**UNICEF China**

**Terms of Reference**

**For Consultant Recruitment**

**Job Title of Consultancy:**Adolescent mental health service package review

**Requesting Section:** Health, Nutrition and WASH Section

**Supervisor:** MCH Specialist

**Background of Consultancy Request:**

China’s National Health Commission (NHC) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have been jointly implementing the Adolescent Health and Development Demonstration Project in 14 counties (districts) of 11 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) from 2016 to 2020. The project focuses on the main health issues faced by adolescents, including mental health and offers evidence-based interventions that being implemented in schools, health facilities and other community centers across the pilot sites.

To implement the program and expand care, a service package was developed with input from key technical agencies and national experts. Specific actions that were meant to address the most common and important adolescent mental health needs were introduced as part of the overall services in project areas. This service package aimed to provide both universal and targeted mental health support for adolescents, and used strategies like group sessions, mental health courses and adolescent camp activities in schools. The package also called for additional capacity for early screening, counselling and referrals for adolescents who might need additional care and treatment. School based programs are strengthened, with counselling rooms at health centers and schools as well as online counselling and referral service via telephone and new media with a dedicated public health service hotline.

Since introducing and implementing the service package in pilot areas, we have learnt that the acceptance of the different components has been varied. Service content and delivery channel of some components are appropriate to meet the needs of target population, yet there is room for further improvements. In 2021, under next country programme, the integration of the mental health services into routine health care services across sectors will be a major advocacy and policy goal. To support the scaling up of the service package, it is necessary to review it and assess if the service content and delivery channel are in alignment with international best practices, the discrepancies clearly articulated. This comparison will help to provide international evidence for the service package and identify the possible perspectives to improve it.

**Purpose of Activity/Assignment:**

The objective of the consultancy is to review the current content and delivery of the adolescent mental health package against global guidance, to provide expertise and technical support to review the adolescent mental health service package and to identify gaps and challenges in accessing mental health services, as well as differences in evidence, content and approach in the implementation across pilot areas. To that end, the consultancy will document the following:

* The extent to which the service package is in alignment with global best practices
* Does the service package balance targeted and universal service[[1]](#footnote-1) provision?
* Is the service content and/or delivery channel appropriate for adolescents in different settings (including education and health settings, and online media, etc.)?

**Major Tasks, Deliverables & Timeframe:**

As all the service package related manual, toolkits are in Chinese, this consultancy will primarily review the English version of outlines for the service package, and interact with the technical agencies responsible for the different components of the service package to learn about the rationale, service content and service delivery, as well as the utilization of the service package. The specific tasks, deliverables and timeframe see table below.

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| **Tasks** | **Deliverables** | **Timeline** |
| 1. Plan the consultancy (including the methodology, timeline, etc.)
 | Inception report | * By 5 October (3 days of work)
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| 1. Review outline of the adolescent mental health service package (including Positive Psychology Manual, Group Session Manual, mindfulness-based stress reduction and attention exercises for adolescents, adolescent counseling module for 12320 hotline workers, and early warning and screening tools for adolescent mental health issues), interact with domestic development team of the package, compare with international recommendations on adolescent mental health, identify the discrepancies, and provide comments
 | * The reviewed outline with comments and editions
* Develop a matrix (the extent of the different components of the service package are alignment with global practices, the appropriateness of the service content and delivery channel)
 | * By 25 October 2020 (15 days of work)
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| 1. Draft and finalize a report on this review (including overview on service content, service delivery, etc., key results of review and suggestions)
 | * Draft a report
 | * By 5 November 2020 (5 days of work)
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| * Finalize the report
 | * By 15 November 2020 (2 days of work)
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**Methodology & Expected Output:**

The Consultancy is not office based, but from time to time is required to send regular updates, meeting, emails and telephone calls. No specific travel required.

**Start Date:** 25 September 2020

**End Date:** 15 November 2020

**Total Working Days:** 25 days of work during this period

**Consultancy Requirements:**

* **Minimum Academic Qualifications required and disciplines:**
* Master’s degree in relevant field, with at least 10 years of professional experience in adolescent mental health, research or programmes.
* **Knowledge/Experience/Expertise/Skills required:**
* Strong technical expertise, management and review experience in adolescent mental health related program, materials development, research and studies;
* Demonstrable technical knowledge and experiences on public health, including training, research or programmes;
* Familiarity with the UN, in particular the Human Rights Conventions and a rights-based approach to policy, country programming process and management systems;
* Excellent communication skills, including strong English speaking and writing skills.
* Ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment. Familiarity with the China context and ability to work in Mandarin and English an asset.
1. Universal services focus on competence enhancement provided to all adolescent, including those with or without mental health or behavioural problems or other disabilities and illnesses; targeted services designed to support adolescent who have learning, emotional, or life experiences that place them at risk of engaging in problematic behaviour or developing mental health challenges. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)