

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Individual Consultant for Maternal Health (open to National Consultants only)

Duty Station: New Delhi (home based with mission travels)

Contract Duration: 15 months

Closing Date: 27th July 2023

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

India is committed to achieving the maternal and newborn health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Strategy for Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health and Every Newborn Action Plan and the Government of India National Health Policy, 2017 targets to end preventable maternal and newborn mortality and stillbirths. The SDG 2030 goals entail a reduction of maternal mortality to below 70 per 100,000 live births from the current level of 97 per 100,000 live births and reducing new-born mortality from current levels of 20 per every 1,000 live births to less than 12 per 1,000 live births

In recent years, quality of care (QoC) and Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) has gained renewed focus and prioritization even at the highest political level in the country. LaQshya initiative is a flagship program of the Government of India to 'fast track' attainment of quality-of-care standards for maternal and newborn care services across government health facilities in the country with focus on aspirational districts. As per NFHS-5, there is a substantial increase in Caesarean Section deliveries, particularly so in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana which is a matter of concern. Also, there is urgent need to revise the current SBA guidelines which was developed in 2009. The purpose of the assignment is to fast track the quality of maternal health services initiatives particularly focusing on the day of birth for reducing maternal mortality. The consultant will be supporting Ministry of Health and SDG priority initiatives like revision of SBA guidelines under guidance of MoHFW; dissemination of caesarean section guidelines; supporting states for achieving the LaQshya certification; strengthening PMSMA; Midwifery Initiative, roll out of Obstetrics HDU and ICU and the recently launched initiative for zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths (SUMAN).

To provide technical assistance to the implementation of the national and state initiatives to scale-up and strengthen the quality of maternal health programs, by providing technical assistance to MoHFW and supporting the UNICEF programming states on quality of care (QoC) initiatives for maternal health services thereby contributing to the reduction of stillbirths and newborn & maternal mortality.

The purpose of the assignment is to provide technical assistance and consultancy support for maternal health for improving the quality of care at birth to reduce the morbidity and mortality for mother baby dyad. The consultant will provide technical support, coordinate with, and monitor service providers, liaison with state governments and develop implementation frameworks for phase wise implementation for strategies to reduce annual rate of reduction for maternal mortality in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal targets for maternal health.

2. MAJOR TASKS AND ACTIVITIES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED

The consultant will be responsible for the following:

1. Development & Implementation of detailed Standard Operating Procedures on Preconception care (PCC) and quality antenatal Care
2. Development of Detailed report on the situation of LaQshya and Surakshit Matrituva Ashwasan (SUMAN) through assessments monitoring and evaluation of selected health facilities on standardized checklist
3. Roll out of Midwifery Initiative in UNICEF programming states
4. Detailed report on the Obstetric HDU-ICU roll out in UNICEF programming states based on assessment of selected Hospitals in UNICEF programming states
5. Development and submission of reports on maternal and neonatal health based on detailed data analysis using open-source data available for UNICEF programming states, national and global reports

3. DELIVERABLES AND DEADLINES

Work Assignments Overview (Include Major Tasks and Activities)	Deliverables/Outputs	Timeline/Date for submission of Deliverable
Development & Implementation of detailed Standard Operating Procedures on Preconception care (PCC) and quality antenatal Care	Detailed guidance note/ implementation plan on Pre-conception care (30–40-page report)	20 th September 2023
	Detailed report on inequities in ANC in UNICEF programming states and detailed implementation plan for improving the quality and coverage of ANC care (10-12 page)	30 th October 2023
	Detailed report on fast tracking elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis (10-12 page per state)	10 th December 2023
Development of Detailed report on the situation of LaQshya and Surakshit Matrituva Ashwasan (SUMAN) through assessments monitoring and evaluation of selected health facilities on standardized checklist	Report on status of LaQshya Certification (State and National) in the UNICEF programming states and way forward for fast tracking the certification	10 th January 2024
	Detailed report on LaQshya Evaluation in selected states	15 th February 2024
	Detailed report on status of Surakshit Matrituva Ashwasan (SUMAN) in the UNICEF programming states and way forward for fast tracking the NQAS certification	31 st March 2024
Roll out of Midwifery Initiative in UNICEF programming states	Detailed report on status of training of Midwifery Educators and Nurse Practitioners in Midwifery (NPMs) with special focus on quality of training as per the WHO standards and standards of International Confederation of Midwifery (ICM) in UNICEF selected states	30 th April 2024
	Detailed report on status of functioning of national midwifery training institutes (NMTI) and state midwifery training institutes (SMTI) in UNICEF selected states	25 th May 2024
	Detailed mentoring plan for NMTI and SMTI for ensuring quality of trainings	30 th June 2024
Detailed report on the Obstetric HDU-ICU roll out in UNICEF programming states based on assessment of selected Hospitals in UNICEF programming states	Detailed report on status of scale up and operationalization of Obstetric ICU/ HDU in UNICEF programming states and support for budget proposals in PIP for selected states for set up of Obs. ICU/ HDU as per the MoHFW guidelines	31 st July 2024
Development and submission of reports on maternal and neonatal health based on detailed data analysis using open-source data available for UNICEF programming states, national and global reports	In depth analysis and submission of detailed report status of maternal and newborn health in UNICEF programming states in line with EPMM and ENAP critical indicators with way forward	10 th September 2024
	Submission of detailed report on Maternal deaths and near miss due to road traffic crashes, ante-partum haemorrhage, post- partum haemorrhage, eclampsia etc.	15 th November 2024

