![UNICEF for every child]

UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
Terms of Reference for Individual Consultant Long-Term Agreement (LTA)

Section/Unit and supervisor the consultant or contractor reports to	**Health/HSS Specialist**
Title of the Consultancy/Contract	**Regional Digital Health Consultant**
Duty Station	**Kathmandu, Nepal**
Duration of the Consultancy/Contract	**LTA agreement for up to 3 years; initial contract for approx. 8** months (through December 2023)
Expected Travel	**4 missions within South Asia and at least one visit to Regional Office (if not based in Nepal); additional missions may be added as additional deliverables are agreed**

1. Rationale:

Digital health is a broad multidisciplinary concept that embraces intersections between technology and healthcare. The scope of digital health includes mobile health (mHealth), electronic health records (EHRs), electronic medical records (EMRs), digitized health information systems and real-time monitoring of health services and systems, tracking and monitoring of medical supplies and equipment through the supply chain, wearable devices, telehealth and telemedicine, as well as personalized medicine.

In recent years, country demand for global guidelines and deployment support for digital health has increased, following the experiences and lessons learned from digital health interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing access to information, and increasing digital literacy alongside a concurrently widening digital divide. As part of UNICEF's new Strategic Plan, Programme Group (PG) Health created the Digital Health & Information Systems (DH&IS) unit under the Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Section (MNCAH). DH&IS supports the use of digital health interventions and data to strengthen programmes across all sections in the Health PG.

In addition, the Digital Health Centre of Excellence (DICE) was established as a multiagency consortium to provide surge support to governments who request technical assistance to establish digital health and information system solutions. DICE operations and field support is co-led by UNICEF in partnership with WHO.

Within the South Asia region, data and digital health has been a growth area for UNICEF over the last few years. This is in response to the recognition of various challenges - including data management, quality, accuracy and timeliness in submission of data, analysis, dissemination, uptake and use, and in the integration of various data sources – as well as recognition of the various potential that data and digitalised health initiatives offer in terms of strengthening and improving various health system strengthening initiatives, such as relating to supply chain management and reviews of quality of care, the provision of data to guide district level management and leadership, and remote capacity building for frontline health workers. A recent landscape analysis of health systems strengthening initiatives across UNICEF country programs in South Asia found that initiatives in this area across countries were most commonly focused at strengthening routine health information systems, particularly focused at the DHIS2 platform, and the integration of various data sources. Perceived value in the development and use of real time data has also grown recently given prominent use cases that informed the COVID-19 pandemic response. The use of data to guide and inform evidence-based decision making has also been a key focus of UNICEF HSS initiatives across countries, particularly where there has been recent devolution of power to decentralised levels alongside fast shifts in

accountability and responsibility for planning and delivering health services. Other activities in this space have been focused on mapping existing systems, advising on roadmaps, plans and strategies, the conduct of periodic surveys, capacity building of human resources required to operationalise data systems, supporting the selection and prioritisation of indicators, the development of specific information systems (i.e. for vaccine tracking), and the design of dashboards, amongst others. There are additionally opportunities in health supply chains including equipment tracking and monitoring using block chain and IoT.

The UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia has identified six programmatic 'areas for acceleration' within its 2022-2025 regional office management plan. Among these is a focus on "bridging the digital divide." This area for acceleration seeks to ensure that children and young people can access the internet regardless of gender, economic situation, or whether they live in an urban or rural area. Addressing the digital divide focuses on four key areas: (i) affordable access to the internet at school and in the home, (ii) digital literacy of children and parents to use the internet and do it safely, (iii) equitable access for girls and marginalized groups, and (iv) the provision of quality, online content in relevant languages. UNICEF in South Asia works in partnership with governments, UN agencies, and the private sector to ensure the next generation becomes increasingly connected to the rest of the world and able to compete in the modern economy. The fourth area of focus within the accelerator is particularly relevant to the health sector and presents opportunities to use digital health innovations to improve knowledge and awareness about health issues among the population and frontline health workers. The accelerator will further contribute to preparing the next generation of health workers and public health professionals who are digitally literate and connected to high quality public health information.

