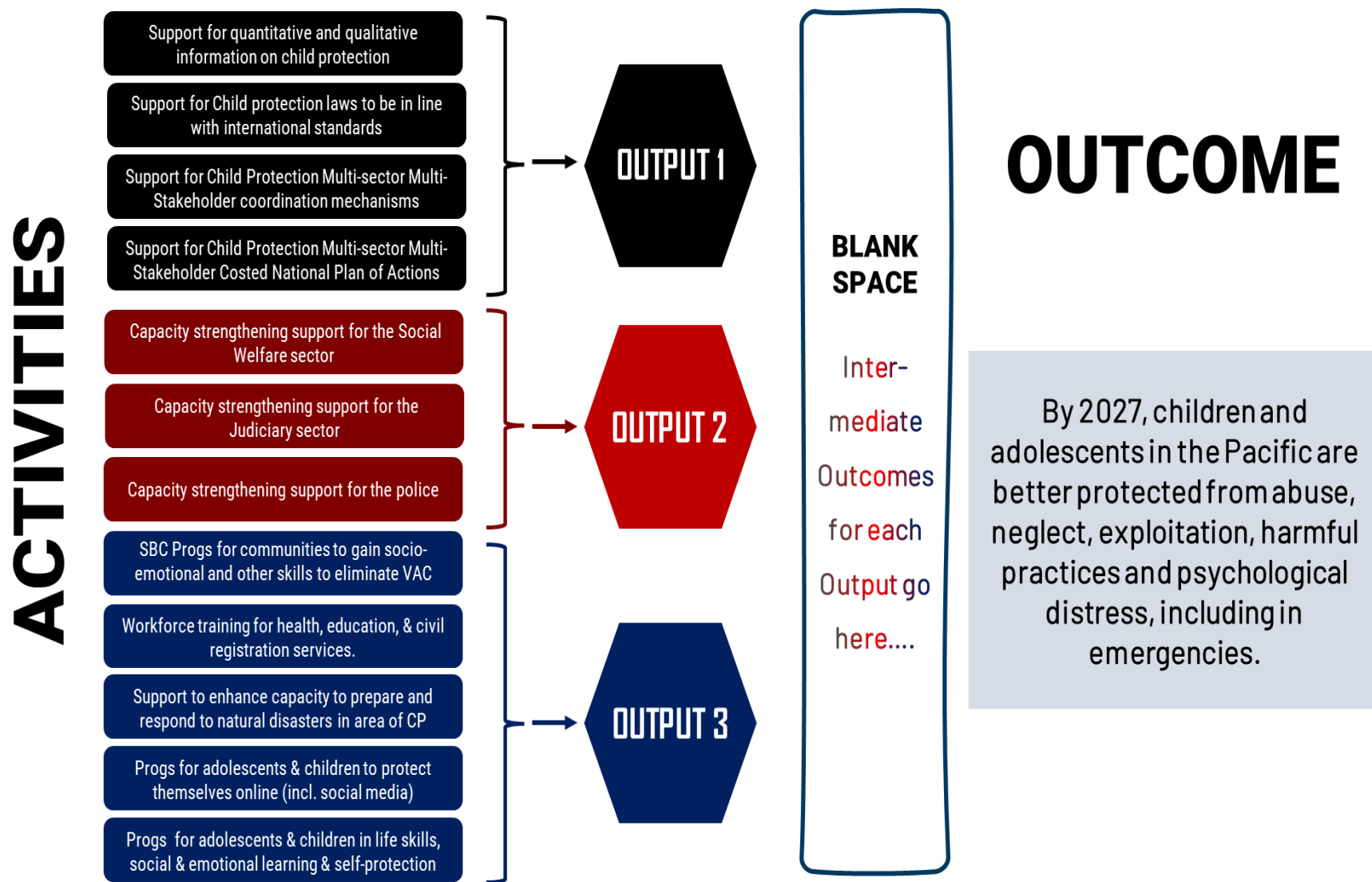
⁷ It is noted that these activities are represented in the standard indicator (or benchmark): “Extent of development of specialized justice for children systems”. Source: UNICEF. (No date). Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027 Programme Rationale Document Child Protection, pages 22-23.

