

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY

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Consultancy to conduct a system review of the national Family Planning Programme in the Maldives

(MDV-ToR/2022/24 Dated: 07/09/2022)

Contracting Office:

UNFPA Maldives Country Office

Purpose :

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.

Family planning has been a national priority since its introduction in 1984. Despite the implementation of the programs for more than three decades, contraceptive use is declining. Overall modern contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) amongst married women decreased to 14.9 percent in 2016/17 and unmet need is 31.4 percent in 2016/17.

In Maldives, the National Family Planning services were provided primarily for married couples. The 2019 revision removed restrictions to cover rights based Family Planning Services. The National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Strategy – 2021 (RMNCAH), aims at increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate from 14.9% to 17.6% by 2025.

With this backdrop, unintended pregnancies take place in alarming numbers in Maldives. Twenty-four babies were abandoned and taken to state care in 2021 alone! Many of these babies are drug using mothers.

Global research shows that the reasons for not using a method have changed from 40 years ago where lack of knowledge was the most common reason for non-use. It is now the least common reason. In Maldives there are a number of reasons for contraception non-use. More common reasons include concerns about side effects and health risks, being unmarried and or opposition to contraception which is mostly around side effects and misinformation about pregnancy risk.

Nationally, family planning services are available in every inhabitant island with at least 3 modern contraceptives available in every health facility. For various reasons vulnerable groups of society cannot access these services from the public sector.

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Corporation Framework (UNSDCF) and the UNFPA seventh Country Programme endorsed by the Ministry of Health, this activity will explore opportunities to deliver innovative approaches to reach the furthest left behind groups in order to reach the targets set by the Agenda 2030.

	<p>The purpose of this exercise is to understand the bottlenecks and also opportunities to reorient the national family planning program in Maldives to encompass a human rights-based approach. The findings will be used to inform policy directions as well as design and deliver an effective, accessible family planning program for all individuals needing the service, targeting the furthest behind groups.</p> <p>UNFPA is therefore looking for a suitable consultant to carry out a case study analysis of the population with an unmet need for family planning.</p>
<p>Scope of work:</p> <p><i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i></p>	<p>The scope of work includes conducting a case study analysis in the aim to identify the challenges for accessing family planning services through the public sector as per the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a methodology covering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a literature review of relevant national strategies on RMNCAH and other available documents both published and unpublished, including guidelines on family planning program of Maldives; (ii) research methodology to identify cases (around 4-5) of women from different social groups who have challenges to meet the family planning need and relevant facility reviews and key informant interviews (iii) tools, analysis plans and (iv) structure of report including conclusions and recommendations. ● Facilitate stakeholder consultation to validate the findings and agree on recommendations. ● Develop the final report covering the findings, analysis, conclusions and recommendations for increasing access to the national family planning programme focusing on the vulnerable segments of society. <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research methodology ● The final report
<p>Duration and working schedule:</p>	<p>30 days between October and November 2022</p>
<p>Place where services are to be delivered:</p>	<p>The assignment will be undertaken home-based</p>
<p>Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):</p>	<p>All deliverables in the terms of reference should be submitted to UNFPA by 30 November 2022 (tentative date and depending on the contract signature date).</p>
<p>Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:</p>	<p>Ministry of Health/Health Protection Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify a focal point ● Provide relevant literature

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support identifying cases through the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services ● Facilitate necessary contacts ● Facilitate access to health facilities ● Arrange Stakeholder meetings ● Review and provide comments to the deliverables in a timely manner. ● Provide timely feedback <p>UNFPA will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consultant will be briefed by UNFPA and the Ministry of Health/Health Protection Agency. ● Monitor and facilitate the progress of the assignment. ● Review and provide comments to the deliverables in a timely manner. ● Provide timely feedback ● Settle payment to the consultant as specified in the terms of payments
Supervisory arrangements:	The contract will be managed by the UNFPA Country Office and Programme Analyst -SRH will supervise the consultancy
Expected travel:	N/A
Required expertise, qualifications, and competencies, including language requirements:	<p>Educational background:</p> <p>Master’s degree in public health or a related Health or social sciences.</p> <p>Work experience:</p> <p>At least 5 years of experience in conducting research, in particular qualitative research. Familiarity on Sexual Reproductive Health, Family planning will be an advantage.</p> <p>Language:</p> <p>Excellent English and Dhivehi writing skills, proficiency in spoken English and Dhivehi is required.</p> <p>Excellent negotiation, facilitation, and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>The Consultant should be proficient in computer skills including use of internet and other office application</p>
Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g support services,	<p>UNFPA Maldives will settle the payment in accordance with the above deliverables, acceptance of the contractor's invoice and complete set of supporting documentation where applicable.</p> <p>The payment will be done in Maldivian Rufiyaa.</p>

office space, equipment), if applicable:	
Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:	<p>Payment terms and invoicing details</p> <p>Once the final deliverables are accepted by UNFPA in writing as per the scope of the consultant to the satisfaction, UNFPA shall process the payment to the consultant.</p> <p>Ownership of output: Ministry of Health and UNFPA</p>