



**Centre of Excellence on Data  
for Children with Disabilities**

*Fostering inclusion through data*

# **Call for Proposals from University Faculty on Analysing Data Using the Child Functioning Module**

Application deadline: 6 September 2024



## BACKGROUND

Around the globe, millions of children with disabilities continue to be left behind, despite near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the call for action embedded in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the clear mandate set by the Sustainable Development Goals. Often, this neglect results from lack of information on the challenges faced by children with disabilities and ways to address these challenges. When such information is lacking, children and adults with disabilities remain politically and socially marginalized and at risk of rights violations.

Historically, attempts to protect the rights of children with disabilities have been hampered by a lack of data. More recent times have seen a renewed focus on generating reliable and internationally comparable data on such children, leading to the development of new tools for data collection. These include the Child Functioning Module (CFM), released by UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics in 2016. It has also resulted in a substantial increase in the availability of data on children with disabilities over the last five years, fostering data analysis and contributing to increased knowledge generation. That said, the data that are available are often not fully analysed, nor are the results effectively disseminated so that they can inform policies and programmes.

To carry the momentum forward, UNICEF launched the [Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities](#). The Centre's aim is to fill knowledge gaps and meet the growing need for coordination, quality oversight and technical expertise in the field. Its priorities include support for a broad range of activities to build the capacity of data producers and data users, facilitate the development of new methods and tools, and advance data collection, analysis, interpretation and use, along with knowledge generation.

To promote the use of data and the generation of knowledge on the state of children with disabilities, the Centre has committed to sponsoring innovative data analyses. This includes the funding of quantitative data analysis projects based on data derived from the CFM. Each project is to be undertaken by a team of two individuals from the same university, comprising a senior faculty member and an early career researcher/data analyst. The initiative is intended to build capacity for data analysis and to promote collaboration between skilled and early career researchers/data analysts. In addition to receiving support for conducting innovative data analysis on topics related to children with disabilities, the recipients will have the opportunity to attend a review workshop in New York. The results of the analysis produced will be published in a format to be determined by UNICEF.

A globally competitive process will be undertaken to select successful candidates. **This Call for Proposals is open to full-time faculty members from universities in countries where the CFM was included in a representative household survey with publicly available datasets. Those from low- and middle-income countries, those with disabilities and those from countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific are encouraged to apply.**

Each member of the selected team will receive US\$5,000 at the end of the eight-month period after successful completion of the deliverables. UNICEF will also cover travel costs related to the participation of the team in the review workshop at UNICEF Headquarters in New York City.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF will provide participant with funds for travel, accommodations, meals and miscellaneous costs. It is the responsibility of the participant to obtain and pay for a visa and health/travel insurance, as needed.



Upon selection, the recipients will be required to enter into a consultancy agreement with UNICEF for the duration of the project. The copyrights for all the materials produced under this agreement will be with UNICEF. Any reporting of applicable income tax declarations is the responsibility of the recipient.

## ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- **This Call for Proposals is open to candidates of all nationalities who are full-time faculty members of universities in countries where the CFM (in its entirety and without content modifications) was included in a representative household survey and the datasets are publicly available.** These can include countries that have recently conducted a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) or other type of national survey. To access the MICS datasets, visit: <https://mics.unicef.org>. To access the DHS datasets, visit: <https://dhsprogram.com>
- Applications must include two faculty members from the same university. One member of the team must be a senior faculty member and the other an early career researcher/data analyst. A senior faculty member is someone who is an associate professor (or equivalent) or higher. Both team members are required to provide substantial contributions to the project.
- The applicants must be teaching or conducting research in a related field, such as anthropology, child development, education, disability studies, economics, public health, public policy, psychology, sociology or statistics.
- Applicants must be willing to commit to an eight-month project and must be able to adhere to the timeline outlined below, including attending an in-person workshop.
- **Applications from qualified candidates in low- and middle-income countries and/or who identify as having a disability are encouraged.**
- **Applications from qualified university faculty from countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific are encouraged.**

The applicants will need to possess a combination of the following skills and experience:

- Advanced training in quantitative research methodology, demonstrating a sound grasp of statistical theory and its application to practical policy
- Ability to analyse large datasets using a variety of statistical software
- Excellent writing skills
- Ability to communicate complex technical ideas to non-specialists, verbally and in writing
- Demonstrated interest and experience in the field of child disability data
- Ability to work independently and meet strict deadlines
- Motivated to seize the opportunities in this initiative and to champion the use of data on children with disabilities as an active member of the host university
- Ability to think creatively about data collection, analysis, dissemination and implications for policy, and to develop unique article topics
- Willingness to learn and accept advice
- **Please note that the language for this initiative is English**



UNICEF reserves the right to disqualify any entry that contains hurtful, misleading, libellous or vulgar content, or that contains any material that could constitute or encourage conduct that would be considered a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any national or international law or UNICEF standard.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Each team of two should submit one online application in English (see link below) and submit various documents in PDF format to Archana Dwivedi ([adwivedi@unicef.org](mailto:adwivedi@unicef.org)).

