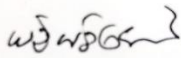

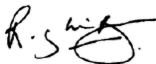


UNICEF REQUEST TO CONTRACT CONSULTANTS

SHORT TITLE	Immunization Systems Strengthening Consultant, Suva			
OUTPUT	National and sub-national immunization program capacity strengthened in integrating COVID-19 in EPI/PHC and routine immunization improvement initiatives in the Pacific			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTERNATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSULTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LTA <input type="checkbox"/> RETAINER CONTRACT	<input type="checkbox"/> REMOTE / HOME BASED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OFFICE BASED – UNICEF <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE BASED – GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE BASED – UN OUTPOSTING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PMCO – SUVA <input type="checkbox"/> FIJI <input type="checkbox"/> KIRIBATI	<input type="checkbox"/> SAMOA <input type="checkbox"/> FSM <input type="checkbox"/> VANUATU <input type="checkbox"/> SOLOMON ISLANDS	
SUPERVISOR CONTRACT MGR & SECN	MCH Specialist, Suva Office			
OTHER CONTACTS IN THE OFFICE:	Chief of Health and Nutrition Section, Suva Office			
DUTY STATION (FOR OFFICE BASED):	Suva with frequent mission in the Pacific			
CONTRACT PROPOSED DURATION <i>(May not exceed 36 mo.)</i>	8.25 months		Professional FEE	US\$58,000
PREFERRED START DATE	23 October 2023		LIVING ALLOWANCE	US\$14,400
CONTRACT DURATION	8.25 months		TICKETS / TRAVEL	US\$20,400
DAYS IN THE COUNTRY / REMOTE	145		OTHER COSTS (incl med insurance)	
WBS	1430/A0/07/801/002/041		TOTAL	US\$92,800
GRANT NO AND EXPIRY	SM210968, SC190590, SC220823 Expiry: 31 Dec 2023, 30 Dec 2027		UNICEF INSURANCE	US\$137.53
*NOTES	<i>Living allowance - calculated per days in each location – maximum US\$4000 per month 3rd party insurance for consultant – as per procedure. Consultants that are traveling / working in office must have medical insurance with evacuation</i>			
1. Need for services is reflected in the AWP or is in response to a specific programming decision			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
2. If your replied No to the above, a separate justification is attached for this unplanned activity			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
3. Reason work cannot be completed by UNICEF staff or counterparts: The assignment requires a substantial time investment with field presence and frequent missions. Given the detailed scope and quantity of deliverables and the prevailing workload of staff members at UNICEF Pacific, additional support from an experienced consultant is required. This consultancy is at the P4 level.				
4. Child Safeguarding (More information is available in the Child Safeguarding SharePoint and Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates) Is this project/assignment considered as " Elevated Risk Role " from a child safeguarding perspective? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If YES, check all that apply: Direct contact role <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of direct interpersonal contact with children, or work in their immediately physical proximity, with limited supervision by a more senior member of personnel: Child data role <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of manipulating or transmitting personal-identifiable information of children (name, national ID, location data, photos):				
SIGNED FOR AGREEMENT				
Prepared by  Yin Yin Aung MCH Specialist, Suva Date 5 October 2023	Cleared by (1 days) HR /Supply / DRO Date: October 2023	Reviewed (1 days) <i>Evaluations, studies only</i> Evaluation Sp. Date	Recommended  Yuk Suenjro Chief Health Nutrition Date 7 October 2023	Approved by (1 day)  Roshni Basu Dep Representative Date 9 October 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SHORT TITLE OF ASSIGNMENT

Immunization Systems Strengthening Consultant, Suva

BACKGROUND

Health systems in the Pacific suffered due to COVID-19 pandemic and prioritization of COVID-19 response and vaccination rollout activities over routine service delivery. Most Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) successfully delivered COVID-19 vaccines to their population (adult, adolescents, and children) reaching high coverage with the exception of a few countries (Solomon Islands & Vanuatu). Routine immunization coverage, on the other hand, is showing a downward trend during 2019-2022. The estimate of national routine immunization coverage 2023 shows a downward trend of DTP3 coverage particularly in Cook Islands, FSM, Samoa and Vanuatu. Measles containing vaccine second dose (MCV2) coverage is alarmingly low in FSM, Samoa, Cook Islands, RMI, and Kiribati. Similarly, Vanuatu provides only one dose of measles containing vaccines which is sub-optimal placing the country at high risk for measles transmission. The risk of measles outbreak in those countries is high if population immunity remains the same.

COVID-19 response and vaccination support by COVAX facility and bilateral donors such as DFAT, MFAT, ADB, the Government of Japan, USAID enabled countries in preventing and reducing COVID-19 disease burden, morbidity and mortality their citizens and also provided unique opportunity to strengthen health system, revitalization of routine EPI and integration of COVID-19 vaccination in EPI and Primary Health Care during post COVID-19 emergency phase. Some countries take the opportunity to address chronic vaccine preventable diseases such as typhoid mass vaccination in Tuvalu, preventing outbreak through conducting measles supplementary immunization activities in Solomon Islands and organizing catch up vaccination to boost routine vaccine coverage in many PICTs. The lesson learned is that a resilient health system must be in place to continue PHC service delivery while addressing COVID-19 or possible similar pandemic in all future in the PICTs. This includes integration of COVID-19 with routine service delivery, capacity building of health care workers in micro-planning, reinforcing training with supportive supervision to gain sustain improvement in technical skills of health care workers and managerial skills of mid-level managers, linking and working with community during normal times and in emergency and behaviour change communication. The reemergence of new strains of COVID-19 virus is likely and that additional dose of vaccination may be required to boost immunity of the populations. As such, countries are ready to response to any epidemic as required.

UNICEF was able to support new vaccine introduction (PCV, Rotavirus and HPV vaccines) in 10 PICTs except those countries which have already included those vaccines in their routine schedule. As part of the activities, post introduction assessments are planned in Cook Islands, Nauru, Nieu and Tokelau in 2023/early 2024.

In this context, UNICEF seeks for an international consultant to provide technical assistance to the Ministries of Health in immunization system strengthening and revitalization of routine immunization coverage to prevent from Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) outbreaks in the PICTs is crucial for UNICEF Suva.

OBJECTIVE / SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of the consultancy is to provide technical support to the Ministries of Health and other stakeholders to improve routine immunization coverage and integration of COVID-19 vaccination with other services in routine program, and immunization systems strengthening in the PICTs.

The specific objective is to support Ministries of Health/EPI Programmes in:

- EPI regional workshop preparation, organization, facilitation, and reporting
- Tuvalu typhoid vaccine rollout

- Post new vaccine introduction assessments (PCV, Rota and HPV vaccines) in Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue and Tokelau
- Immunization in Practice (IIP) training in PICTs - Solomon Islands, RMI, Kiribati, Cook Islands etc
- Integration of COVID-19 vaccination with routine immunization and PHC in PICTs
- Prevention of vaccine preventable disease cases and outbreaks in the PICTs

ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES, PLUS BUDGET PER DELIVERABLE			
ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE	PAYMENT
EPI regional workshop preparation, organization, facilitation, and reporting	Regional workshop report PowerPoint presentation on integration tools and strategies	10 days	7% of the total amount
Typhoid conjugated vaccine campaign rollout to ensure reaching at least 85 per cent of population (monitoring, orientation on AEFI as required, supervision for quality assurance) in <i>Tuvalu</i>	Documentation of typhoid campaign in <i>Tuvalu</i> Monitoring and supervision reports Field mission reports	25 days	17% of the total amount
Post introduction assessments of new vaccines in <i>Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue and Tokelau</i> (Note: assessment of areas most relevant to UNICEF support; not a full WHO guided assessment. Physical presence in Tokelau is not expected)	Post introduction assessment reports	25 days	17% of the total amount
Organize IIP trainings in collaboration with WHO in 4 PICTs. Monitoring and coaching of ToT trainers in FSM and Solomon Islands at provincial levels	Training reports	30 days	21% of the total amount
Integration of COVID-19 vaccination in routine immunization and or primary health care services in <i>Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Niue, Nauru</i>	Country visit reports Integration program design reports	30 days	21% of the total amount
Advocate the MoHs to conduct campaigns/SIAs in countries at high risk of measles outbreaks after conducting risk assessments together with partners and the MoH	Measles risk assessment reports in FSM, RMI, Kiribati, Solomon, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu	20 days	14% of the total amount

Finalize regional plan in prevention and control of VPD outbreak including COVID-19 in the PICTs	Finalized regional plan in prevention and control of VPD outbreak including COVID-19	5 days	3% of the total amount
Total		145 days	100%

QUALIFICATIONS, SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE, AND ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

Bachelors Masters PhD Other

Education:

A university degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the following areas: Medicine, Public Health, Sociology and Anthropology, Epidemiology and disease control, Immunology and International Development

Experience:

- At least 8 years of progressively responsible professional work experience at national and international levels in the expanded programme on immunization, disease control epidemiology and surveillance, immunology
- Experience with SIAs
- Experience in immunization supply chain management, and analysis including experience with data management will be an asset
- Experience with the Pacific Islands context

Skills:

- Basic computer skills, and ability to balance and reconcile figures and transcribe accurately
- Able to work effectively with people internal and external parties
- Communicates clearly and concisely

Knowledge:

- Global immunization strategies, WHO position papers and SAGE recommendation on childhood vaccination and COVID-19 vaccination, COVAX, COVID-19 vaccine delivery, COVID-19 vaccine delivery partnership support, immunization supply chain strategies and basic knowledge on the Effective Vaccine Management and understanding of the principles of vaccine management, cold chain etc

CONDITIONS OF WORK AND CLARIFICATION ON SUPERVISION

Management, Organization, and Timeframe:

The consultant will be supervised by the Maternal and Child Health Specialist in Suva with the overall guidance of the Chief, Health and Nutrition in Suva UNICEF Pacific MCO.

The consultant will be based in Suva, Fiji with frequent field missions to the Pacific countries (approx. 80 days of in-country mission). S/he will provide data-driven technical assistance through effective coordination with both the Government and development partners, capacity-building support including day-to-day on-the-job knowledge transfer, and document lessons learned and recommendations (with clear prioritization) to improve overall immunization system strengthening to improve routine immunization coverage, integration of COVID-19 in routine service delivery/PHC and prevention and control of Vaccine Preventable Disease outbreaks in the PICTs.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- 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.

- The selected candidate is solely responsible for ensuring that the visa (applicable) and health insurance required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected candidates are subject to confirmation of fully vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the assignment. It does not apply to consultants who will work remotely and are not expected to work on or visit UNICEF premises, program delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their consultancy contracts. UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterward in your assignment.
- No contract may commence unless the contract is signed by both UNICEF and the consultant/contractor.
- Consultant/Contractor will be required to complete mandatory online courses (e.g. Ethics, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Security) upon receipt of the offer and before the signature of the contract.

The below is to be included in the advert.

NOTE FOR CONSULTANTS:

Please submit a **separate financial offer** along with your application. The financial proposal should be a **lump sum amount for all the deliverables** but should show a break down for the following:

- Monthly / Daily fees— based on the deliverables in the Terms of Reference
- Travel (economy air ticket where applicable to take up assignment if in country support is required, as well as any in country travel)
- Living allowance for international consultants
- Miscellaneous- to cover visa, health insurance (including medical evacuation for international consultants), communications, and other costs.