⁸ It is noted that these activities are represented in the *additional indicator (or benchmark)*: “Extent of integration of child protection in the health system”. Source: UNICEF. (No date). Same source as above.

⁹ It is noted that these activities are represented in the *additional indicator (or benchmark)*: “Extent of integration of child protection in the education system”. Source: UNICEF. (No date). Same source as above.

¹⁰ UNICEF. (No date). Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027 Programme Rationale Document Child Protection, pages 14-20.

Figure 1: Tentative programme implementation diagramme.



UNICEF PACIFIC'S BUDGET

The *planned* UNICEF Pacific's CP budget is a little over USD 28.9 million.¹¹ The budget presented in the table below outlines the amount allocated to each Output as well as the funding source.

Table 1: CP Programme *planned* budget framework 2023–2027.

| Output | RR (US\$) | ORR (US\$) | CPD TOTAL | ORE (US\$) | GRAND TOTAL (US\$) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Policy and legal frameworks | 2,833,333 | 5,235,000 | 8,068,333 | 0 | 8,068,333 |
| 2. CP Services | 2,833,333 | 7,235,000 | 10,068,333 | 1,500,000 | 11,568,333 |
| 3. CP Prevention and SBC | 2,833,334 | 6,435,000 | 9,268,334 | 0 | 9,268,334 |
| OUTCOME TOTAL | 8,500,000 | 18,905,000 | 27,405,000 | 1,500,000 | 28,905,000 |

Source: UNICEF Pacific

Abbreviations: RR=Regular Resources ORR=Extrabudgetary Resources ORE= Extrabudgetary Resources Emergency

1.4. SCOPE EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Evaluability and Baseline Assessment of UNICEF Pacific's CP Programme notes that there is a need for robust monitoring and evaluation of outcomes/benchmarks to measure progress in the next programmatic cycle. An evaluability assessment is a quality assurance tool for good programme design, as "it addresses whether the [desired] outcomes of a programme are plausible or feasible."¹² In doing so, an evaluability assessment will help to create a roadmap for UNICEF's future evaluation activities.

In specific, an evaluability assessment ensures that desired results are adequately defined, that causal linkages are clarified, that indicators (benchmarks) are measurable, and that systems are in place to verify results. Additionally, an evaluability assessment can be used as a collaborative evaluation mechanism to: (i) engage programme stakeholders in discussing the details of the scope of a future evaluation; (ii) nurture a common understanding about the use of an equity-focused approach; and (iii) build evaluation capacity.

Therefore, the overall **purpose** is to:

- (1) Undertake a baseline assessment, framed around the UNICEF CP systems strengthening benchmarks;
- (2) Take stock of the necessary systemic or institutional conditions for a successful evaluation;
- (3) Reach consensus about the evaluation scope and framing questions; and

¹¹ UNICEF. (No date). Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027 Programme Rationale Document Child Protection, page 20.

¹² This conforms with a plausibility analysis which is "An assessment of the likelihood that outcomes are achievable given the programme's timeframe, resources, activities, and context(s)." Source: Leviton, Laura & Laura Kettel Khan, Debra Rog, Nicola Dawkins, David Cotton, Evaluability Assessment to Improve Public Health Policies, Programs, and Practices, *Annual Review of Public Health*, 2010 31(1). 213-233.

(4) Draft a ToR for the future programme evaluation.¹³

MEASURING PROGRESS WITH BENCHMARKS

Both the UNICEF 2021-2030 Child Protection Strategy *and* the 2021 Child Protection Systems Strengthening (CPSS) document introduce a framework for establishing and measuring the CP systems. There are seven intermediate outcomes (called “benchmarks” hereafter), each of which have multiple subdomains, “indicating a gradual progression/advancement of that subdomain from **SYSTEM BUILDING** (Level 1) to **SYSTEM MATURITY** (Level 4).¹⁴ See Annex 1 for a full description of each benchmark. Theoretically, these benchmarks enable UNICEF Country Offices to determine the level of maturity of the CP system in a country and to identify interventions across various elements and subdomains that may need further investments in order to systematically move along the systems strengthening trajectory. To undertake the baseline assessment and, eventually determine the evaluability of a future evaluation, the Consultant will apply the CPSS benchmarks to UNICEF Pacific’s 14 PICTs. The benchmarks are:

- (i) Legal, regulatory and policy,
- (ii) Governance,
- (iii) Services,
- (iv) Standards and oversight,
- (v) Resources,
- (vi) Participation, and
- (vii) Data.

SYSTEMIC DATA COLLECTION & INSTITUTIONAL CONDITIONS FOR EVALUATION PROCESSES

Apart from contributing to the Baseline Assessment, the evaluability assessment also presents recommendations designed to strengthen the CP section’s monitoring system. Assuming lessons learned are systematically captured, documented, and shared, these recommendations could, in turn, support operational effectiveness and efficiency.

2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluability and baseline assessment process will draw from both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes: (1) secondary data sources (including monitoring data, budget information, while qualitative data takes the form of (2) key informant interviews (KIIs). This section not only presents each data source but also the approach (to be used) and expected products (or deliverables).

¹³ Given the effects of Covid-19 pandemic, the evaluability assessment also serves as the starting point of key actions.

¹⁴ UNICEF. (2022). Child Protection Systems Strengthening Approaches, Benchmarks and Interventions; Measuring the Maturity of Child Protection Systems), page 32.

2.1 QUANTITATIVE DATA

SECONDARY DATA

From the inception, there is already a rich reservoir of secondary data, including:

1. MICS/DHS;¹⁵
2. Situation Analyses;¹⁶
3. UNICEF Internal documents (see [bibliography](#) for the full list resources);¹⁷
4. UNICEF Knowledge and practices (KAP) data;
5. Strategies (i.e., Programme Rationale Document 2023-2027, Programme Strategy Note 2018-2022, *Revised ToC*);
6. UNICEF Country Summaries;¹⁸ and
7. Guidance and other documents that provide contextual information.¹⁹

APPROACH TO GAINING CONSENSUS FOR BASELINE DATA

To undertake a baseline assessment, framed around the UNICEF CP benchmarks, the Consultant will codify the CPSS benchmarks in the form of a heatmap to represent the baselines for each PICT based on evidence from secondary information. It is necessary to discuss a series of questions for further reflection with UNICEF stakeholders. These discussions will ensure that: (1) the codification process is systematic; and (2) the data that is gathered during this consultancy will be relevant in the next three to four years (when a formal evaluation process takes place). Under each set of benchmarks, the following discussion questions are:

1. LEGAL, REGULATORY AND POLICY:

- 1.1. In order to respond to the question “to what extent do the legal and policy frameworks in PICTs align with international instruments?”, the Consultant will need to access the results of an ongoing study/assessment.²⁰

2. GOVERNANCE:

- 2.1. No questions.

3. A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES:

- 3.1. The CPSS benchmarks do not appear to capture all of the nuanced levels of development/progress in the area of workforce development. Would the UNICEF staff be open to alternative measures? Options could be discussed.

4. STANDARDS AND OVERSIGHT:

¹⁵ MICS data includes: Kiribati 2018-2019, Fiji 2021, Samoa 2019-2020, Tonga 2019, and Tuvalu 2019-2020; DHS data includes: Kiribati Disability Survey 2021 & DHS 2018, Nauru 2007, MHL 2007, Samoa MICS/DHS 2019, Solomon 2015, and Vanuatu 2013. Source: <https://sdd.spc.int/census-and-survey-calendar>.

¹⁶ Coram International. (2022). Situation Analysis of Children in the Pacific Island Countries; and Situation Analysis. (2017). For the following PICTs: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands (RMI), Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

¹⁷ UNICEF. Child Protection Programme – Handover Programme Components; Analysis of PIC’s Legal and Policy Framework for Child Protection; PICT Country Profiles Socio-Economic Indicators; and PICT Country Profiles: Data and Studies.

¹⁸ Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, FSM, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

¹⁹ UNICEF. (2022). Child Protection Systems Strengthening Approaches, Benchmarks and Interventions; Measuring the Maturity of Child Protection Systems, page 32. A Guide on How to Use the CPSS Benchmarks; and the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022.

²⁰ It is noted that an advanced study/assessment is underway which could be used to support the Evaluability Assessment. The results of this important work will not be ready until end December 2022.

4.1. No questions.

5. RESOURCES:

5.1. This area is very important, and UNICEF will provide the necessary information.

6. MECHANISMS FOR CHILD PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

6.1. In order to assess the extent to which SBC interventions are in fact changing attitudes and behaviours at the community level, what data is available?

DELIVERABLE

The Report on the Baseline Measures and Measurability of the Programme Progress will include a heatmap with the seven benchmarks for the 14 PICTs in an Excel file. The file/report will also include documents and all data sources in an organised fashion. An *illustrative* heatmap below shows what this deliverable could look like.²¹

²¹ Some information for the illustrative figure was sourced from Source: UNICEF. (No date). Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027 Programme Rationale Document Child Protection, pages 21-23; UNICEF. Internal documents: UNICEF. Child Protection Programme – Handover Programme Components; UNICEF Internal documents: Analysis of PIC’s Legal and Policy Framework For Child Protection; UNICEF Internal documents: PICT Country Profiles Socio-Economic Indicators; and PICT Country Profiles: Data and Studies.

APPROACH TO DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE MONITORING²²

To assess the robustness of the programme design, the availability of information, the adequacy of systems to deliver monitor and manage information, and the conduciveness of the institutional context, the Consultant will work with the UNICEF staff member(s) responsible for programme management and data collection & monitoring to understand:

1. PROGRAMME DESIGN:

- 1.1. Does the sector programme have a clear theory of change or logic model? Does it address the problems identified?
- 1.2. Is the **RESULTS FRAMEWORK** of the sector programme coherently articulated and aligned to country context and national priorities? Is it aligned to the UNICEF Strategic Plan? Is it aligned to regional priorities?
- 1.3. Do the outputs, outcomes and overall goal follow the result chain logic? The results chains are coherent, logical, with clearly articulated statements?
- 1.4. Are results statements and the **RESULTS FRAMEWORK**, taking into account equity considerations to programming and gender-responsiveness?
- 1.5. Are the results clear and realistic? Are they measurable (quantitatively or qualitatively)?

2. QUALITY OF MEASUREMENT:

- 2.1. What are the current measurements/benchmarks for the CP Programme **RESULTS FRAMEWORK**?²³
- 2.2. Where will the future baseline CPSS benchmarks (updated by the Consultant) “fit” in the **RESULTS FRAMEWORK**? Is this fit logical and coherent with the overall **RESULTS FRAMEWORK**?
- 2.3. Whether these baseline CPSS benchmarks are sufficient for determining the future effectiveness of the UNICEF Pacific CP programme?
- 2.4. Are the different programme stakeholders (or beneficiary groups) clearly articulated?
- 2.5. How well have assumptions and risks been specified? Are there explicit plans and practical means to monitor these?

3. ADEQUACY & VALIDITY OF THE INDICATORS, TOOLS & SYSTEMS FOR MONITORING, MEASURING & VERIFYING RESULTS:

- 3.1. Does the CP programme have capacity to provide data for monitoring and evaluation?
- 3.2. Does the CP programme have a monitoring system to gather and systematise the information with defined responsibilities, sources and periodicity?
- 3.3. To what extent do indicators (benchmarks) and targets take into consideration equity considerations (where needed)?

