Consultancy – Knowledge Management of Nutrition Response to the COVID-19 pandemic in East Asia Pacific

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfilling their potential.

Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone.

And we never give up.

For every child, a better future

UNICEF works to ensure the rights of all children in the East Asia and Pacific Region. This means the rights of every child living in this country, irrespective of their nationality, gender, religion or ethnicity, to:

- **survival** – to basic healthcare, peace and security;
- **development** – to a good education, a loving home and adequate nutrition;
- **protection** – from abuse, neglect, trafficking, child labour and other forms of exploitation; and
- **participation** – to express opinions, be listened to and take part in making any decisions that affect them

How can you make a difference?
The Nutrition section, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) is seeking an individual consultant to support documentation of Nutrition Response to the COVID-19 pandemic in East Asia Pacific Region.

Purpose of Assignment:
To support documentation of UNICEF regional and country response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the documentation is to identify best practices, programmatic innovations that facilitated the response, lessons learned and new opportunities, to inform evidence-based programme priority setting in the post-COVID-19 context and nutrition preparedness for future pandemics.
Work Assignment:
Under the supervision of a Nutrition Specialist, the consultant will conduct desk review and key informant interviews with countries, government officials, and partners in the region to comprehensively review, analyze, and document nutrition response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The documentation assignment will focus on seven key thematic areas of the COVID-19 response as outlined below. The consultant will also write up synthesis reports on three streams of research that is being conducted or planned.

Under each focus area, the consultant will identify how UNICEF country offices and governments reprioritized and re-oriented existing programmes to align with the COVID-19 guidance notes, challenges faced, which innovations and factors facilitated the response, lessons learned, and best practices that can be taken forward to improve nutrition programming post-COVID-19. Each focus area will also include a minimum of one country case study. The length and style of the articles and reports will be discussed and agreed between the consultant and UNICEF Nutrition team. The audience for the articles 1-6 is UNICEF, Governments, partners, donors, and article 7 internal to UNICEF.

Additional considerations for each of the seven focus areas are listed below:

**Article 1**: Nutrition response to promote healthy diets, food safety and physical activity during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Communication and messaging on healthy diets for different age groups; particular focus on use of digital information platforms and innovations
- The chef's challenge to inspire young people to cook healthy meals at home
- *Potential case studies*: Communications and messaging (China and Regional) and nutrition messaging through social protection platforms (Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines, Timor Leste)

**Article 2**: Support for maternal nutrition and protection and promotion of safe breastfeeding & adequate complementary feeding practices in the context of COVID-19
- The extent of adoption by countries in the region of WHO recent recommendations on breastfeeding, skin-to-skin contact and keeping mothers and babies together in the context of COVID. Caring and feeding practices for newborns of mothers with COVID-19; what are the general perceptions of the population and medical community on breastfeeding for mothers infected with COVID-19
- Communication and skilled individual counselling on breastfeeding/ infant and young child feeding; adaptation of IYCF counselling tools
- Code violations including donations of BMS and country response actions (if any)
- How countries supported continuity of maternal nutrition services in ante-natal care
- What were the most common and trusted sources of COVID-19 risk information for pregnant and lactating women and caregivers?
- *Potential case studies*: Indonesia virtual support groups, Malaysia and Philippines telephone counselling, Myanmar online counselling

**Article 3**: Delivery of treatment services for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) during the COVID-19 pandemic in East Asia Pacific
- How the global wasting guidance was contextualized in countries with existing IMAM programmes including specific adaptations made to SAM treatment programs to comply with COVID-19 prevention and infection control measures
- Training modalities used to train health workers, community volunteers, or mothers on safety measures for conduction MUAC assessment?
- How did countries communicate service delivery adaptation to beneficiaries?
- How did the COVID-19 pandemic influence IMAM service provision and utilization; to what extend were SAM treatment services disrupted, what challenges were faced by the health systems in ensuring continuity of treatment services
- Potential case studies: Use of family MUAC in the Philippines and Timor Leste, or community screening in Indonesia

**Article 4:** Use of mobile health (mHealth) and other digital technologies in COVID-19 response and impact mitigation including
- Coordination of nutrition response and experience sharing
- Nutrition communication
- Virtual eLearning and training
- Remote individual and virtual group IYCF counselling via telephone/ social media
- Real-time program monitoring and nutrition assessments
- Telemedicine consultation and MUAC screening
- Potential case studies: Technology and innovation in China, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines

**Article 5:** Nutrition assessments in the context of COVID-19: challenges and opportunities
- Challenges in positioning nutrition in the multisector assessments
- Experiences and challenges in the design of nutrition assessment tools both at the regional and country-level
- Which digital data collection platforms were used in the region?
- Experiences and learning from data collection/analysis

**5a: Synthesis report of results of three main streams of data collection:**
- U-Report on changes in diets among young people
- Online assessment of nutrition service disruption and adaptation
- Assessment of nutrition and food security integrated with other assessments (WFP-FAO; socio-economic; or dedicated surveys)

**Article 6:** Adolescents and school nutrition
- Regional Nutrition and Education collaboration in developing a checklist for re-opening Schools Better!
- Response actions at the country level and collaboration between WFP and Education section
- Potential case studies: school meals and nutrition education (Mongolia) or weekly iron supplementation for adolescents (Indonesia)

**Article 7:** A summary paper of EAPRO COVID-19 responses distilling critical lessons learned, how COVID-19 will influence the implementation of nutrition programmes in 2020 and beyond, best practices, organizational factors that facilitated the response, programme adaptations, innovations, and emerging new opportunities from the pandemic that can inform:
  i. evidence-based priority setting and acceleration of delivery of nutrition services in post-COVID-19 recovery
  ii. nutrition preparedness for future emergencies and pandemics
Work Schedule and Deliverables:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>No. of Days</th>
<th>Target Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Desk review and an inception report on data collection tools</td>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>20th August 2020</td>
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<td>b) Detailed desk review, remote stakeholder interviews, data analysis and write-up for each focus area, including a case study</td>
<td>54 days (9 days x 6 focus areas, articles 1-6)</td>
<td>30th October 2020</td>
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<td>c) Synthesis reports on 3 streams of assessment/research (article 5a)</td>
<td>10 days</td>
<td>30th November 2020</td>
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<td>d) A summary paper of overall EAPRO nutrition response and mitigation to COVID-19 (article 7)</td>
<td>10 days</td>
<td>31st March 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of days</td>
<td>80 days</td>
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End Product:

a) Eight articles on nutrition response and mitigation actions to COVID-19 pandemic, with at least one case study for items i-vi:
   i. Promoting healthy diets, food safety and physical activity
   ii. Support for maternal nutrition and protection and promotion of safe breastfeeding & adequate complementary feeding practices
   iii. Delivery of treatment services for Severe Acute Malnutrition
   iv. Use of mobile health (mHealth) and other digital technologies
   vi. Adolescents and school nutrition
   vii. Synthesis report on three streams of research: changes to young people’s diets; disruptions and adaptations of nutrition services in health system; diets, nutrition and food security
   viii. A summary paper of the overall EAPRO nutrition response to COVID-19

Estimated Duration of Contract: 80 working days during August 2020-March 2021

Official Travel: Home-based assignment.

To qualify as an advocate for every child you will have:

- Advanced university degree in Human Nutrition, Public Health or Global Health Policy or any other relevant field.
- Proven to have solid experience in the documentation of best practices, lessons and case stories with minimum of 3 years direct experiences. Feature writing in newspapers, blogs and published articles are essential.
- Have at least three years of experience and proven ability to be proficient in developing reports, reviews, quality impact evaluation and documentation of program best practices.
- At least 8 years of practical experience working in nutrition and proven knowledge of the Asia Pacific context.
- Proven experience in qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Fluent in English and ability to write clearly and concisely in English.
- Proven ability to work remotely and independently with virtual teams.
- Ability to effectively work and communicate in a multicultural environment.
Interested candidates are requested to submit CV or P-11, full contact information of minimum 3 references, availability, and proposed daily professional fee in USD **by 29 June 2020.**

**For every Child, you demonstrate...**

UNICEF’s values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability (CRITA) and core competencies in Communication, Working with People, and Drive for Results.

View our competency framework at


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**UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of the organization.**

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles and will therefore undergo rigorous reference and background checks. Background checks will include the verification of academic credential(s) and employment history. Selected candidates may be required to provide additional information to conduct a background check.

**Remarks:**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.

Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures, and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.