4. DUTY STATION

New Delhi (home-based with mission travel)

5. OFFICIAL TRAVEL INVOLVED (ITINERARY AND DURATION)

There will be 12 air trips (with total 60 days) to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra or any other State assigned to UNICEF for Maternal Health.

6. ESTIMATED DURATION OF CONTRACT

15 months, from August 2023

7. QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Qualification:

Medicine/MBBS/ BDS with Master's degree in Medicine/ Community Medicine/Public Health/ Child Health (paediatrics)/ Obstetrics and Gynaecology/ Masters in Hospital and health administration/ Masters in Public Health

Experience:

- i. Work experience of minimum 3 years at state or national level in the field of RMNCHA. Specific experience in Maternal health and/or neonatal health will be of added advantage.
- ii. Fluency in English with demonstrated expertise of working in the thematic area of RMNCHA and good writing skills required.
- iii. Demonstrated skills in working with government departments (state or national)

8. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA (WITH WEIGHTS FOR EACH CRITERIA)

Technical and Financial ratio is 80:20 (technical proposal-80 points and financial proposal-20 points)

S. No.	Evaluation Criteria	Max. Marks	Min. Marks
1.	Qualification: MBBS/ BDS with Master's degree in Medicine/ Community Medicine/ Public Health/ Child Health (paediatrics)/ Obstetrics and Gynaecology/ Masters in Hospital and health	10	40
2.	Relevant experience: Work experience of minimum 3 years at state or national level in the field of RMNCHA. Specific experience in Maternal health and/or neonatal health will be of added advantage	20	
3.	Technical Proposal: Initiative to provide women centered compassionate Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) during birth and immediate post-partum period	20	
	Sub-Total	50	40
4.	Interview	30	24
	Total	80	64

Note: Candidate scoring 40 points (out of 50) will be invited for interview. Qualifying score in technical evaluation is 64 out of 80.

9. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant

10. IMPORTANT NOTES

- 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 to ensure that the health insurance (and visa if applicable) 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, programme 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 afterwards in your assignment.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application to be submitted through the online portal and must contain four separate attachments, as follows:

1. A cover letter (max 2 pages) outlining understanding of the scope and activities, motivation to undertake it and demonstrating fit for the assignment **(to be uploaded online under “Cover Letter” tab)**
2. An updated CV demonstrating all requirements stated above **(to be uploaded online under “Resume” tab)**
3. **Technical Proposal (to be uploaded online under “Other – Applicant”**
4. A financial proposal indicating all-inclusive amount (professional fee + travel cost as applicable) against each of the deliverable, as per the template attached. Please do not forget to specify your name in the file while saving **(to be uploaded online under “Financial Proposal” tab).**

Important Note: Please do not indicate financials anywhere else in the online application form, please mark "n/a or 00", under the fee related questions in the online application form.

Without all the above 04 documents, your application will be considered incomplete and invalid and will not be considered further.

- Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF’s selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.
- Joint applications of two or more individuals are not accepted.
- Please note, UNICEF does not charge any fee during any stage of the process.
- Women, trans, non-binary and gender diverse candidates meeting the requirements are strongly encouraged to apply.
- UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages qualified candidates from all backgrounds including persons living with disabilities to apply.
- General Terms and Conditions for the Consultancy Contract is attached, for your reference.

For any clarifications, please contact:

UNICEF

Supply & Procurement Section

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