4. DATA AVAILABILITY:

- 4.1. What are the existing data collection systems and availability of information? Is there a complete set of documents available? Are these documents accessible and well organised?
- 4.2. What current existing data is considered useful and relevant, given reporting and operational requirements (i.e., donor reports, Results oriented databases, etc.)?

²² The questions presented in this section adhere to the principles outlined in UNICEF Evaluation Office. (2019). Guidance Note for Conducting Evaluability Assessments in UNICEF, Annex 1: Checklist for Determining the Evaluability of a Programme/Intervention, page 12.

²³ The Results Framework is already noted in the UNICEF. (No date). Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027 Programme Rationale Document Child Protection. Are there any other benchmarks are being used?

- 4.3. What disaggregated data is available for the number of recipients receiving support through the UNICEF CP programme and beneficiaries (i.e., community-based interventions) in the PICTs?
- 4.4. How prevalent is “missing data” for CP and juvenile justice service provision in the 14 PICTs (i.e., relates to the number of cases in the CP sectors)?

5. DATA MONITORING, MANAGEMENT & USE:

- 5.1. What are the existing formal and informal feedback mechanisms *within the CP section* for informing future programmatic decisions?²⁴ Specifically, to what extent are lessons learned documented, shared, and used to make the necessary programmatic adjustments?
- 5.2. Where could improvements be made?

6. AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

- 6.1. Are there systems in place to monitor the financial resources dedicated for each programme output?
- 6.2. What is the section’s evaluation plan?
- 6.3. What is the budget for the Section’s monitoring & evaluation activities? Is this sufficient for the CP Programme overall needs?
- 6.4. How much funding has been set aside for the future evaluation?

7. PLANNING EVALUATIONS

- 7.1. Is there demand for evaluation? If not, why? And are demands realistic given programme design, budget and data availability?”
- 7.2. Is there a viable plan to fill data gaps?
- 7.3. Are the resources aligned with the results?

DELIVERABLE

Based on the responses to the five specific areas and questions noted above, the Consultant will present a comprehensive **EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT REPORT** which includes recommendations to support the CP section’s data management capacity.

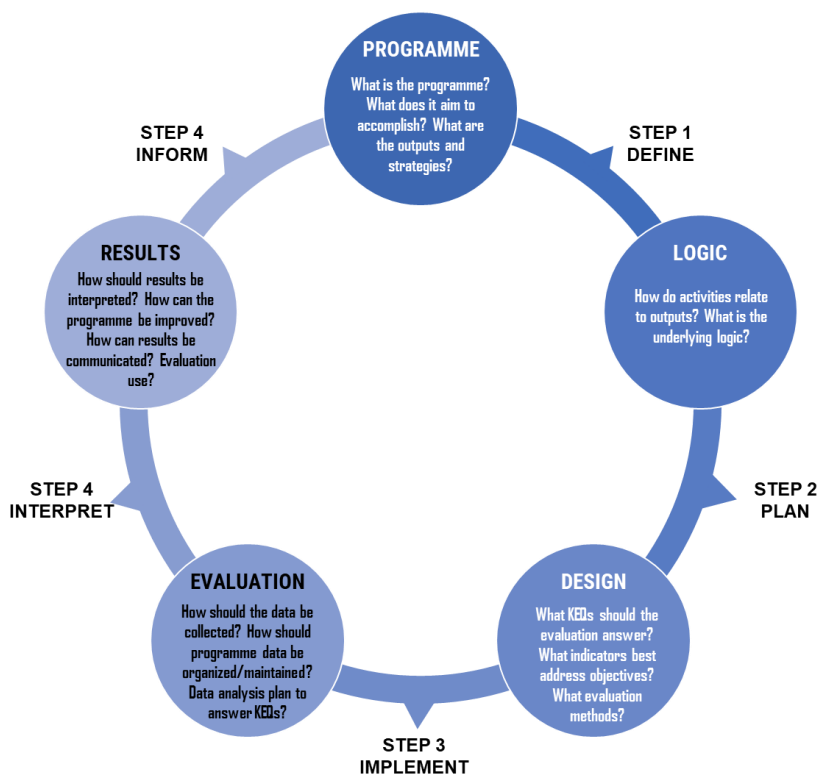
2.2.2 UNDERSTANDING THE PROGRAMME

The UNICEF Pacific’s CP Section is at an important juncture with the CP Programme cycle, in that there is an opportunity to fully integrate evaluation into the CP Programme. A five-step process²⁵ is available to support the CP section (see figure below).

