

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT**

<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE (to be completed by Hiring Office): SRHR Adviser</b>	
<b>Hiring Office:</b>	UNFPA Nepal Country Office
<b>Purpose of consultancy:</b>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The constitutional and legal framework of Nepal provides an enabling environment for the human rights of women, girls, and young people, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Several programmes led by the public sector have been introduced to facilitate an increased access to essential health services. Public health expenditure is 1.5 % of gross domestic product and the proportion of budget allocation to sexual and reproductive health was estimated to be only 0.4 % of the total federal government health budget in the fiscal year 2019/2020.</p> <p>The Government of Nepal is a party to core international human rights treaties and has signed political commitments that recognize reproductive rights as fundamental rights. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 guarantees the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health as fundamental rights. Over the years, the government has adopted several policies, plans, and programs to guarantee women’s access to reproductive health services. In 2018, the government enacted the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, which defines the right to reproductive health and provides the necessary foundation for safe, qualitative, easily accessible, and available sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.</p> <p>Since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, Nepal has made notable progress in increasing access to SRH services, advancing gender equity and women’s empowerment, and incorporating population dynamics in the national development plans, as evidenced by the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The maternal mortality ratio has come down from 281 per 100,000 live births (2006) to 151 (2021).</i></li> <li>• <i>The births attended by skilled health personnel have gone up from 9% (1996) to 80% (2022).</i></li> <li>• <i>The total fertility rate has decreased from 4.6 (1996) to 2.1 (2022).</i></li> <li>• <i>The adolescent fertility rate has decreased from 127 (1996) to 71 (2022).</i></li> <li>• <i>The modern contraceptive prevalence rate has gone up from 26.0% (1996) to 43.0% (2022).</i></li> <li>• <i>Unmet need for family planning has slightly dropped from 24.6% (2006) to 20.8% (2022).</i></li> </ul> <p>In spite of the notable progress, there is a long way to achieving SDGs and ICPD goals. This is considering that the maternal mortality ratio is still high at 151 per 100,000 live births, the unmet need for family planning constitutes 23 per cent, and at least one in four ever married women have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence by their spouses.</p> <p>Against this background, UNFPA Nepal is committed to supporting the Government of Nepal in its pledge to accelerate action to achieve universal access to SRH and realize reproductive rights for all in line with the ICPD Programme of Action, SDGs and UNFPA Global Strategic Plan (2022-2025).</p> <p>In this respect, the vision of the new Country Programme (CP) for 2023-2027 is to accelerate the achievement of universal access to SRH, with a focus on reducing preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, gender-based violence, child marriage and other harmful practices.</p> <p>Accelerating universal access to SRH services requires accountability and quality assurance mechanism, domestic resources for policy implementation, including targeted investments in SRH workforce, infrastructure, coordination and community engagement. This is in addition to leveraging the existing and new partnerships and upscaling SRH policy engagement and innovations to ensure that UNFPA Nepal is strategically positioned and recognized as a trusted thought leader in SRHR.</p> <p>UNFPA CO Nepal has recently completed the inception phase of the Norway-funded project “Reproductive Health and Rights for Accelerating Impacts (RHEA)”, with the main focus on improving access to SRHR by strengthening the policy environment, translating policies into action for the delivery of resilient, high-quality, human-rights based SRH information and services. Therefore, an international consultant with prior experience in SRH advocacy and policy dialogue</p>

