

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CLIMATE CHANGE, BUSINESS & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

## BACKGROUND

The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. Millions of children around the world are already bearing the brunt of environmental degradation and climate-related harm, and these impacts will intensify as global temperatures continue to rise. There is also convergence towards accepting that business have a significant role in contributing to climate change and having human rights impacts in their adaptation plans. However, to date, there is limited knowledge and understanding of how business' contribution and adaptation to climate change may have positive or negative, direct and indirect, impacts on children's rights.

States are increasingly setting targets to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.<sup>1</sup> Cases of climate change litigation against companies around the globe is also gradually growing.<sup>2</sup>

Across Europe, there have also been initiatives to regulate companies to ensure they prevent human rights abuses and environmental harms by conducting human rights and environmental due diligence.<sup>3</sup> In the UK, Unicef UK is advocating for the UK Government to introduce legislation that would require businesses in the UK to conduct human rights and environmental due diligence that integrates children's rights;<sup>4</sup> this would also require them to assess how their contribution and adaptation to climate change have an impact on children and take action to prevent or reduce their negative impacts. The concept of "climate change due diligence" is gradually consolidating,<sup>5</sup> but has not, as yet, been fully integrated into thinking on business' wider human rights and environmental due diligence.

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<sup>1</sup> See for example the UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>; the EU Green Deal [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.leighday.co.uk/latest-updates/blog/2020-blogs/an-update-on-climate-change-litigation-no-signs-of-cooling/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://corporatejustice.org/mhrdd-in-europe-map-may-2020-2.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unicef.org.uk/policy/report-preventing-corporate-abuse/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/business-and-human-rights-journal/article/climate-change-dimension-of-business-and-human-rights-the-gradual-consolidation-of-a-concept-of-climate-due-diligence/5684628BFA270FB974050824231E1744>; <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/commentary-what-does-human-rights-due-diligence-for-climate-change-impacts-look-like/>

UNICEF works at the global and local levels on the impact of climate change on children's rights, helping ensure that children live in a safe and clean environment. 2021 is the year where the UK will host COP26 and actions by the UK Government and businesses to build a better, greener and more sustainable future will start to take shape as we emerge from the COVID19 pandemic. This consultancy will help Unicef UK to determine its direction and maximise these opportunities to influence business stakeholders to better understand and respect children's rights to a safe and sustainable environment including impacts posed by climate change, in the UK and around the world.

## **PURPOSE**

Provide Unicef UK with an evidence base which sets out the linkages between climate change, business and child rights on three key industries (investment, fashion and energy/extractives) in a coherent and comprehensive way, which can be used to make the case for child-sensitive approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation and help inform development of detailed policy asks of UK business and Government.

## **DURATION**

The consultant(s) (organisation or individual(s)) is/are expected to start work no later than 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, working up to a total of 22 days. Exact working pattern will be negotiated prior to contractual agreement.

## **DELIVERABLES & TIMELINES**

The consultant will be expected to:

<b>Deliverables</b>
<p>1. Draft a methodology, which will include these research steps as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a short literature review across areas relating to business and human rights, business and climate change, climate change litigation, and children's rights, including key publications by UNICEF on climate change and children's rights (these will be provided at the start of the consultancy)</li> <li>○ key informants' interviews, as appropriate</li> </ul>
<p>2. Produce a paper (for internal use) that includes as a minimum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A description of the international human rights framework, including standards, as it relates to business, climate change and child rights</li> </ul>

- Research and analysis about the identified three key industries (investment, fashion and energy/extractives) on:
  - How each sector's impact on the climate/environment affect children, how the impact of climate change on each sector impacts children including through sector's adaptation, with case studies
  - how each sector currently addresses mitigation and adaptation that benefits communities, how this could be made more child-sensitive and why these need to be child sensitive as opposed as being general climate change policies
  - to what extent the sector conducts/integrates climate change due diligence
  - the co-benefits of child-sensitive environmental/climate action
  - why and how action of each sector on climate change will prevent negative impacts on children's rights and improve their lives
  - Good practice examples from around the globe, considering geographical representation
- Research and analysis with case studies and examples specific to the UK in the above sectors that contains as a minimum:
  - key information on the sector (size, where they are most active in the world, key climate change related initiatives, key business actors)
  - Examples and analysis of UK business' contribution and adaptation to climate change impacting children's rights, directly or indirectly
  - Existing examples of UK business' child-sensitive climate change approaches in each market

3. Produce mappings illustrating linkages between business, climate change and children's rights in the identified three key industries (investment, fashion and energy/extractives)

4. Participation in an internal workshop to develop recommendations and key messages for sectors and Government that Unicef UK can use in their advocacy with business, Government and key events leading up to COP26 and beyond

The paper should contain a range of good practice examples as well as case studies on negative impacts from countries around the globe with geographical representation.

<b>Deadline for proposals</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Interviews</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March

<b>Commencement of consultancy</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Completion of work</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April

## KEY COMPETENCIES

- Expert knowledge on climate change and, business and human rights with a good understanding of children's rights
- Practical knowledge of business action on climate change, in particular in the UK context
- Proven experience in multi-disciplinary research and analysis
- Experience in delivering evidence-based research and analysis
- Excellent research and analytical skills with the ability to effectively condense, summarise and communicate complicated concepts clearly.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a brief proposal that includes:

- **A brief summary of your experience and suitability for the post (max 1 page)**
- **A CV**
- ***An example of past work such as papers or reports authored***
- ***A proposed budget and plan of work***

Unicef UK promotes and values equality, diversity, and inclusion. If you think you can do this research, please apply, even if you do not have all the criteria listed above. We are ready to make adjustments to support any candidate with access needs.

Deadline is 26<sup>th</sup> February at 23.59 (UK time). Please submit your proposal to Maria Pia Bianchetti (Private Sector Policy and Influencing Manager) at [mariapiab@Unicef.org.uk](mailto:mariapiab@Unicef.org.uk).

## CONTACT

If you would like more information on the research or for an informal discussion, please contact Maria Pia Bianchetti at [mariapiab@unicef.org.uk](mailto:mariapiab@unicef.org.uk) or on +442073756262.