²⁴ This would also include communications between Child Protection Officers and (i) the respective sub-offices; and (ii) the focal points in other PICTs.

²⁵ This process is called “Embedded Evaluation”. Source: Giancola, Susan. (2019). Program Evaluation: Embedding Evaluation into Program Design and Development, Sage Publications: New Delhi, page 215.

Figure 3: Five-step process for integrating evaluation



In the first step, DEFINE & PLAN, the programme’s main components (one Outcome, three Outputs, strategies, benchmarks) are fully documented, as they are already defined.

During these phases, it is also ideal for programme stakeholders to confirm the **THEORY OF CHANGE** (ToC) and identify if there are perceived duplications or gaps. The Consultant will work with UNICEF CP Section staff to confirm the ToC with partners (via email) and ask about their expectations for the future evaluation.

The third step, IMPLEMENT, would be to design and carry out evaluation activities, and this step includes drafting a ToR for the future evaluation. A key activity to creating a robust ToR is having a clear understanding of how the CP Programme operates as well as observing first hand its underlying challenges. The last two steps, INTERPRET and INFORM, are equally as important, as there is an outline for how the evaluation would be carried out (as per the Evaluation ToR) as well as what steps could be taken for communicating and using the evaluation results (i.e., informing the next programme cycle).

UNCONFIRMED THEORY OF CHANGE

A review of the evidence shows that there is an existing ToC which is the result of several modifications. This current one is articulated in the UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027 Programme Rationale Document for CP (in Annex II).

This ToC frames the **supply** of support from policy, services, government and community partnerships, and investments in comprehensive social and behaviour change strategies at the community level. Through IF-THEN statements (see below), the supply of support will result in girls and boys in PICTs, especially the most at risk, being protected against violence and abuse.

Figure 4: Current ToC

| No. | SUPPORT IN SPECIFIC SECTOR | IF STATEMENTS | THEN STATEMENTS |
|------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | ENABLING ENVIRONMENT [POLICY] | <p>IF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Data on child protection issues and systems are available and used for advocacy, planning and monitoring, AND +Legislation to protect children from neglect, abuse and exploitation, separation from family and any other form of harm is developed and enacted, AND +Multisector child protection policy and costed plan are developed and implemented, AND +Multisector strategic and operational child protection coordination mechanisms are established and functioning at national and local level, AND +Child protection is incorporated in national development plans, health education, social protection and justice sectoral policies. | <p>THEN....</p> <p>Multi- sector child protection systems will function in a coordinated manner under a comprehensive and coherent legal, policy and regulatory framework.</p> |
| | MULTISECTORAL COORDINATION [SERVICES] | | |
| AND | | | |
| 2 | WORKFORCE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT [SERVICES] | <p>IF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Social welfare services have the capacity to manage child protection cases adequately, AND +Judiciary services have the capacity to handle children in criminal and civil proceedings sensitively, AND +Police services have the capacity to handle child victims, witnesses and offenders sensitively, AND +Health services have the capacity to prevent, detect, diagnose, treat and report child abuse/neglect adequately, AND +Education services have the capacity to prevent violent discipline and bullying, detect and report child abuse and to teach children and adolescents to protect themselves. | <p>THEN....</p> <p>Children and families will have access to quality social welfare, justice, police, health, and education services preventing and responding to all forms of neglect, abuse, and exploitation of children.</p> |
| | | | |
| AND | | | |
| 3 | COMMUNITY SUPPORT AVAILABLE | <p>IF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Caregivers acquire knowledge about child development and parenting skills and are engaged in structured dialogue about child protection, AND +Adolescents acquire life skills to protect themselves and future generations of children, AND +Communities, in particular community leaders, are engaged in preventing and responding to child protection concerns, AND +Media disseminate information about child development, report on child protection issues and promote debate on child protection concerns, AND +Opinion leaders such as traditional, faith-based and sports-based organisations and leaders promote positive childcare practices. | <p>THEN....</p> <p>Children will be cared for and protected by their families and communities.</p> |
| | | | |

