

Impacts of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation on Children in Thailand (RFPS)

1. BACKGROUND

Climate crisis is a child rights crisis. The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Environment stated that “no group is more vulnerable to environmental harm than children. Air pollution, water pollution and exposure to toxic substances, together with other types of environmental harm, cause 1.5 million deaths of children under the age of 5 every year, and contribute to disease, disability and early mortality throughout their life. In addition, climate change and the loss of biodiversity threaten to cause long-term effects that will blight children’s lives for years to come. Making matters worse, children are often not able to exercise their rights, including their rights to information, participation and access to effective remedies”, in his 2018 report¹.

Children in Thailand are highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Based on 2019 assessment by UNICEF Thailand, the percentage of children living in multidimensional poverty in Thailand was 21.5%, with children more affected, including those between 0-4 being at higher risk of poverty (41.6%) (UNICEF 2019). The Child MPI is composed of four dimensions (Education, Child Welfare, Health and Living Conditions) across ten indicators - impacts of climate change and environmental degradation have the potential to worsen these factors, contributing to increased child poverty nationally. For example, nationally, about 73% of children were unable to attend class in 2019 due to natural disasters (MICS 2019), with about 19,000 children were affected in Ubon Ratchathani alone due to floods in September 2019 (UNICEF 2019). Air pollution is another key environmental issue affecting children in the country. Clean air is one of the fundamental rights of every child as it affects many aspects of child survival, health and development throughout the course of their life.

In light of the growing concerns for the environment and their futures, youth in Thailand have actively mobilised themselves and have demanded increased climate action by all stakeholders. In 2019, youths led one of the first major climate strikes in Thailand with over 150 people taking part and handing their letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, as part of the larger global youth climate movement Fridays for Future involving over 6 million people globally in the lead up to the UN Climate Summit in New York. In addition, in a global poll conducted recently, 64% of the children polled in Thailand belief that climate change is an emergency, even in the current context of COVID-19 (UNDP 2021).

Reflecting on the immediate and longer-term challenges presents Thailand with a golden opportunity to shift its development trajectory and environmental credentials to align with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thailand’s economic and social progress has been accompanied by conspicuous levels of environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and the pollution of air through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well the contamination of land and water resources. The country ranks high on the global list of GHG emitting nations, in turn contributing to climate change, which increases

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/environment/srenvironment/pages/environmentandrightschild.aspx>

Thailand's already high exposure to extreme weather events and their devastating effects. In addition, a financing requirement close to US\$ 1 billion, among other capacity gaps, is needed to begin to remedy this precarious situation, including a number of critical transboundary issues. For example, haze pollution, which originates from neighbouring Myanmar and Lao PDR as well as domestically, exerts a substantial impact on human health, local economies and biodiversity. Thailand is also the world's sixth biggest contributor of marine pollution, which has become one of the most critical global transboundary issues due to the multiple threats it poses. Thailand has arrived at a pivotal juncture to transform its economic model based on green principles, and thereby provide leadership in the environmental domain akin to its exemplar role in achieving economic and social progress over the past half century.

Thailand has recognized climate change as one of the key challenges affecting communities' livelihoods and economic growth and formulated high-level policies and plans such as the Climate Change Master Plan 2015-2050. Thailand is now in the process of formulating its Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS). Climate adaptation is also prioritized through Thailand's first National Adaptation Plan that aims to minimize climate risks and vulnerability and improve climate resilience of vulnerable sectors and populations. However, existing climate policies and plans seem to have limited recognition and inclusion of children's environmental rights and their unique vulnerabilities and needs. For instance, there is limited reflection and prioritization of climate vulnerability and adaptation needs of key social sectors such as education and social protection systems that are critical for children's climate resilience. At the same time, proposed measures and actions in the country's ambitious climate plans and policies will need to address significant challenges and barriers including high upfront investment costs, technical capacity, effective coordination and public support. There are also challenges related to uncertainties of climate change and its impacts, lack of data and researches on coping capacities and vulnerabilities in sectors and local area and lack of tools to support implementation, as identified in the updated NDC.

UNICEF as the UN agency mandated to protect the rights of every child, including children's environmental rights, intends to launch a comprehensive assessment on children and climate change as part of its contribution to national climate and environmental efforts, with a focus on children's unique vulnerabilities, needs and perspectives in Thailand.

2. OBJECTIVES, PURPOSE AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The purpose of this assignment is to produce much needed data and evidence on the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on children and fill the critical data, information and knowledge gaps in promoting child-sensitive climate and environmental policies and programmes in Thailand.

The assignment will be undertaken to assess both the current and projected impacts of climate change and environmental degradation and related climate/environmental policy measures on children in Thailand and to provide actionable recommendations to the Government of Thailand and UNICEF, including possibilities for expanding public and private partnerships towards addressing the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on children and adolescents.