2. Purpose:

The Regional Digital Health Consultant will facilitate UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) to identify and prioritize digital health investment opportunities at regional and national level, in collaboration with MOH and partners, and in liaison with HQ (DICE and Health PG). Specific support includes preparation of situation / landscape analysis, production of digital health investment cases that are embedded with digitally enabled health roadmaps and health emergency response plans, and support to identified countries for design, deployment, and documentation of digital health solutions. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the regional and country health, T4D and SBC staff, and be expected to leverage their expertise in managing partnerships, plans/strategies, and other resources to actively engage in and support this work on the ground.

This will include engaging with the UNICEF ROSA staff, digital health and programme officers based in country offices, MOH, WHO, and other stakeholders in assessing current deployments and partnerships, the status of the "foundational eHealth building blocks", the health system bottlenecks, opportunities where digital health solutions could support and strengthen the delivery of quality care at community level, planning for implementation of a digitally enabled PHC strategy based on solid eHealth building blocks, and supporting the costing and creation of an investment case for scale-up of the digital health implementation plan.

It will require an understanding of health information systems, and ability to think creatively about best fitting technology for each country to develop the investment case and country-specific initiatives. It will take an understanding of currently available technology and trends to develop effective solutions for the Health sector, especially at community and primary health care level. It also requires an extensive background and presence in the mHealth/eHealth communities.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the "new normal" in its aftermath, countries must develop and deploy strategic action plans, which can benefit explicitly from digital health and digital engagement solutions. The consultant may also be asked to support country offices to ensure that existing digital health solutions,

where appropriate, are leveraged in a way that is consistent with UNICEF's guidance to improve future emergency preparedness and response.

As the understanding of the needs and priorities will evolve following the first few deliverables, UNICEF ROSA plans to establish a long-term agreement (LTA) with an individual that can be leveraged to develop additional deliverables for ongoing and continuous support as the work progresses. The initial contract will cover the currently known deliverables, while subsequent contracts will be agreed to support the next steps.

3. Key Assignments/Tasks:

The Regional Digital Health Analyst will support UNICEF ROSA Health team and collaborate with the regional Digital Transformation and Innovations team to:

a) Review and analyse existing digital health inventory / mapping tools used across the region, leveraging work already completed through the Map & Match initiative, the WHO Digital Health Atlas (DHA) and by UNICEF (https://uni.cf/mapping-digital-health) and INVENT, establishing a baseline for further work with country teams to evaluate availability of digital systems for various common use-cases, for public health emergencies, and for broader health system strengthening. Conduct additional mapping as needed and feed into existing inventories. As a result of this task, the consultant will produce the following:

- Final report which includes details on: regional coordination, partners engaged, assessment of existing inventory tools' completeness and quality, final mapping of existing digital health landscape, and identification of country needs for TA.
- Review of previous country assessment recommendations and results to determine deployment status.
- Update INVENT and the DHA with ROSA digital health portfolio initiatives following the analysis
- Provide a regional partner mapping with identified focal points / contacts and opportunities for partnership agreements

b) Based on the findings of the regional landscape, prepare a Regional (ROSA) Digital Health Strategy and Regional Roadmap

c) Review existing digital assessment literature, including available resources with UNICEF and partners, and develop a region-specific guidance note on digital readiness and preparedness assessments

d) Conduct Digital Readiness Assessments for all 8 countries in the region

e) Prepare costed investment plans and business cases for at least two (2) priority countries based on assessment results (country(ies) to be determined once assessments are completed)

f) Provide technical support to countries in the region on initiatives through the Health Data Collaborative (HDC) – initially Nepal and Pakistan

g) Plan and co-ordinate a mission from DICE to the regional office to assess the regional priorities and identify technical assistance to the countries in the region

Other tasks / activities will include (but are not limited to) the following, and will be defined in further detail following those mentioned above:

- Support countries with resource mobilization, providing inputs into proposals for GAVI Full Portfolio Planning (FPP), Global Fund, and other donor mechanisms.
- Expand the WHO-ITU-USAID-UNICEF-PATH digital health training courses (ie Digital Health: Planning National Systems), including localization and national deployments.