	<p>related accountability mechanisms and partnership coordination is required to set motion RHEA project implementation at the federal, provincial and local level.</p> <p><b>Purpose</b> The main objective of this individual consultancy is to provide leadership and ensure substantive contributions in the delivery of RHEA project workplans, leveraging the existing and new partnerships and upscaling SRHR advocacy and policy engagement to accelerate actions for the delivery of resilient, high-quality, human-rights based SRH information and services, SRH workforce.</p>
<p><b>Scope of work:</b></p> <p><i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i></p>	<p>The SRHR Adviser is expected to provide programme and technical support as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate RHEA project implementation at national and sub-national level, guiding and orienting project personnel and implementing agencies and introducing effective modalities and practices of implementation. in line with technical and programme policies and guidelines;</li> <li>• Contribute to the development and implementation of an integrated strategy for delivery of technical assistance;</li> <li>• Lead the design of a capacity development plan and identification process of programme partners, including the assessments of their capacities and;</li> <li>• Ensure close coordination and synergy with the integrated programme teams of the Nepal Country Office; Ensure complementarities and alignment with the needs, realities and activities at different levels;</li> <li>• Identify and analyse trends, threats and risks related to SRH, midwifery and family planning issues that may affect the ICPD agenda, SDGs and UNFPA’s work in the country</li> <li>• Provide strategic guidance and technical support to programme monitoring and evaluation studies, and other relevant research undertakings; Develop substantive tools and guidance for monitoring in close coordination and cooperation with the CO Monitoring and Evaluation team;</li> <li>• Ensure that state-of-the-art thinking in SRH, including family planning, midwifery education and regulation is integrated within the project implementation frameworks. Identify sources of technical knowledge both in country and outside. Promote a learning environment and systematic information sharing within the project team.</li> <li>• Analyze progress, technical and other substantive reports from implementing partners and stakeholders and recommend required follow-up actions. Systematize the RHEA project lessons learned and ensure that these are incorporated into the Nepal Country Office knowledge sharing system.</li> <li>• Advise and report on achievement of the project results (including semi-annual report and RHEA project fact sheets), proactively measuring substantive progress and the effective utilization of the RHEA project resources using appropriate monitoring and measuring mechanisms and tools;</li> <li>• Provide strategic guidance and technical support in preparing donor reports, proposals and concept notes. Spot at least one more funding opportunity to scale up the project outreach;</li> <li>• Identify scope and requirements for and contribute to the development of new or updated policies and strategic frameworks on SRH, including family planning, midwifery education and regulation, emergency obstetric and neonatal care and comprehensive sexuality education.</li> <li>• Assemble briefing and background materials related to family planning, midwifery education, emergency obstetric and neonatal care and comprehensive sexuality education.</li> <li>• Participate in policy dialogue and advocacy for substantive issues in various fora at the federal, provincial and local level. Deliver effective evidence-based advocacy messages in support of SRHR.</li> <li>• Mobilize and network with national and international development partners in support of the Government in the areas of women’s and youth reproductive health, gender and population and development;</li> <li>• Collaborate on substantive issues with government institutions, UN agencies, civil society organizations academia, research and training institutions and professional societies in Nepal.</li> <li>• Identify and develop south-south and triangular collaborative arrangements.</li> <li>• Carry out any other duties as may be required by UNFPA leadership.</li> </ul>

Duration and working schedule:	3 July 2023 – 31 December 2023 (133 working days)
Place where services are to be delivered:	Kathmandu, Nepal
Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):	<p>- Monthly Consultancy Report; - Final Report at the end of the consultancy on the 31st of December.</p> <p>The following payments will be made in six instalments subject to the submission of monthly deliverable reports:</p> <p><i>End of July 2023 – A payment for up to 23 working days</i>  <i>End of August 2023 – A payment for up to 23 working days</i>  <i>End of September 2023 – A payment for up to 22 working days</i>  <i>End of October 2023 – A payment for up to 21 working days</i>  <i>End of November 2023 – A payment for up to 22 working days</i>  <i>End of December 2023 – A payment for up to 22 working days</i></p>
Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:	The expected deliverables, including strategic reports, analytical papers, conference papers, speeches, briefing and background materials should be reflected and annexed to monthly reports. Submission of the defined deliverable will be assessed by the CO management and operations to ensure that it meets the UNFPA quality standards.
Supervisory arrangements:	Under the direct supervision of the UNFPA Resident Representative and in close coordination with the Deputy Representative and National Programme Analyst on SRH, the SRH Advisor will play a key role in the efficient and effective implementation of RHEA project and promoting partnership, synergy and strategic alliances with counterparts in government, multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies and civil society.
Expected travel:	Possible travel to RHEA project areas
Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:	<p><b><u>Qualifications and Experience</u></b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> Advanced university degree in public health, medicine, sociology, health systems, economics, or other field directly related to the substantive area identified in this job description;</p> <p><b>Knowledge and Experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 years of professional experience, preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector;</li> <li>• Demonstrated ability to refine programme design to ensure alignment of programme objectives to national priorities and capacities;</li> <li>• Strong track record of programme leadership, and proven ability to manage complex programmes/projects and produce demonstrable results, with shared visions and goals;</li> <li>• Understanding of human rights and gender equality dimensions of reproductive health is desirable;</li> <li>• Strong negotiation, liaison, analytical and communication skills, including ability to produce high quality practical advisory reports and knowledge products;</li> <li>• Demonstrated expertise in advocacy and policy dialogue is desirable.</li> <li>• Demonstrated ability to network within the development community;</li> <li>• Field experience is strongly desirable.</li> </ul>
Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office: Date: 26-May-2023	<p>DocuSigned by: <i>Ajay acharya</i> 3824FABC3DF34F8...</p>
Signature of Approving Authority: Date: 26-May-2023	<p>DocuSigned by: <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> DFC1EDB35BE1415...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DS DC</p>