By enhancing availability and use of policy-relevant child-specific data and information on climate and environmental issues, this assessment is ultimately intended to contribute to the design and implementation of inclusive and equitable climate and environmental policies and measures including Thailand's updated

Nationally Determined Contribution, National Adaptation Plan and relevant sector and sub-national policies and programs.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assessment will be undertaken through literature review, available data and information, desk-based analysis and stakeholder and expert consultations. This publication is expected to be developed and endorsed jointly by UNICEF and relevant government partners.

The assignment will include the following key elements:

1. Assessment of impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on children in Thailand, by region, urban/rural, income groups, minority ethnic groups, disability, gender, age
 - 1.1. Development of a context-specific methodology for the impact assessment, including potential use and adaptation of existing climate and socio-economic impact assessments models, scenario tools, stakeholder consultation, climate vulnerability and risk index, definition of the impact assessment scale and scope
 - 1.2. Impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on child multi-dimensional poverty – across the four dimensions of education, health, welfare, living condition – in Thailand over 2010-2021, based on the available data.
 - 1.3. Projected impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on child multi-dimensional poverty (education, health, welfare, living condition) in Thailand under future climate scenarios over the short, medium- and long-term
2. Assessment of projected impacts of key national and sectoral climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental policies and programmes on children in Thailand
 - 2.1. Identification and review of key climate, environmental policies, institutions, public finance, programmes such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Long Term Strategies (LTS), public climate/environmental funding, private sector investment, youth engagement, youth entrepreneurship
 - 2.2. Both positive co-benefits and adverse side-effects of selected policies and measures, especially on inequality, distributional impacts and child poverty
 - 2.3. Impact analysis with disaggregation by region, age, gender, disability, income groups, minority ethnic groups
 - 2.4. Identification of green skills and jobs potentials based on the current policy scenarios and sectors that may be negatively affected by the climate change
 - 2.5. Identification and analysis of key stakeholders and partners, including central and local government agencies, private sector and youth networks and influencers for addressing these impacts and seizing the opportunities for child-sensitive climate actions
3. Recommendation for Child-Sensitive Climate and Environmental Actions
 - 3.1. Development of a methodology for identification, prioritization and selection of the recommended actions, both for Government and for UNICEF in line with its country programme 2022-2026
 - 3.2. Child-sensitive measures to reduce exposure and vulnerability of children, especially most marginalized to climate change to be considered in climate adaptation policies such as the NAP

- 3.3. Child-sensitive measures to accelerate climate mitigation and a just transition towards a low carbon economy to be considered in climate mitigation policies such as the NDC and LTS
- 3.4. Measures to improve equality and equity outcomes of key climate mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes to be considered by finance, social policy, education, health sectors
- 3.5. Measures to empower and enhance children, adolescents and youth engagement in climate actions

4. Multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary process

- 4.1. Organization of expert group meetings to consult, validate and disseminate the methodology, process, and key findings including UNICEF, government, private sector, academia and child/youth groups (online/offline depending on COVID situation)

4. DELIVERABLES

The following key deliverables are expected:

1. Inception report on the assignment methodology, tools, process and timeline, as well as the Research Ethics Review clearance as applicable
2. A multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder Reference Group is established; Consultation meetings are organized to guide and validate the assessment and recommendations
3. Report on the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on children (draft, final), including the stakeholder mapping
4. Report on the projected impacts of climate and environmental policies and measures on children (draft, final)
5. Report on the recommended child-sensitive climate and environmental actions with a feasibility analysis of each of the recommendations
6. Policy briefs, PPT slides, fact sheets on the key findings of the assignment (detailed formats, audience, quantity to be determined during the assignment) (6 pages for policy briefs max)
7. Technical note on the methodology, lessons learned and recommendations for use by UNICEF regional climate change and environment advisor to share this assignment experience with UNICEF country offices, regional offices and HQ (6 pages)

The contact list of the key relevant informants will be provided to the research team once a contractual agreement was made. A more in-depth stakeholder analysis may be conducted by the research team during the inception phase to propose for inclusion in the Reference Group. Detailed methodology including the sampling of key informants for interviews and field sites will be determined during the inception phase, in consultation with and upon clearance of UNICEF.

The first draft of the final report will be received by the research manager who will work with the reporting team on necessary revisions in consultation with the country and regional teams before sharing the report to the research reference group for comments. The research manager will consolidate all comments in a response matrix and request the reporting team to indicate actions taken against each comment in the production of the second draft final and final reports. Products are expected to conform to the stipulated number of pages where that applies.

Reports shall be prepared in accordance with UNICEF Style Guide and UNICEF Brand Toolkit (will be shared with the research team). All deliverables must be in delivered in Thai and in professional level standard English and must be proofread by a native English speaker.

