**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Child Nutrition Consultant**

**UNICEF CHINA**

**Subject / Title: Consultant on IYCF**

**Expected start date**: 1st April 2020

**Duration: 9 months**

**Supervisor:** Nutrition Specialist, Health, Nutrition & WASH Section

1. **Background**

In China, children are faced with the double burden of malnutrition. Thanks to rapid economic development and government interventions targeting undernutrition, the prevalence of underweight and wasting have dropped dramatically. However, stunting remains a problem, especially in poor rural areas. Between 1990 and 2013, in China, the stunting prevalence of children under five decreased from 33.1 per cent to 8.1 per cent, while in poor rural areas, the stunting prevalence of children under five was as high as 18.7 per cent in 2013, 2.3 times the national average. In the meantime, the child overweight and obesity rates have grown rapidly over the past decades in both urban and rural areas, becoming a noticeable public health problem. Between 2002 and 2012, the prevalence of overweight increased from 6.5 per cent to 8.4 per cent and the obesity rate increased from 2.7 per cent to 3.1 per cent among children under five.

One of the important reasons to cause the malnutrition of children under five in China is due to poor infant and young child feeding practice (including breastfeeding and complementary feeding) in China. Data from the 2013 China Nutrition and Health Surveillance show that the prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, minimum meal frequency and minimum acceptable diet were 52.5 per cent, 69.8 per cent, and 27.4 per cent among children aged 6–23 months, respectively, with noticeable differences between urban and rural areas. Breastfeeding is undermined for various reasons. In addition to poor legislation and unrestricted environment for marketing and promotion of infant formula, health workers are also poorly trained to support mothers and address common challenges to support IYCF practices as well as parents often have limited information on best practices. Young parents, both in rural and urban areas are increasingly looking for additional support from service providers trained to provide one-to one counselling and correct information for IYCF.

UNICEF has been invited to strengthen health worker’s knowledge and capacity on infant and young child feeding practices. This involves improvement of key IYCF practices while aiming to increase demand and uptake of services as well as to improve norms and behaviours related to good nutrition. Thus, UNICEF country office needs to hire a consultant to focus on IYCF work including facilitating the revision and promotion of IYCF counselling package to be endorsed by the government, strengthening the IYCF counselling capability of health workers and dietitians by organizing IYCF trainings and supporting IYCF works involved in WASH-Nutrition program of Qinghai province.

1. **Purpose of the Position**

The consultant will fill the gap of a staff maternity leave. S/he will be responsible for programme focused on infant and young child nutrition, that seeks to finalize and promote the competency-based Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling package, strengthen capacity among health workers through the implementation of IYCF counselling training, supporting the scaling up of Ying Yang Bao, supporting a joint WASH- Nutrition program in Qinghai.

1. **Specific Tasks**

Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Nutrition Specialist of Health Nutrition & WASH, main areas of responsibilities of the Consultant include:

1. Provide technical assistance to the competency-based Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling package. Support counterparts to implement IYCF counselling training and assist in monitoring outputs and routine assessment of results.
2. Support integrated nutrition and WASH intervention in Qinghai province such as supporting in IYCF training for health workers from county and village level and the implementation of IYCF counselling.
3. Provide technical assistance to the development of assessment tool of IYCF counselling.
4. Provide technical assistance to national priority programs like IYCF improvement in Ying Yang Bao(YYB) project counties, with training packages, monitoring tools and demand generation strategies.
5. Conduct regular program field visits and surveys and/or exchange information with partners/stakeholders monitor and provide technical support, communicate with counterparts on project feasibility and effectiveness.
6. Collect and analyze data for nutrition programme planning, management, monitoring and evaluation.
7. Support documentation of best practices for learning purposes, such as YYB scaling up in China.
8. **Deliverables & Timeframe**

The consultant shall carry out the following activities with deliverable and expected timeframe identified.

1. Deliverable 1: finalize and promote IYCF counselling package in China

Activities:

* Finalize the words and illustrations in IYCF counselling package both in Chinese and English version through endorsement of government and other counterparts
* Provide support in publishing process of IYCF counselling package
* Organize the launch of IYCF counselling package with counterparts
* Follow the project of IYCF question bank of registered dietitian exam
* Organize other activities related with the promotion of IYCF counseling package

Expected timeframe: April 2020-June 2020

1. Deliverable 2: facilitate the scaling up of IYCF counselling training in China

Activities:

* Facilitate and supervise the IYCF trainings organized by the Chinese Nutrition Society (5 training classes with 100 trainees together)
* Facilitate and supervise the IYCF trainings in MCH system (details need to be confirmed with MCH department of NHC and NCWCH)
* Discuss the following IYCF scaling-up plan with counterparts

Expected timeframe: June 2020-Dec 2020

1. Deliverable 3: support WASH-Nutrition Program in Qinghai

Activities:

* Facilitate and supervise the IYCF trainings organized by the Qinghai MCH (5 training classes at county level with 100 trainees together)
* Facilitate and supervise the implementation of IYCF counselling in Qinghai counties
* Provide technical and administration support in developing the evaluation tool of IYCF counselling with counterpart

Expected timeframe: April 2020-Dec 2020

1. **Payment Schedule**

Payments will be done in accordance with submission of deliverables, working days, certified by the supervisor.

1. **Methodology**

The consultant will be required to work from UNICEF China office. UNICEF will pay to the consultant based on a satisfactory performance and as per the terms of payments attached.

Major outputs include:

* Publish the IYCF counselling package with well-designed layout and endorsement by government
* Facilitate the scale-up of IYCF training through the Chinese Nutrition Society and MCH system
* Support the IYCF works including training and implementation of IYCF counselling in Qinghai Province
* Develop the evaluation tool of IYCF counselling

**5. Timeframe**

The consultancy will begin on 1st April 2020 and end on 30th Dec 2020.

**6. Supervision / support**

During the whole consultancy process, the nutrition specialist with responsibility for this project will work with the consultant on daily basis, with other colleagues in H,N&WASH and Chief of Health, Nutrition and WASH providing any technical guidance required. The nutrition specialist will communicate with related counterparts to form the technical suggestions in nutrition and visualization to guide the consultant to conduct work and achieve the deliverables. The nutrition specialist and section chief will review the quality of the technical support and deliverables to ensure adherence to UNICEF standards and expectations and process for payment.

**7. Consultancy Requirements**

Qualifications:

* An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in one of the following fields: nutrition, nutrition epidemiology, international health, public health, food science or other related field;
* At least five years of professional working experience in nutrition, maternal, infant and child health, nutrition care, or public health
* Experience with management and coordination of projects
* Fluency in English and Chinese is required

Competence-based skills requirement:

• Respect for and adherence to UNICEF's core values of Commitment, Diversity and Inclusion, Integrity and proven understanding and sensitivity to cultural nuances

• Interpersonal skills, capacity to work with different personalities to deliver on shared results

• Drive for results, setting high standards for the quality of work

• Capacity to think outside of the box and drive innovation

• Strong communication skills, fluently and confidently gathering and expressing and writing opinions and information

Core Competencies

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| --- | --- |
| Communication | Working with People |
| Driving for Results | Learning and Researching |
| Applying Technical Expertise | Planning and Organizing |