

Call for Proposals

Consultancy to review the Maldives National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy and Action Plan (2020-2025)

Purpose

The purpose is to hire a consultancy firm to support the expert team from WHO in reviewing the Maldives RMNCAH Strategy and Action Plan (2020–2025).

Background

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) represents a critical aspect of public health, focusing on some of the most vulnerable populations.

Maldives Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and health strategy and action plan 2020-2025 was developed through a participatory and collaborative process that involved the Ministry of Health, the Health Protection Agency, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, and other national and international stakeholders with a goal of advancing the health outcomes and improving the health, nutritional status and well-being of women, newborns, children, and adolescents. Effective planning and implementation of this strategy can have far-reaching impacts on public health, contributing to reduced maternal and child mortality, better reproductive health, and improved overall well-being

However, COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 created unprecedented challenges globally, which also significantly impacted the implementation of this strategic plan. The pandemic strained healthcare systems, diverted resources, and necessitated the rapid adaptation of services to cope with the crisis. Many planned initiatives were delayed or modified, and the focus shifted to emergency response, including efforts to curb the spread of the virus, ensure the safety of healthcare workers, and address the essential health needs of population. The first three years of the strategic plan were essentially consumed by response efforts. These disruptions had resulted in unprecedented delays in the implementation some of the planned activities.

As RMNCAH Strategy and action plan (2020 – 2025) approaches end of five-year period, it is crucial to review and update the existing RMNCAH strategy. A comprehensive review of the strategy is necessary to assess implementation, identify gaps, incorporate lessons learnt and chart a clear way forward to determine strategy extension/revision. The consultancy will provide expert guidance in conducting this review, offering actionable recommendations to strengthen future RMNCAH efforts.

Objectives

The consultancy aims to support the expert team from WHO in reviewing the Maldives RMNCAH Strategy (2020–2025) implementation by:

1. Assessing the quality and comprehensives of the Maldives RMNCAH strategy and alignment with related global policies and strategies

2. **Evaluating the effectiveness** of the strategy in achieving its stated goals.
3. **Identifying strengths, gaps, and health system challenges** in implementing RMNCAH strategy.
4. **Propose recommendations** to enhance the strategy's impact and guide future planning.

Scope of Work

Under the guidance of WHO SEARO, WHO Maldives, and the Ministry of Health, the agency will conduct below employing methodologies of desk reviews, field visits, stakeholder consultations.

1. Conduct a landscape analysis including policy /strategies, stakeholder engagement, programme implementation
2. Review the current NSP against the global & national policies and strategies available and propose the areas for improvements including analysis of NSP indicators
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy in achieving its stated goals
4. Evaluate NSP implementation focusing below areas
 - a. whether strategies are translated to actions and implemented
 - b. strengths, gaps and challenges of implementation
 - c. key achievements
 - d. Areas/targets that have not been achieved and challenges hampered their achievement.
 - e. Key concerns and emerging needs of users and providers of health services
 - f. Emerging opportunities available to leverage on
5. Data: Current situation of RMNCAH profile in Maldives with trend analysis.

Activities to be undertaken by the Agency

1. Develop an activity plan of with a projected timeline including field visits
2. Provide regular progress updates to WHO, MOH and Technical working committee at MOH
3. Conduct a comprehensive desk review - This will include global, regional and national documents (plans, reports, research) that are related to the RMNCAH strategic priorities of the NSP. This phase will also include analysis of NSP indicator data.
4. Develop instruments for focus group discussions (FGD) and Key individual interviews (KII)
5. Conduct key informant interviews (KII)/ focus group discussions (FGD) with stakeholders responsible for implementing the RMNCAH NSP.
6. Conduct focus group discussions with service providers and client groups to review the service delivery /access status, challenges & expectations

7. Conduct field visits to gather RMNCAH programme implementation evidence covering all levels of healthcare in public system (preventive and curative); Primary health care and private sector
8. Coordinate and accompany the mission visit from SEAR to validate the findings
9. Prepare a preliminary report and presentation of the key findings including a brief SWOT analysis with proposed solutions
10. Draft the preliminary report based on the desk review and stakeholder inputs with proposed recommendations

Timeline

- **Duration:** 90 working days over a 4-month period.

Deliverables

1. **Desk Review Summary Report** – Week 4
2. **Draft Review Report** – Week 10
3. **Final Review Report and Presentation** – Week 12

Qualifications, experience, skills and language

Expert composition

Agency should have below Minimum requirement for the technical team

1. Team lead- with RMNCAH experience
2. M&E / PH Programme specialist

Educational Qualifications and experience – Team lead

Mandatory criteria

- (a) A medical doctor with Masters degree in Public Health /Community Medicine or related field
- (b) At least 5 years of experience in working at national level preferably in RMNCAH area
- (c) Previous experience in developing / reviewing /evaluating National level health related strategic/ action plans preferably in RMNCAH
- (d) Language: Excellent English writing skills, proficiency in spoken English and proficiency in local languages is required.

Preferred criteria

1. Competent in scientific professional writing evidenced by peer reviewed journal articles
2. Past experience in working with WHO /UN agencies

Educational Qualifications and experience – M&E specialist / Public health Programme***Mandatory criteria***

- (a) Masters degree in Public Health or related field
- (b) At least 3 years of experience in working in public health programme / project monitoring and evaluation work preferably in RMNCAH area
- (c) Previous experience in developing / reviewing /evaluating National level health related strategic/ action plans
- (d) Language: Excellent English writing skills, proficiency in spoken English and proficiency in local languages is required.

Application:

Interested consultancy firms are requested to mail their technical and financial proposal with company profile to **semavprocurement@who.int** by **01 September 2025** with email subject **'Review RAMCAH Strategy and Action plan 2020-2025'**.