A quality assurance (QA) review in line with UNICEF Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Research Studies and Evaluations (RSEs) will be applied to both Inception Report and Final Draft Report. The QA is performed by the Country and Regional Offices, using an external review facility.

There are some limitations to the research which can hinder the process, notably:

- The analysis is likely to require an assessment of political will and alignment with budget processes. There may be certain limitations to the information that can be collected in this regard. As a mitigation measure, UNICEF would leverage its contacts and partnerships, although it would not be able to control the availability of information.
- Contacts with stakeholders will depend on their availability. Due to the considerable scope of potential sites, it will not be feasible to visit all of them. A research sampling plan will explore mitigation of these and other related potential limitations.

Ethical Considerations

Special measures will be put in place to ensure that the research process and methodology used are ethical, age-appropriate, and that the participants in the research process can openly express their opinion. The sources of information will be protected and known only to the research team. The research team shall ensure that the research process is in line with [UNICEF PROCEDURE FOR ETHICAL STANDARDS IN RESEARCH](#). Therefore, the research team must ensure that it is clear to all subjects that their participation in the research is voluntary. All participants should be informed or advised of the context and purpose of the research, as well as the privacy and confidentiality of the discussions.

The research team is responsible for acquiring an ethical review board clearance prior to data collection.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The contract will be supervised and managed by UNICEF Thailand Deputy Representative, with the EAPRO Regional Climate Change and Environment Advisor providing technical supervision and guidance.

The research team will work in collaboration with relevant sections of UNICEF Thailand Country Office. Additional quality assurance will be provided as needed by Regional Advisers and HQ technical staff. Inception, draft and final Reports will need to be rated as satisfactory by UNICEF's external quality assurance facility.

The research team leader will ensure the quality, relevance and independence of the assessments and guarantee their alignment with Research, Study and Evaluation Standards and ethical guidelines.

Reference Group

Under UNICEF lead, a Reference Group composed of government, academic, private sector, youth experts and young people will be established to act as an advisory and provide inputs on all main research deliverables. The Reference Group is expected to provide feedback during the research process and on the

deliverables, as well as comment on the approach and methods and facilitate access to data and information. Representatives of the reference group will participate in elaboration of recommendations through active contribution during debriefing meetings and by providing feedback to the draft inception and final reports. The establishment and organization of this Reference Group is part of the deliverables of the assignment as indicated above.

6. LOCATION AND DURATION

Duration: Tentative contract duration is 6 months starting from 1st October 2021. Bidders may propose a detailed timeline for the implementation of tasks and deliverables.

Location: Thailand / remote working from any location

Travel: No travel is foreseen under this assignment. Meetings and interviews will be done remotely.

7. QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

The assignment will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary team of experts (including the Team Leader and at least one national of Thailand), all to be recruited by an institutional contractor, who should have substantive expertise in leading and conducting similar research and should not have any conflict of interest with respect to UNICEF.

The team will have combined knowledge and expertise in the following areas:

- Climate change, environmental management and policy
- Environmental economics
- Social policy and public finance
- Governance and private sector engagement
- Advocacy
- Child rights, gender equality, human rights.

Companies responding to the RFP should plan to hire interpreters and consultants for support in interpretation, organization of the in-country consultations, and interpretation of findings from a country-specific standpoint if needed.

The research will have to be conducted by a gender-balanced team covering the below requirements:

- Team-leader with proven extensive experience (at least 10 years) in conducting similar research. Having conducted similar climate-related research for UNICEF and UN agencies is an asset, having research positively rated by UNICEF's quality assurance system is an additional asset.
- At least two team members with proven expertise in one or more of the following areas: environmental management, environmental economics, climate change, social policy and public finance, governance, private sector engagement
- At least one team member with proven extensive experience in quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis
- At least one team member with national expertise and work experience in Thailand with fluency in Thai and English.

- All team members with experience of working in middle income countries, relevant experience in east Asia is a plus.
- At least one team member with solid knowledge on child rights, HRBA and gender equality
- Excellent report writing skills in Thai and English
- Good communication skills
- Fluency in English

The research team including their consultants must remain in strict adherence with UNICEF Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct.

Roles and responsibilities for the contractor - team leader and team members:

The team leader will be responsible for managing and leading the team, designing the methodology, developing tools, data collection, analyzing data, conducting debriefing sessions and recommendations workshop, drafting the inception and the final reports with recommendations, guiding other team members, and presenting the final report.