Assumptions:

1. Governments understand the consequences of child neglect, abuse and exploitation, and adopt a comprehensive approach to prevention and response to child protection concerns.
2. Each of the five sectors develops, implements, and embeds in its existing system CP procedures, skills-based training, and monitoring tools.
3. Caregivers abandon harmful practices and adopt or strengthen protective ones.
4. Women and children will ultimately be valued and respected within society as equals, perpetrators are held to account for their actions.

It was noted that the CP section staff will review this ToC, ensuring that it fully represents current workstreams. The Consultant will await the revised version.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

The Consultant will interview and engage various stakeholders connected to the CP Programme. To support the conduct of the baseline assessment (using CP systems strengthening benchmarks) and review data management processes, the following stakeholders will be consulted: including: (1) Donors-if possible; (2) UNICEF CP staff; and (3) Child Protection Experts.²⁶

Figure 5: Stakeholder analysis.

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
|  | 1. Donors | Donors and other key UN agencies could be contacted for their views and expectations. |
|  | 2. UNICEF CP Programme staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Protection Section Chief;• Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation/Knowledge Management• Protection Specialist (Justice);• Protection Specialist (Social Welfare);• Child Protection Specialist (Social Behavioural Change); and• Field Office staff (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu). Time permitting. |
|  | 3. Child Protection Experts | Three supporting consultants for CP Programme would also be an excellent source of information. ²⁷ |

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

²⁶ Note that implementation partners were omitted from the formal consultation process due to multiple external factors beyond the control of the Consultant. Partners will however have the opportunity to validate the ToC via email. See section below.

²⁷ *Suggested interview.* Shelley Casey, (Law, former magistrate), Laura Evans (social work), Stephanie Delaney (social work), and Vimala Periyannapillai.

In addition, the Consultant will request relevant programme implementing partners via email to confirm if the UNICEF CP ToC is relevant and corresponds with their work and their country context(s). The other critical questions include (i) “What are the key issues to examine for the future evaluation?” and “What are any known ethical issues?”

ETHICAL PROTOCOLS

As part of the Informed Consent protocol, all participants in this exercise will be shown respect in the following manner:

1. An explanation of why all stakeholders **are invited** to take part in the evaluability assessment;
2. The **purpose** of the evaluability assessment will be clearly explained;
3. The data gathered will be used to develop the ToC for an upcoming evaluation;
4. It will be made clear that here is **no “right” or “wrong” answer**; and
5. All information provided will be kept **confidential** and will not be shared with anyone else.

DELIVERABLES

- A finalised ToR for the future CP programme evaluation in consultation with UNICEF;
- Further refinement of the most relevant benchmarks; and
- Catalogued and organised data and documents relevant to CP Programme evaluation.

3. DELIVERABLES & TIMELINE

3.1 SUMMARY OF DELIVERABLES

This time period for this exercise is from mid November 2022 through mid-February 2023, and there are three distinct phases, namely (1) Inception, (2) Data collection, and (3) Developing of the deliverables, including the (a) Evaluability Assessment Report; (b) Report on the baseline measures and measurability of the programme progress along standard benchmarks; (c) ToR for the evaluation of the CP programme, and (d) Catalogued relevant data/documents of the CP programme evaluation. The four deliverables and their deadlines are listed in the table below.