- Identify areas for Implementation Research and prepare a concept note for technical and financial support from RO and HQ (minimum 2, up to a maximum of 4)
- Identify and document country case studies (minimum 2, up to a maximum of 4).
- Identify and drive at least two priority digital health initiatives from the regional office in more than 2 COs in the region. These could involve taking to scale what is already proven in any of the COs or deploying and scaling relevant global initiatives in the region.
- Provide on-demand technical support and advice to country offices in implementation of digital health public goods and associated technologies for Health System Strengthening such as DHIS2, eCRVS, GIS, eLMIS, Commcare, tele-medicine, supply chain, chatbots, frontline workers capacity building, etc.
- Contribute to country office resource mobilization, and integration of digital health priorities into national planning and budgeting exercises.
- Conduct digital health capacity building activities for the region through transfer of skills, trainings and webinars.

Through the above deliverables, the consultant will ensure:

- Alignment of COVID-19 digital health activities with National Deployment of Vaccines Plans, Health Sector Development Plans and Digital Health Strategies
- Alignment of digital platforms with national data protection, cyber security, health standards and information exchange guidelines
- Building relationships and strengthen UNICEF ROSA involvement in regional health informatics networks, such as the Asia eHealth Network (AeHIN), and close collaboration with WHO regional HDC consultant; strengthen joint regional planning with WHO SEARO and EMRO offices.

4. **Proposed Delivery Schedule:**

Minimum Fees for Minimum Deliverables:

Deliverable	Total Days
Situation analysis of digital health landscape in ROSA countries	20
Regional (ROSA) Digital Health Strategy and Regional Roadmap	10
Region-specific guidance note on digital readiness and preparedness assessments including available resources with UNICEF and partners	15
Digital readiness assessments for all 8 countries in the region	20
Costed investment plans / business cases for at least two (2) countries in the region	30
Technical support to Nepal and Pakistan on HDC initiatives	20
Support countries with resource mobilization, providing inputs into proposals for GAVI Full Portfolio Planning (FPP), Global Fund, and other donor mechanisms	15

Deliverable	Total Days
Expand the WHO-ITU-USAID-UNICEF-PATH digital health training courses (ie Digital Health: Planning National Systems), including localization and national deployments	10
Build relationships and strengthen UNICEF ROSA involvement in regional health informatics networks, such as the Asia eHealth Network (AeHIN), and close collaboration with WHO regional HDC consultant; strengthen joint regional planning with WHO SEARO and EMRO offices	10
Plan and co-ordinate a mission from DICE to the regional office to assess the regional priorities and identify technical assistance to the countries in the region	10
Implementation Research concept note for technical and financial support from RO and HQ	10
Identify and document country case-studies (at least 2)	10
Total	**180**

Additional fees may be added for extra deliverables, as follows:

Additional Costs for Extra Deliverables	Total Days
Investment plan / business case (per additional country, up to 6)	15
Implementation Research concept note (3)	5
Implementation Research concept note (4)	5
Case study documentation (3)	5
Case study documentation (4)	5
Total	**35**

5. **Minimum Requirements:**

A) Education:
Advanced university degree (Master's) or equivalent professional experience in health informatics, public health/medicine, development studies, geography, economics or related field is required. A first University Degree in a relevant field combined with 2 additional years of professional experience may be accepted in lieu of an Advanced University Degree.

B) Work Experience:
- Minimum 7 years of work experience at the international and/or national level in digital health, especially on the deployment of information systems and digital solutions.
- Experience in providing technical assistance and thought leadership surrounding the design and implementation of digital solutions for health system strengthening, routine immunization, and use of geospatial solutions for health programmes, including application of recommended Health Information System architectures and standards.
- Knowledge and experience in community health/primary health care programmes
- Experience designing and supporting digital health projects with Governments (including Ministries of Health, Statistics, Information and Communication Technologies, etc.).
- Experience with project management and proven ability to translate complex ideas from various areas into unified, clear guidance

C) Competencies:
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Extensive experience working with the digital health/eHealth community
- Knowledge and experience with a multitude of digital platforms, including DHIS2, OpenMRS, RapidPro ,iHRIS, OpenHIE, MoTECH, CommCare, OpenSRP, mSupply, etc
- Knowledge and experience working with GIS tools such as ESRI / ArcGIS, QGIS, MapBox, etc.
- Familiarity with open-source technology
- Ability to work in a team and in a diverse work environment.
- Exposure to UNICEF, UN or other INGO programmatic areas, including (but not limited to) health, nutrition, child protection and/or education, and experience in applying technical solutions to address programmatic issues is an asset

D) Language Proficiency:
Fluency in English is required. Proficiency in at least one South Asian language is desired. Knowledge of another official UN language is considered as an asset.