



United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF- Ethiopia
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Telephone
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES

LRPS-2019-9153368

23 October 2019

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Wishes to invite you to submit a proposal for

Operational research on key nutrition specific interventions
Due Date: 13 November 2019 at 10:00AM East African Time
This bid is open for both LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL Vendors

XXXXXXXX FAX/LETTER NOT SPECIFIED IN 'PREPARE ITB (ZMRQ)' XXXXXXXX

THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES HAS BEEN:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES FORM

This FORM must be completed, signed and returned to UNICEF.
Proposal must be made in accordance with the instructions contained in this Request for Proposal for Services (RFPS).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

Any Contract resulting from this RFPS shall contain UNICEF General Terms and Conditions for Institutional and Corporate Contracts and any other Specific Terms and Conditions detailed in this RFPS.

INFORMATION

Any request for information regarding this RFPS must be forwarded by email to the person who prepared this document, with specific reference to the RFPS number.

The Undersigned, having read the Terms and Conditions of RFPS No. **LRPS-2019-9153368** set out in the attached document, hereby offers to execute the services specified in this document.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name & Title: _____

Company: _____

Postal Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Fax No: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Currency of Proposal: _____

Validity of Proposal: _____

Please indicate which of the following Payment Terms are offered by you:

10 Days 3.0% _____ 15 Days 2.5% _____ 20 Days 2.0% _____ 30 Days Net _____ Other _____

Item	Service Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Price
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Operational research on key nutrition specific interventions

To assess the facilitators, implementation barriers and test the proposed changes to improve the compliance of nutrition specific interventions (vitamin A, Iron folate, growth monitoring practices)

Location - Tigray, Oromia, Amhara, Afar Regions and Addis Ababa City Administration

Affiliates - Any vendor who submits offer for this bid should work with any of the below listed universities.

- Jimma University
- Addis Ababa University
- Gondar University
- Mekelle University
- BahirDar University
- Hawassa University

Duration - 2.5 years (Please refer to specific deliverables)

Reporting to - Chief of Nutrition (P5)

1. Background

Ethiopia's remarkable success in meeting most of the MDG targets could be explained by its extensive community-based programs, social protection schemes and its capacity to respond to emergency. However, despite the effort by the government and development partners to improve the nutrition services in health facilities, coverages of several nutrition coverage activities are below 50% which is far from the 90% goal to contribute to averting stunting cases and get the return of investment ratio of 1:16. For example, the percentage of pregnant women taking iron supplementation for 90 days or more has improved from less than 1% in 2011 to 5% in 2016 and only 47 % of children 6-35 months were given vitamin A supplements in the 6 months before the EMDHS 2019 survey. Therefore, greater understandings, efforts and investments, to ensure all children and pregnant women have equal access to quality nutrition services in health facilities, are required to achieve the eradication of child undernutrition and care for those who are acutely malnourished by 2030 as envisioned by the #Seqota# declaration (SD). The SD aims to transform the lives of Ethiopian children through integrated community development in agriculture, health and nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as social protection and climate change sectors. Currently, 32 woreda#s in Amhara and Tigray regions have been included in the innovative phase to implement activities in the SD.

To support the government of Ethiopia, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the World Bank and DFID are supporting this operational research to:

- i. Strengthening the implementation of the nutrition specific activities (iron folate supplementation to Pregnant women, vitamin A supplementation to children 6-59 months and Growth Monitoring and Promotion for children under the age of two years) to ensure a more effective coverage

2. Rationale for the Research Activity

According to the 2019 Mini Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (MEDHS) report, the prevalence of stunting is 37% and wasting 7%. These numbers are still one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa and very far from ideal. Currently, the Government of Ethiopia and a range of non-governmental organizations are working on prevention and promotion activities to fight malnutrition in children. Those activities include vitamin A supplementation of children aged 6-59 months, Iron and Folate supplementation for pregnant women and Growth Monitoring and promotion for children under the age of two but unfortunately the coverages are low.

