**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR Consultants and Ind. Contractors**

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| **Title: International Consultancy to develop Strategy and Guideline on Micronutrient Supplementation** |  | **Type of engagement**  Consultant | **Duty Station:**  Bishkek |
| **Background**  A comprehensive National Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometric Survey (NIMAS[[1]](#footnote-2)) conducted in 2021 identified a high need to scale up efforts aimed at improving the nutritional well-being of children and women in the Kyrgyz Republic. Even though the overall nutrition situation among children 6-59 months of age and less than 5 years of age has improved over the past two decades,children’s development is still affected by the triple burden of malnutrition.  Hidden hunger or micronutrient deficiency is a prevalent nutrition burden among mother and children of Kyrgyzstan. Anaemia among pregnant women is 49.3 per cent, with significant differences by pregnancy trimester, causing a severe public health problem (NIMAS, 2021). Anemia is considered a “moderate” public health problem in non-pregnant women (25.3 percent) and children 6-59 months of age (20.9 percent). Serious cases of anemia increase the risk of maternal and neonatal mortality, premature death and delayed child development.  Vast majority of adolescent girls (83.6 percent) and non-pregnant women (83.2 percent) suffer from folate deficiency. Iron deficiency has been identified by the NIMA survey as a strong putative risk factor for anemia in all population groups and a large proportion of individuals with anemia have concurrent iron deficiency. A total of 47 percent of children 6-59 months have iron deficiency, 56 percent of women of reproductive age and 46.5 per cent adolescent girls suffer from iron deficiency.  The prevalence of vitamin D deficiency in children 6-59 months of age is 5 per cent and is higher among adolescent girls and non-pregnant women; 9 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. The problem of Vit A is severe in children 6-59 months of age living in Bishkek and in children 5-9 years of age living in Chui and Osh City.  To address micronutrient deficiency, the Ministry of Health developed and approved Anaemia Reduction Plan among children, adolescents, women in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2023-2026.   UNICEF is supporting countries in tackling micronutrient deficiencies.  The joint work plan between UNICEF and the Ministry of Health for 2024-2025 outlines the development of the national Micronutrient Supplementation Strategy. The Guideline for Micronutrient Supplementation will serve as a practical tool to implement the Strategy.  **Purpose of Activity/Assignment:**  The proposed consultancy aims to support UNICEF in creating an enabling political environment with strong in-country leadership and a shared Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Nutrition and Food Security to take a joint responsibility to enhance micronutrients policy and strategy leading to effective legislations with monitoring and evaluation systems.  **Specific objectives:**   1. To support Government and UNICEF to develop the national, costed Micronutrient Supplementation Strategy and Guidelines for Micronutrient Supplementation, which would include: 2. Proposed high impact evidence-based nutrition intervention to reduce micronutrient deficiency and ways to scale up among target population including food fortification and micronutrient supplementation. 3. Proposed implementation arrangements and institutional mechanisms for both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive sectoral strategies including promotion of the consumption of micronutrient-rich foods and food diversification. | | | |
| **Scope of Work:**  **The selected consultant will be required to:**   1. Conduct a desk-review of available global evidence, review of nutrition system barriers in Kyrgyzstan and globally, successes and promising practices, as well as identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the micronutrient interventions. 2. Conduct a desk review of existing national legislation, policies, procedures and strategies on nutrition and micronutrient deficiency reduction issued during the last 5 years in order to reveal gaps and propose consolidated document linked with national health plans and global goals and targets; 3. Conduct round table discussions for working group of lead specialists of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and other line ministries on the findings of the desk review and agree on way forward including strategic goals, objectives, suggested interventions and expected results; 4. Develop draft Strategy on micronutrient supplementation with proposed strategic interventions, implementation arrangements and the detailed annual work plan; monitoring and evaluation framework for all MN interventions; 5. Cost the proposed interventions and proposed ways for financing and budgeting; 6. Develop Guidelines on micronutrient supplementation to outline measures on how to achieve the micronutrient supplementation objectives, including institutional mechanisms; 7. Discuss the guidelines among lead health specialists (pediatricians, family doctors, Ob&Gyn, nurses and feldshers). | | | |
| **Child Safeguarding**  Is this project/assignment considered as “[Elevated Risk Role](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/DocumentLibrary1/Guidance%20on%20Identifying%20Elevated%20Risk%20Roles_finalversion.pdf?CT=1590792470221&OR=ItemsView)” from a child safeguarding perspective?       YES       NO     If YES, check all that apply:      **Direct contact role** YES       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** YES      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):     |  | | --- | |  |   More information is available in the [Child Safeguarding SharePoint](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/SitePages/Amendments-to-the-Recruitment-Guidance.aspx) and [Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/DHR-ChildSafeguarding/DocumentLibrary1/Child%20Safeguarding%20FAQs%20and%20Updates%20Dec%202020.pdf) | | | |

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| **Supervisor:**  **Health and Nutrition Officer**  **Overall supervision by Section Chief,** | | **Start Date:**  **12 August 2024** | | **End Date:**  **15 November 2024** | | **Number of Days (working):**  **3 months or 66 working days** |
| **Work Assignment Overview** | | | | | | |
| **Tasks/Milestone:** | | **Deliverables/Outputs:** | | **Timeline** | | **Estimate Budget** |
| Submit two desk reviews | | Desk reviews accepted by UNCIEF | | 3 weeks (15 working days) | | 20% |
| Draft Strategy on micronutrient supplementation developed including institutional mechanisms and budget with cost and M&E framework. | | Draft Strategy on micronutrient supplementation | | 2 months (36 working days) | | 45% |
| Round table | | Final draft of the costed Strategy is validated by the UNICEF and stakeholders | | By 30 September | | 10% |
| Guideline for micronutrient supplementation | | Guideline | | 3 weeks (15 working days) | | 25% |
|  | |  | | Total 3 months, 66 working days | | 100% |

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| **Estimated Consultancy fee** |  |  |  |
| Travel Local (please include travel plan)  Home-based with one travel to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for meetings with stakeholders, consultation, and validation meetings. | 22 working days in Bishkek |  | 0 |
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| **Minimum Qualifications required:** | **Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:** | | |
| Bachelors  Masters  PhD  Other  Enter Disciplines: Nutrition, Public Health, Medicine | 1. Minimum 5 years of the experience of working in nutrition with experience of designing national micronutrient strategy, costing and legislation in food fortification 2. Work experience and an understanding of the Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan specific context (political, social – cultural and economic) are desirable 3. Proven ability in coordination of research, dialogue, and synthesis of complex information in strategic reports and documents 4. English is mandatory and knowledge of Russian is desirable 5. Strong writing skills in English, sample of designed strategies/policies will be required   **In addition to the above mentioned, following skills are required:**   * Strategic planning and analytical skills. | | |
| **Administrative details:**  Visa assistance required:  Transportation arranged by the office: | **Home Based**  Office Based:  If office based, seating arrangement identified:  IT and Communication equipment required:  Internet access required: | | |

1. NIMAS was a joint cooperation between the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, USAID and Mercy Corps. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)