Specific tasks for the team leader include the following:

- guide the desk review including all relevant programme and project documents and reports, previous studies and research and evaluations
- develop and provide methodological guidance for the team with regard to the tool development and define overall direction for data analysis and quality assurance
- provide guidance on the preparation of deliverables
- manage the workplan
- maintain coordination and communication with the other team members and UNICEF staff involved in the research
- lead the planning and conduct analysis and discussion on the research questions and issues common to the team and the process
- undertake the data gathering mission and present the findings to CO, Reference Group and the research manager

Common tasks and duties for all team members:

- all team members are requested to familiarize themselves with UNICEF global normative products in the substantive areas for which they are responsible. These are available on www.unicef.org
- all team members will contribute to the deliverables – inception report, final report and power point presentation
- the national team member will support the team leader in design, data collection and analysis, debriefing sessions and recommendations workshop, and drafting parts of inception and final reports, and translation of documents from Thai to English and vice versa, where needed.

8. EVALUATION PROCESS (for this solicitation / tender)

The evaluation panel will first review each response for compliance with the mandatory requirements of this RFPS. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions contained in this RFPS, including provision of all required information, may result in a response or proposal being disqualified from further consideration. Kindly also refer to the detailed instructions in the main LRPS document.

Each valid proposal will be assessed by an evaluation panel first on its technical merits and subsequently on its price. For this RFPS, the weight allocated to the technical proposal is 70 % (i.e. 70 out of 100 points). To be further considered for the financial evaluation a minimum score of 49 points is required. Only proposals with a score of 49 or more points in the technical evaluation will be financially evaluated (i.e. the financial proposal will be opened). For further details and the distribution of points kindly refer to **table 1** below.

The weight allocated to the financial proposal is 30 % as per the following: the maximum number of 30 points will be allotted to the lowest technically compliant proposal. All other price proposals will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price. Commercial proposals should be submitted on an all-inclusive basis for providing the contracted deliverables as described in the TOR.

The proposal(s) obtaining the overall highest score after adding the scores for the technical and financial proposals is the proposal that offers best value for money and will be recommended for award of the contract.

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria and distribution of points

| CATEGORY | Max. Points |
|---|-------------|
| 1. OVERALL RESPONSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completeness of response (5) • Overall concord between RFP requirement and proposal (5) | 10 |
| 2. METHODOLOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed work plan with detailed sampling methods and approach of implementation plan of the tasks as per the TOR (15) • Implementation strategies, monitoring and evaluation, quality control mechanism (10) • Technologies used - compatibility with UNICEF (5) • Innovative approach (5) | 35 |
| 3. PROPOSED TEAM and ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range and depth of organizational experience with similar projects (4) • Samples of previous work (3) • Number of customers, size of projects, number of staff per project (3) • Client references (7) • Key personnel: relevant experience and qualifications of the proposed team for the assignment (8) | 25 |
| TOTAL POINTS FOR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (min. passing score = 49 points) | 70 |
| 4. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full marks are allocated to the lowest priced proposal. The financial scores of the other proposals will be in inverse proportion to the lowest price. | 30 |
| TOTAL POINTS | 100 |

9. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES AND RESPONSE TO THIS TENDER

- Bidders are requested to provide a detailed technical proposal in **Annex C** – Technical response form. The technical proposal must include all information needed to fully evaluate the proposal against the requirements and evaluation criteria outlined in section 7 and 8 of this TOR.
- Bidders are requested to provide a detailed cost proposal in **Annex D** – Financial Proposal, factoring in all cost implications for the required services.
- Bidders should propose the methodology based on the purpose and objectives described in this TOR. The research will involve duty bearers and stakeholders in all stages, in accordance with a highly participatory approach. To the extent possible, the research may include rights holders. Data provided by national sources (e.g. Statistical Office, Environmental Protection Agency, Institute of Public Health etc.) is deemed reliable.
- Methodological rigor will be given significant consideration in the assessment of the proposals. Hence, bidders are invited to interrogate the approach and methodology suggested in the ToR and improve on it, or propose an approach they deem more appropriate, which should be guided by relevant standards in the field, including but not limited to UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards and Research, Evaluation and Data Collection and Analysis (2015).
- In their proposal, bidders should clearly refer to triangulation, sampling plan and methodological limitations and mitigation measures. Moreover, the research should consider throughout the issues of equity, gender equality and human rights. Bidders are encouraged to also demonstrate, wherever possible, methodological expertise in governance and public finance areas, following human rights-based approach and gender-responsiveness.

10. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

| No. | Payment | Tentative schedule | Deliverable |
|-----|---------|--------------------|---|
| 1. | 25% | 15 Nov 2021 | Approved Inception Report |
| 2. | 30% | 1 March 2022 | Approved draft final findings report |
| 3. | 45% | 15 April 2022 | Approved final report, final presentation and other materials |

- The payment schedule must be based on completed deliverables.
 - If the bidder wishes to propose an alternative payment schedule, it must be included in the financial proposal. The final payment schedule is to be reviewed and agreed with UNICEF.
 - Payment terms 30 days net upon receipt of approved invoice.
-