**Prebid conference – Consultancy to conduct a study on Traditional parenting and practices in selected districts in Zambia – Education section - 15th August, 2017**

**Background**

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of General Education to undertake a study on Traditional Parenting/childcare practices and traditional parenting support systems that will support programming and implementation of ECD Parenting Education Programmes in Zambia.

The latest 2016 Lancet Series brings out important evidence and opportunities to advance the development of children, focusing on the critical role of the 1st 1000 days of life (from conception to under 3 years) and this is based on the new scientific evidence on how early environments impacts the long-term developmental potential of children. The series also introduces the concept of nurturing care that shows how the developing brain needs nutrition, stimulation and protection in order for it to thrive. Nurturing care recognizes the child’s need for health, nutrition, security and safety, responsive caregiving and early learning. This takes place in the context of parents and families, and through service provision across many sectors, which together provide the essential care for children to survive and to thrive.

UNICEF has been supporting partners implement Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes with a strong focus on Parenting Education. UNICEF and partners recognise that parents already have parenting/childcare knowledge, skills and beliefs that they have been employing in raising and caring for their children. However, most Parenting programmes do not build on this knowledge and skills during programming. The consultancy is therefore aimed at documenting traditional parenting and childcare practices in Zambia. This will help parenting programmes build on the already existing positive child rearing practices, transmit positive messages to the parents and also to address some of the negative practices, beliefs and myths that need to be reduced or eliminated

**Question and Answer session**

1. **Question.** In the Financial proposal, are we limited to follow the format given or we can modify it?

**Answer:** Please follow the format given which should clear distinguish your consultancy fees and the other travel and operational costs. This is for purposes of financial evaluation. The payment schedule on the other hand is linked to the deliverables for contract management and implementation purposes.

1. **Question.** According to the dates in the TOR, the consultancy will be conducted from 28th August to November, is there a possibility that UNICEF may change the timeframe?

**Answer:** Yes this was the initial planned time but seeing that the tender actually closes on the 29th August, 2017 a later timeframe will be scheduled after contracting process is finalised. Approximately one month will be needed from the closing date to complete the evaluation and award process so the start date can only be after that process is concluded.

1. **Question:** Payment schedule based on deliverable percentage, can these be changed.

**Answer**: Payment will be according to percentages indicated in the deliverable table.