The completed package must include:

- Completed online application form (one per team): [Application form](#)

The following are to be sent in PDF format to Archana Dwivedi ([adwivedi@unicef.org](mailto:adwivedi@unicef.org)).

- Detailed curriculum vitae for each of the two team members, including contact information, publication record or up to three academic writing samples on research areas
- Official letter from the university confirming your status as current faculty members and duration of employment
- Project proposal (see details below)
- Plan for disseminating the analytical findings at your university (see details below)

If selected, an official letter will be required from your department/university agreeing to your participation in the initiative, including full-time participation in the review workshop.

### PROJECT PROPOSAL COMPONENTS (3 to 5 pages)

- Clearly state the problem/importance of research or research question
- Provide detailed description of the proposed methodology and the specific CFM data source that will be used to answer the research question
- Provide details on what each team member will be responsible for
- Provide a bibliography of key sources to be utilized
- Provide information on potential partnerships relevant to the research/data collection (local non-governmental organizations, government offices, statistical offices, etc.)

### PLAN TO INFORM AND DISSEMINATE (1 to 2 pages)

This document should include at least two activities in total the team will undertake to:

- Inform interested university faculty/students of your analysis project, including research question, methodology, data sources (use of CFM), etc. prior to final analysis
- Disseminate the analytical findings from the project



These activities are to be undertaken during the project timeline. The document should indicate the objective of the activity, target audience and expected number of participants, the timing, expected outcomes and how success will be measured. The activities may include focused lectures or other creative methods.

## DELIVERABLES AND TIME FRAME

At the end of the eight months, the recipients are required to submit a final and complete manuscript for publication (format to be determined) as well as a summary PowerPoint presentation. The recipients might be encouraged to present either preliminary and/or final results of their work during seminars, workshops and/or conferences (may be virtual). The recipients are also encouraged to conduct and disseminate their findings in local and national languages, as applicable.

Date	Activity
6 September 2024	Application deadline
Beginning of October 2024	Successful candidates are notified
15 November 2024	Submit detailed proposal, including detailed methodology with detailed analysis plan
January 2024 (exact date to be confirmed in consultation with successful candidates)	Attend a one-week review workshop at UNICEF Headquarters in New York City to review research questions, methodology and finalise analysis
14 February 2024	Submit first draft of paper
14 March 2025	Submit second draft of paper taking into consideration comments from UNICEF Submit first draft of PowerPoint presentation
18 April 2025	Submit final paper along with PowerPoint presentation taking into consideration comments from UNICEF Report on the results of the information and dissemination activities undertaken
Date to be confirmed	Present the project and findings during a UNICEF-organized webinar

## SELECTION PROCESS

Applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements are subject to the following review process.

The evaluation process is designed to identify scientific excellence. The evaluation process will include three main steps:

1. UNICEF checks whether the application package adheres to the Call for Proposals.
2. The assessors evaluate the assigned applications and allocate points following the evaluation criteria. The assessors will convene to discuss a shortlist of proposals.
3. A ranked list of applications is created. Recipients will be selected in order of ranked score.



Evaluation criteria:

Evaluation components	Score Total = 100%
<p>Quality and feasibility of the proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated potential                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contribution to the literature</li> <li>○ Contribution to information on children with disabilities</li> <li>○ Appropriate quantitative methods</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of priority themes</li> <li>• The potential to add knowledge to policy actions</li> <li>• Appropriate milestones and timelines</li> </ul>	40%
<p>Impact of the project</p> <p>Potential contribution to data methods development or knowledge about children with disabilities or data methodologies for children with disabilities, and potential collaboration with UNICEF</p>	20%
<p>Informing and disseminating component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informing and disseminating component is well thought out and includes required elements</li> </ul>	20%
<p>Training and career development of the applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research experience and results (based on CV, publication record, contributed work, etc.)</li> <li>• Potential to acquire new research and career-related skills</li> <li>• Potential to conduct further research on priority themes</li> </ul>	20%

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Any questions regarding the Call for Proposals or application process can be addressed to [disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org](mailto:disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org)



Website: [Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities](https://www.unicef.org/cecd)

Please keep in touch with us on X: <https://x.com/CentreforData1>

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