Table 2: Deliverables and timeline

| | DELIVERABLE | DEADLINE |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Inception Report | 2 November |
| 2 | Evaluability Assessment Report | 23 December ²⁸ |

²⁸ The extended deadline accommodates the additional time needed to conduct remote interviews with Field Office staff (if possible).

| | DELIVERABLE | DEADLINE |
|---|---|------------------|
| 3 | Report on the baseline measures and measurability of the programme progress along standard benchmarks | 16 January 2023 |
| 4 | Finalised ToR for evaluation of CP programme | |
| 5 | Catalogue and organize all data and documents relevant to CP Programme evaluation since 2018 to date | 13 February 2023 |

ANNEX 1: INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES / BENCHMARKS

Legal and policy framework

Investments in policy advocacy and technical support lead to strong legal and regulatory framework for child protection and child protection systems. Investments result in formal high-level political commitment to CPSS, adequate allocation of financial and human resources for child protection, establishment and recognition of lead ministries/agencies for child protection and CPSS. The lead agency/ministry establishes and strengthens relationships with other allied systems/sectors. Child protection interventions (prevention and response) within the broader multisectoral responses are led by the recognized national/sub-national ministry/agency and better coordinated within and across sectors.

Governance and coordination structures

Improved coordination and governance mechanisms result in the lead ministry/agency responsible for delivery of child protection at central government level being linked to sub-national bodies with responsibility for child protection. Multi-sector child protection coordination mechanisms are formalized and functional at the national and subnational levels, as well as across borders, and stakeholders are aware of their own roles. Intra and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for planning, programme implementation, monitoring and reviews are formalized, and the functioning of these mechanisms is reviewed regularly.

A continuum of services

Scaled-up prevention and response related child protection services are available and integrated through national case information management systems. The services may be funded and implemented by the government or civil society or the private sector, with government oversight. Protocols for child protection services are in place, are regularly reviewed and revised to adapt to emerging situations.

Minimum standards and oversight mechanisms

Periodic/annual audits, review and evaluation mechanisms for child protection services are established and implemented, and services often see changes and improvements based on findings of audits and external evaluations. Services are coordinated by case management and referral and supervised through robust supervision systems. Additionally, regular monitoring and reporting of child protection services is carried out by national or local governments to ensure national minimum standards are fully enforced. Child protection concerns can be reported to

functional national human rights institutions and courts empowered to hold governments accountable.

Human, financial and infrastructure resource

A well-planned, -developed and -supported– social service workforce is in place. Licensing and accreditation systems as well as supportive supervision systems are fully functional. Human resources information is regularly gathered, analysed and used to refine/revise social service workforce strategies. All or a vast majority of child protection tertiary services are funded by the public sector. Budgets and expenditures are regularly/annually tracked.

Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement

There is an independent child complaints procedure (e.g., an ombudsperson) that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles, with an ability to hear, review and enforce individual complaints from children about refusal to receive child protection services or about the child protection system or services received. Specialized courts and procedures compliant with international standards are in place for children in contact with the law and for children to access justice and seek redress and remedies for violations of their child protection rights. Government supports forums such as children's groups established at local government/community level, and a formal mechanism is in place through which national/sub-national/local government receives and responds to feedback from children and children's groups who have received child protection services. Community-based mechanisms are functional across the country where necessary and per applicability (urban/rural) and per protocols or procedures. The effectiveness of these mechanisms is monitored through fully functional accountability mechanisms.

Data collection and monitoring systems

Data collection takes place at regular intervals, using definitions that are in line with international standards or national legislations. Detailed and comprehensive ethical protocols are adopted and used. Data can be disaggregated according to different stratifiers to ensure that no child is left behind. Data on hard-to-reach populations, including street-connected children, are also generated at regular intervals. Data are analysed, widely disseminated and used for policy, planning and monitoring of programmes. There is legislation on data collection, transfer of data, quality recordkeeping, usage of data, and the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors. Data protection protocols are in place and adhered to. There is a centralised coordination body to oversee the system and ensure effective coordination and data-sharing between the different agencies, with the national statistical offices playing a critical role in the coordination of any data collection system.

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