Upon the request of the Ethiopian government/FMOH and the 2019-2020 signed Annual Work Plan (EFY 2012 AWP), this operational research will assess and address the critical needs in capacity building and technical assistance. The work is designed to support the Ministry of Health in delivering the Comprehensive and Integrated Nutrition Services (CINUS) initiative, which is a package of high impact integrated and interlinked nutrition interventions to be delivered on the same individual (at a particular stage in the lifecycle) at the same clinical visit by the same health worker. The operational research will also identify, and record best practices of the IFA, GMP, and

Item	Service Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Price
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VAS service delivery so that it can be scaled-up to other woredas.

This operational research aims at studying the processes by which programs are implemented and interventions are delivered to intended beneficiaries. The main purpose is to identify any shortcomings in the process that may affect the effective delivery of the intervention, and as a result, its potential impact on the expected outcomes. Thus, the first step of this research is to generate the necessary information to program planners and implementers that will allow them to design and test potential solutions to improve program delivery and will lead to the timely implementation of corrective actions. Once those analysis are performed, the firm should identify areas that could be improved, and propose solutions for strengthening the program and maximizing its effectiveness through short-and long-term proposed changes and for scale up. Those propositions will be then implemented and therefore the objective of the second set of research is to assess the impact.

The results of this operational research will be useful for the government of Ethiopia (GOE) and key partners (UNICEF, World Bank and DFID) in improving the compliance of nutrition specific interventions (vitamin A, Iron folate, growth monitoring practices) . Particularly, FMOH initiated Comprehensive Integrated Nutrition services (CINUS) and UNICEF is currently supporting the implementation of CINUS package in which the main component is compliance of nutrition specific interventions. Therefore, the results of the research will be useful to inform the program in terms of identifying bottlenecks and formulating strategies to improve the quality of nutrition specific service delivery

3. Owners of the research and use of the findings

The Federal Ministry of Health, the world Bank, Amhara regional Health Bureau (ARHB), Tigray Regional Health Bureau (TRHB), Oromia Regional Health Bureau (ORHB), Afar Regional Health Bureau (ARHB), Addis Ababa City Administration (Selected sub city), World Bank, DFID and UNICEF Ethiopia Country Office will be the joint owners of the researches implemented over the time of the assessment. The first set of operational research will be an input for the design of the programme interventions while the second set will be useful beyond this specific project as they will primarily inform programming at national level. A steering committee comprising members from FMOH, World Bank, DFID and UNICEF will be formed to provide technical support in undertaking the operational research and Regional Health Bureau will be engaged as necessary.

4. Scope of the Research Activity

The research will be undertaken at Federal level in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and Afar regions of Ethiopia.

The first step of this research is to generate the necessary information to program planners and implementers that will allow them to design and test potential solutions, therefore, the objectives of the first set of research are:

- To assess the implementation of the program (vitamin A, IFA, GMP), using operations research methodologies of:

- 6 Monthly Vitamin A supplementation
- Growth monitoring and promotion through routine services
- Early detection and provision of IFA and maternal nutrition counseling to pregnant women through ANC
- Provision of quality Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) including identification and referral of malnourished children, delivery of age appropriate IYCF messaging and linking to delivery of other nutrition-sensitive interventions. To conduct a desk review of the existing research that has been conducted in Ethiopia in this area
- To explore the perceptions of different actors about the program with a special emphasis on their perceptions regarding its effectiveness, the quality of services provided, the motivational factors that may affect their performance and job satisfaction within the program structure, and their suggestions for improvement:

- To identify barriers to IFA supplementation and its determinants, with a focus on improvement of compliance to IFA within the three specific contexts of Ethiopia (Agrarian, Pastoral and urban)
- To identify barriers and determinants to increase the coverage of Vitamin A supplementation in different settings (routine service in agrarian regions or during child health days (CHD) in pastoral regions)
- To identify barriers for the communities to demand for growth and monitoring promotion (GMP) service within the three specific contexts of Ethiopia (Agrarian and Pastoral and urban context)
- To assess the quality of GMP provision

The second set of research requested through this consultancy is: