

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Local Consultant/Contractor to conduct scoping exercise for cost efficiency study of SRH public spending in Maldives

(MDV-ToR/2015/08 Dated: 08/07/2015)

1. Background

Reproductive health is recognized as a priority in the Health Master Plan (2006-2015) as well as the National Reproductive Health Strategy (NRHS) 2014-2018. Key intervention areas in the NRHS include strengthening the adolescent-friendly health services in conjunction with the life-skills education in schools, and establishing services for the health sector response to gender-based violence as stipulated in the Domestic Violence Act (2012), including linking health services with other support services from relevant sectors.

The country has seen many changes to the overall health system in the past decade. However, an emphasis and focus on the development of curative care has resulted in deterioration on the delivery of Primary Health Care and Public Health Care. This has led to reduced community participation in health promotion and preventive health services and under-utilization of the skills of trained community-based public health workers. In addition, the provision of specialized health services at provincial, regional and atoll levels with smaller populations requires large per capita investments relying on expatriate doctors and nurses with high turnover rate. Furthermore, the introduction of the national health insurance scheme *Aasandha* has spurred on over-utilization of health services while investments in preventative care remain limited.

The public sector investment in health and youth is high compared to countries with similar development indicators (national budget for health/young), but these investments are not sufficiently reflected in the key health indicators. Improved spending and management could go a long way to rectify the situation and secure the fulfillment of reproductive health rights and improve (reproductive) health indicators without additional strains on public finance.

In the context of UNFPA work plan with the Ministry of Health of Maldives to promote equity in access to SRH services and information, this study shall provide policy options for the government to improve health outcomes by optimizing health investments to a better balance of curative and preventive health and thereby improving efficiency in public health investments. Thus, UNFPA on behalf of the Ministry of Health is commissioning a consultancy to analyze the efficiency of public spending on SRH by way of an economic evaluation of benefits against costs of SRH service delivery planned under the National Reproductive Health Strategy 2014-2018, with a view to contextualizing cost-effectiveness of SRH interventions against other health interventions.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the assignment is to determine the availability of data required for a larger study analyzing the efficiency of SRH public spending in the Maldives. The efficiency analysis will seek to develop policy options for the Ministry of Health to determine optimal mix of interventions in response to youth SRH and GBV in the Maldives that delivers most health benefit. The efficiency study will inform the implementation of the National Reproductive Health Strategy (NRHS) 2014-2018 by providing costs of different levels of SRH service delivery as planned under the NRHS, compared against the potential benefits of improved SRH service and information, including economic benefits as well as impact on health outcomes (such as lives saved, unwanted pregnancies averted, GBV cases averted etc.).

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(a) Primary client:

Ministry of Health, Male', Maldives

(b) Expected outcome:

Provide the data mapping to guide the analytical that will support the reprioritization of public health investments for improved quality of spending and health outcomes, with a particular focus on SRH including GBV and youth.

3. Profile of consultant

(a) Primary expertise required:

Policy review, public finance, health economics, public health

(b) Educational background, including degrees and post-graduate education:

An advanced university degree or equivalent in social sciences, or public health

(c) Work experience:

- Minimum 3 years of relevant experience
- Past experience in economic analyses (cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness) of public policies
- Past experience with the costing of social policies
- Past experience and knowledge of relevant national policies, including gender equality, sexual and reproductive health or adolescent sexual and reproductive health is desirable

(d) Other competencies:

- Excellent report writing skills, analytical skills as well as good computer skills
- Excellent communication skills in English language, both oral and written
- Proficiency in MS Office software

(e) Language:

English

4. Work setting

(a) Place, timing and duration of assignment:

The assignment is expected to be completed within 15 working days during August 2015. Presence in Male', Maldives will be required for duration of the assignment.

(b) Briefing/debriefing arrangements:

The Consultant will be briefed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and UNFPA at the start of the assignment. The Consultant will debrief MOH and UNFPA at the end of the assignment.

(c) Independent consultant or team member:

The consultancy is available to an individual consultant, with opportunity to become local counterpart to the international consultant in the subsequent efficiency study.

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(d) Reporting relationships and identification of responsibility for assessment of the services/outputs:

The consultancy will be managed by UNFPA Country Office; the output will be assessed by the Ministry of Health and UNFPA. The Consultant is expected to work independently and maintain regular contact with both Ministry of Health and UNFPA throughout the assignment.

5. Work plan:

(a) Scope and diversity of assignment:

The assignment is expected to:

- Determine the data needed to complete the analysis of the efficiency of public spending on SRH and determining the optimal mix of SRH and GBV interventions
- Identify the relevant information readily available
- Identify which information would require further data collection
- Based on the insight into data availability, develop a draft plan and timeline for the efficiency study

(b) Depth of treatment of subject matter:

The scoping exercise should determine data requirements and availability for analysis on the following themes:

- Current public spending on SRH and ASRH, including GBV in Maldives
- Costs of SRH service delivery on adolescent- and youth-friendly health services and health sector response to GBV
- Cost of above-mentioned service provision at different levels of aggregation including health system level and geographical area
- Types of health financing arrangements currently being used to enable provision of these services

(c) Specific deliverables:

1. Report on the scoping exercise detailing i) the data required for the efficiency study; ii) data readily available; iii) data that would require further primary research; and iv) indicative plan and timeline for the efficiency study.

(d) Indicative timeline for delivery of product:

Deliverable target date will be finalized upon recruitment.

(e) Specific role and expected contribution:

Consultant:

- Fulfil the stipulated in the contract and the ToR through review of documents, email communications, Skype calls and meetings
- Maintain close contact by email with Ministry of Health and UNFPA
- Communicate any complications regarding the assignment as soon as possible
- Provide contact details that allow Ministry of Health and UNFPA to get in contact with the Consultant at any time during the consultancy

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Ministry of Health:

- Assign a focal point to work with the Consultant
- Provide access to data on health services, programmes and spending as required for the study
- Provide logistic support including organizing meetings
- Review and provide comments to the deliverable in a timely manner

UNFPA Maldives:

- Monitor and facilitate the progress of the assignment
- Facilitate technical support and guidance from UNFPA regional advisors
- Review and provide comments to the deliverable in a timely manner
- Facilitate necessary contacts
- Make payments upon completion and acceptance of deliverable by MOH

6. Specific Conditions:

The other conditions that may apply in the undertaking of the assignment include:

- (a) Payment modalities and administrative arrangements:** The financial proposal shall specify a total lump sum amount
- (b) Basis of payment:** Payment of fees will be based on the delivery and acceptance of the deliverable
- (c) Format of outputs:** Written documents in editable electronic form
- (d) Language of reports/publications and other documentation and working language in country of assignment:** English
- (e) Ownership of output:** The work will be jointly owned by the MOH and UNFPA