



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

**2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations follow-up discussions**  
**Online webinar on equitable partnerships:**  
***'Your Questions, Answered: Challenges and Best Practices in the UNICEF-NGO Partnership Cycle'***  
**Concept Note**

**1. Background: The 2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations**

On 16-17 April 2024, UNICEF and ICVA jointly organised the 2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations in Geneva, Switzerland, which was placed under the overarching theme of 'Partnering for Children in the Climate Crisis'. The 2-day in-person meeting provided an opportunity for both UNICEF and NGO partners to engage meaningfully on a range of programmatic and policy issues related to climate change and partnership, and included topics such as the Humanitarian-Development Nexus approach, community engagement and localisation in addressing climate change, accountability towards crisis-affected persons, and quality funding and equitable partnerships.

The consultations aimed to gather diverse perspectives on key issues and to develop recommendations and action points with clear roles, timelines and progress tracking to guide future actions for both UNICEF and NGO partners. The consultations report summarises the main recommendations and action points that should be taken forward, and the satisfaction survey, launched at the end of the consultations, provided insight into the preferred thematic focus of the follow-up period of the participants. On this basis, **two online follow-up discussions** with a thematic approach will be organised, focusing respectively on (i) **quality funding and equitable partnerships** and (ii) climate change, so as to closely monitor and track the implementation of the recommendations and to delve deeper into selected themes of focus.

**2. Focus for webinar #1: Quality funding and equitable partnerships**

The first online follow-up discussion aims to examine UNICEF's partnership cycle, to highlight main challenges identified by partners, and to showcase best practices that have been developed to overcome or mitigate the identified challenges. UNICEF colleagues will provide additional insights and clarifications to enrich the discussion. To ensure a productive dialogue between UNICEF, CSOs and NGOs, and sufficient time for presentations, the webinar will focus on a limited and pre-identified set of challenges and best practices. The main outcomes of the discussion will feed into the forthcoming revised CSO-Facing Handbook.

#### Objectives:

- **Showcase challenges and best practices** in the UNICEF-NGO partnership cycle.
- **Clarify UNICEF partnership phases:** UNICEF will provide an overview of the partnership and programming cycles, clarifying their expectations for partnering with CSOs, addressing key bottlenecks and barriers.
- **Strengthen communication:** facilitate an open and constructive dialogue between UNICEF and NGO colleagues, define communication pathways for CSO engagement (e.g. EMOPS vs DAPM)
- Identify and refine best practices to serve as a foundation for the updated CSO-facing Handbook.

#### Expected outcomes:

- Clarify partner understanding of UNICEF partnership cycle and its various phases.
- Address and resolve key concerns and challenges related to partnership processes.
- Highlight and document best practices that will inform the development of the revised CSO-facing Handbook.

### 3. Format

The follow-up discussion will take place **virtually** in the latter half of 2024, on **Tuesday 03 December 2024, 15:00-17:00 CET (Geneva time)**.

The 2 hour-discussion will be organised for mid-afternoon GVA time, so as to allow maximum participation from colleagues from different locations. Due to platform limitations, interpretation will not be possible and the discussion will be held in English. The discussion will be recorded and made available to the wider NGO community. The online webinar will be organised through Microsoft Teams.

### 4. Participation

In order to allow for fruitful discussions, the online webinar will be open to a selected number of participants of the 2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations, such as technical partnership focal points from the different partner organisations. Pre-registration, to gain access to the online webinar, will be required.