

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Subject: International Consultancy on the Development of a Therapeutic Foster Care Model within the UNICEF-funded program "Every girl and boy are protected and empowered to thrive and reach their full potential with dignity," implemented by Partnerships for Every Child.

Duration: 10st December 1st - 29th February.

I. Background and Rationale:

Despite progress in developing family-type care in Moldova, some vulnerable children cannot access these services due to the authorities' limited capacities and resources to address their specific needs adequately. In particular, there is an insufficient number of foster carers, particularly those equipped to provide care for children with complex emotional needs, behavioral issues, and severe disabilities. There is no official evidence available regarding the number of children with complex emotional needs receiving foster care services. Nevertheless, the number of children dealing with behavioral issues and those living on the streets is consistently rising. Without adequate support, these children often resort to criminal activities.

The UNICEF funded Program "Every girl and boy is protected and empowered to thrive and reach their full potential with dignity," aims to ensure that children in Moldova are treated with respect and dignity as full rights holders in line with the UNCRC. The program's actions align with the provisions of the National Child Protection Programme (2022-2026), focusing on providing support to the MLSP in applying a system-wide approach toward family strengthening and preservation as key preconditions for long-term national development.

One of the program's key objectives is to enhance family-type services to meet the unique needs of vulnerable children, particularly those with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues. The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection, and Family (MLSP) will receive support to develop and strengthen family-type services, placing specific emphasis on Foster Care (FC) to address the requirements of children without parental care with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues.

International expertise will be directed toward assessing and enhancing the FC service, placing a particular emphasis on offering therapeutic placements for children dealing with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues. The introduction of a therapeutic care model in Foster Care services aims to comprehensively address the spectrum of support essential for these children.

The Program consists of a range of activities as follows:

- Support MLSP in reviewing the FC methodology to integrate a therapeutic care model for children with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues.

- Design a training program on therapeutic care for children with complex emotional needs/behavioral issues. Train a group of national trainers.
- Integrate, through piloting, the newly revised methodology in one pilot region.
- Facilitate nationwide replication

To realize these activities and achieve the objective, the program will work closely with the national government to analyze and integrate local-level practices into the national policy facilitating nationwide replication.

II. Specific Work:

The *purpose of the consultancy* is to support the MLSP in the development and provision of the therapeutic care placement for with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues in Foster Care service. With the support of the consultant/s, the existing methodology of the FC service will be reviewed to respond to the needs of this group of children. The reviewed methodology will be consulted with key national and local stakeholders and validated within the Foster Care Working Group established and led by the MLSP.

Following this, the methodology will undergo a pilot phase in one region, and necessary adjustments will be made to ensure that Foster Care (FC) services meet a broader spectrum of children with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues. Additionally, efforts will be directed towards addressing the genuine needs of the carers, aiming to motivate them to provide this specialized type of placement.

Additionally, relying on the developed methodology, the consultant/consultants are expected to develop and deliver a training program focused on therapeutic foster care for children with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues. This 5-day training course will be structured into a Training of Trainers (ToT) format, aiming to enhance the capabilities of a group of professionals who will acquire the necessary skills to train foster carers nationwide. Consultation workshops will be organized with key stakeholders to gather insights for the refinement of the training program.

III. Tentative timeframe, task distribution

| Activities | Deliverables/outputs | Number of days |
|---|--|----------------|
| Review and develop FC methodology to integrate the therapeutic care model for children with complex emotional needs and behavioral issues | Draft of FC methodology | 4,5 days |
| Conduct a consultation workshop with key stakeholders, adjust the methodology | The methodology proposed for piloting - adjusted | 1,5 days |
| Design based on the developed | The training programme | 8 days |

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|--|---|-----------------|
| methodology the training program on the therapeutic foster care model, comprising comprehensive content that combines theoretical concepts and practical implementation, responding to local needs and ensuring the sustainability of the competencies formed. | Training materials and handouts | |
| Conduct a consultation workshop with key stakeholders, adjust the programme | The training programme adjusted and finalised | 1,5 days |
| Delivery of the training on the therapeutic foster care model, facilitating the development of skills in supporting traumatized children and young people in foster care placement to recover from trauma. | Pre and post training evaluation sheets Participants lists | 5 days |
| Finalise the methodology and training programme | | 1,5 days |
| Total days | | 22 days |

IV. Qualifications or Specialized Knowledge/Experience Required:

- An advanced degree (Masters or Equivalent) social sciences or similar field from a recognized university;
- Demonstrated knowledge of family type services, particularly Foster Care and demonstrated work experience in this field;
- Extensive demonstrated experience in working with children with behavioral issues/who were exposed to traumatic events.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience in trauma-informed care.
- Extensive experience in developing training programmes and delivering trainings; Advanced knowledge of child rights and development.
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English
- Previous experience with the development of similar work.

V. Additional Requirements

Please note that P4EC has a zero-tolerance policy on any conduct that is abusive, discriminatory, demeaning and/or disrespectful, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination on any grounds against any child or adult. We are committed to ensure the protection and safeguarding of all children and adults. Therefore, any individual or entity working in our name has direct or indirect contact

with our beneficiaries are expected to undergo thorough reference checks and will be required to provide a clear criminal record certificate from authorities.

VI. How to apply

The application pack will include the following:

- The Technical proposal
- CV/CVs of the consultant/s that will directly work on the developments above, including 3 professional referees including one former client who knows your work
- An example of the consultant/s work (This will be treated in confidence)

Qualifying individuals or legal entities are invited to email their applications to P4EC on vpostolaki@p4ec.md by **5pm Moldovan time on January 18th, 2024.**