

**TERMS OF REFERENCE****Contractor to conduct a Research on Family Planning Needs, Awareness, Attitudes, Practices and Barriers in Maldives  
(MDV-ToR/2021/22 Dated: 18/07/2021)**

<b>Contracting Office:</b>	UNFPA Maldives Country Office
<b>Purpose :</b>	<p>UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is an international development agency that works to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.</p> <p>The national Family Planning program in the Maldives began in 1984. The first national policy and procedure for contraceptives supplies and services was formulated in 1987. However, despite the implementation of the family program for more than 3 decades the use of contraceptives is decreasing. Overall, the modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) amongst married women decreased from 15% in 1990, to 14.9% in 2016/17. Nonetheless unmet need increased and went from 28.1% in 2009 to 31.4% in 2016/17.</p> <p>The 2016/17 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) found that 59.6% of women of reproductive age had not been exposed to any family planning information (on radio or television, in a newspaper or magazine, or via mobile phone) over the last few months. Factors affecting the low intake of modern contraceptives have not been studied or analysed.</p> <p>What is particularly striking about the current situation in the Maldives is that the decrease in contraceptive usage and demand satisfied by modern contraceptive methods, and the corresponding increase in unmet need, happened at the same time that the total fertility rate (TFR) was declining. In this context, it is important to fully understand the case in the Maldives on whether individuals are using contraceptives but are not willing to report this in a survey; whether there is increasing infertility, or whether there is increasing use of abortion or spouses remain absent for a long time away in other islands.</p> <p>The purpose of this research is to create an evidence-based roadmap for re-orienting the family planning program in Maldives to encompass a human rights-based approach. The research will inform the design and delivery of a campaign to change public perceptions and attitudes towards family planning. This will entail evidence building on the perceptions, practices and views of different communities on family planning. This research will lead to achieving the specific objective of the programme which is that by 2026, women and young people will have improved access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services and be able to counter myths and prejudices related to family planning.</p> <p>UNFPA is looking for a suitable organization/institution to undertake a Research on Family Planning needs, communication needs, awareness, attitudes and practices in Maldives.</p>
<b>Scope of work:</b>  <i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i>	<p>The scope work includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Desk review of relevant national strategies on Family Planning and other available documents, including survey and research reports, guidelines on family planning program of Maldives;</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Analysis of any political / policy level changes in the FP program implementation over the last two decades that could have affected the level of contraceptive use and unmet need for FP</li> <li>3. Conducting Key Informant Interviews with stakeholders across different sectors and levels to determine the current communication gaps covering urban and rural settings;</li> <li>4. Conducting discussions with program officers and managers at different levels to understand any roadblocks in supply chain management and / or obstacles in access and availability of contraceptives</li> <li>5. Conducting discussions with the general public and stakeholders to identify the current myths &amp; misconceptions on family planning in the population across all social groups and different age groups, and to identify any socio-cultural obstacles, personal beliefs or systems related limitations (such as quality of care, etc.) to the successful implementation of the program</li> <li>6. Conducting discussions with relevant stakeholders to describe suitable communication preferences to address miscommunications regarding family planning;</li> <li>7. Provide recommendations for the national family planning program and the communication strategy to address identified gaps</li> </ol> <p><b>Deliverables</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An initial proposal outlining the methodology to be adopted and key activities to be carried out. Gantt chart has to be provided with the submission of the proposal, and it will be used as a monitoring tool;</li> <li>2. An interim report with initial findings outlining the knowledge, attitudes, practices, myths and misconceptions and identified communication gaps related to family planning;</li> <li>3. The final report outlining the knowledge, attitudes, practices, myths and misconceptions and identified communication gaps related to family planning; Recommendations for communication strategies.</li> <li>4. A short presentation outlining the methodology, the findings and recommendations for the way forward</li> </ol>
Duration and working schedule:	August to November 2021 (12 weeks)
Place where services are to be delivered:	The assignment will be home-based
Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):	All deliverables envisaged by these terms of reference should be submitted to the requestor by 30th November 2021 (tentative date and depending on the contract signature date).
Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:	<p><b>UNFPA Maldives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief, monitor and facilitate the progress of the assignment.</li> <li>• Review and provide comments to the deliverables in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Facilitate necessary content, resources and contacts.</li> <li>• Provide timely feedback.</li> </ul>
Supervisory arrangements:	The contract will be managed by the UNFPA Country Office and Programme Analyst -SRH will supervise the assignment
Expected travel:	If pandemic status allows, travel to one atoll
Required expertise, qualifications, and	<b>Qualifications:</b>

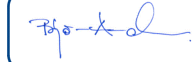
<p>competencies, including language requirements:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members in the organization must have expertise in qualitative research and behavioural change communication/ health promotion</li> <li>Academic background: Master's degree (PhD desirable) in a relevant field for all the members of the team</li> </ul> <p><b>Work experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous experience in social research using mixed methodology</li> <li>Previous experience of collaboration with a UN agency is advantageous</li> <li>The research organization should have proven work experience and exposure required for the task. References to recent completed and published surveys are required.</li> </ul>
<p>Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:</p>	<p>The other conditions that may apply in the undertaking of the assignment include:</p> <p><b>Basis of payment:</b> The payment will be made in two instalments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission and acceptance of research methodology (40% of total payment)</li> <li>Submission and acceptance of final report (60% of total payment)</li> </ol> <p><b>Format of outputs:</b> Both editable and PDF</p> <p><b>Language of reports/publications and other documentation and working language in country of assignment:</b> English</p> <p><b>Ownership of output:</b> UNFPA,</p>
<p>Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office: Shadiya Ibrahim</p> <p>Date: 21 July 2021</p>	
<p>Approved by: Bjorn Andersson</p> <p>Date:</p>	

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