



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY TO DESIGN A NETWORK OF EMONC FACILITIES AND A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Hiring Office:	UNFPA LIBERIA CO
Purpose of consultancy:	<p>Background</p> <p>Liberia has an unacceptably high maternal mortality ratio estimated at 1072/100,000 live births (LDHS 2013). The number of perinatal and newborn deaths reportedly doubles the number of maternal deaths on a daily basis as reported by the Liberia weekly disease surveillance report in 2019. This means that Liberia is losing 4 to 6 women and between 12 to 15 newborns from preventable pregnancy related conditions on a daily basis. A total of 16 to 21 lives per day, all from preventable pregnancy related conditions. Adolescent pregnancy rate is said to be at 31% (LDHS 2013); a figure that has not seen any significant decrease over the past 15 to 20 years. One in three adolescent girls is either a mother or already preparing for motherhood. Although national data are unavailable, the incidence of obstetric fistula appears to be on the increase. Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MNSDR) interventions indicate very low death reviews as well as factors associated with quality of care that are further exacerbated by weak health care delivery systems that include limited supply of essential medicines and instruments, weak monitoring systems and quality control and limited numbers of health workers particularly in rural settings. With these challenges, the status of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) interventions are not clear. The current number of designated EmONC facilities is unknown. This is due to the numerous challenges experienced since the last ENA was done in 2010. It is also not clear the quality of care provided in facilities that were once designated as EmONC facilities.</p> <p>According to WHO guidelines on EmONC, 5 to 15% of pregnant women will experience complications who will require EmONC services. Women suffer consequences of unsafe abortions, post-partum haemorrhage, sepsis and other pregnancy related conditions that result to unnecessary deaths. Only well-equipped EmONC compliant facilities are required to respond in saving the lives of women and girls. In accelerating the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity, EmONC services must be supported with evidence-based policies, trained health professionals, and efficient referral procedures (AMDD, 2013).</p> <p>In spite of strong evidence on the importance of EmONC as a lifesaving intervention, it's been nine years (2010) since the last EmONC needs assessment was conducted. This nationwide assessment revealed that Liberia had more than the recommended minimum number of EmONC facilities designated (121%) to provide both Basic and Comprehensive EmONC services more than the WHO prescribed number of EmONC facilities of 1 CEmONC and 4 BEmONC facility per 500,000 populations. Notwithstanding, the EmONC assessment indicated that only 9/27 hospitals (33%) and 1/236 Clinics (0.4%) were fully EmONC compliant. Forty-one Health Centers also surveyed, none qualified as BEmONC facilities. Although, other surveys, including SARA, have been conducted over the years, none has attempted to assess the level of compliance among EmONC facilities in terms of being capable to deliver signal functions.</p> <p>It is against this background that UNFPA with funds from Maternal Health Trust Fund is seeking to hire a consultant to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, partners and UNFPA to conduct a rapid assessment of designated EmONC facilities to clearly define a network of EmONC facilities and a quality improvement framework that will be implemented by the Ministry of Health with the support of partners.</p> <p>Consultancy Objective</p> <p>The primary objective of the consultancy is to design and establish a National Network of EmONC facilities that will be equipped to respond to Obstetric and Newborn care emergencies.</p>

<p>Scope of work:</p> <p><i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i></p>	<p>The task has a national scope as the design and establishment of a National Network of EmONC Facilities will involve a rapid assessment of EmONC facilities to identify gaps. This assignment will assess the implementation of the signal functions for both CEmONC and BEmONC facilities with emphasis on availability of adequate human resources, lifesaving maternal health drugs and equipment. This rapid assessment will be followed by consultative meetings with stakeholders to design the Network of EmONC Facilities along with a Quality Improvement Framework.</p> <p>Description of Services The following tasks are expected from the Consultant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct desk review of policies and documents on EmONC Guidelines and Activities in Liberia 2. Collaborate with requisite departments of the MoH and stakeholders including professional institutions to conduct a nationwide rapid EmONC Assessment to determine gaps and potential 3. Lead stakeholders' consultative meetings on the development of a national network of EmONC facilities 4. Organize and lead consultation and validation workshops/meetings of stakeholders for the completion of the Plan 5. Recommendations on necessary upgrading of EmONC facilities, both basic and comprehensive, in terms of number, type of facility and location, as well as upgrading requirements on human resources, capacity, equipment and materials for each of those facilities to manage maternal complications in a timely manner. 6. Complete and present final draft of Plan
<p>Duration and working schedule:</p>	<p>The duration of the consultancy is six weeks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weeks 1- Desk Review & 2. Week 2-3 - Rapid Assessment, data entry and analysis 3. Week 4 – Consultations meetings and workshops 4. Week 5: Quality Improvement Process Development 5. Week 6: Final document submitted to UNFPA
<p>Place where services are to be delivered:</p>	<p>The Consultant will be based in Monrovia with travel to the field as planned.</p>
<p>Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):</p>	<p>Desk Review and Plan of Work - First 7 days Rapid Assessment and data analysis- 20 days Stakeholders consultation workshop – 5 days Quality Improvement Process – 5 days Finalization of document – 5 days</p>
<p>Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Consultant is expected to work in close consultation with the National Program Officer of the RH Cluster (UNFPA) and the UNFPA Assistant Representative. 2. He/She is expected to present a PoW that will be used to monitor implementation of the assessment 3. Regular in-house briefings will be conducted on a weekly basis in consultation with MoH designated staff and the RH team in UNFPA 4. In collaboration with the MoH data team, analyze and present to UNFPA a draft report from the rapid assessment by the end of week three 5. By the end of the fifth week a draft report on the Quality Improvement framework will be submitted to UNFPA

	6. Final report will be submitted by the end of the consultancy period
Supervisory arrangements:	The Consultant will be under the direct Supervision of the National Program Officer for sexual reproductive health and the Head of Programs (Assistant Representative)
Expected travel:	The Consultant is expected to make extensive field visits as agreed in a work plan to be developed and agreed upon with UNFPA.
Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:	<p>The Consultant must be a Liberian National with the following qualifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have proven 10 years of experience working in low resourced countries in the area of health care, public health or field of health sciences, Medicine, Health Economics, or related area; 2. Must have demonstrated prior experience in developing strategic plans on Reproductive Health in general and preventive/curative care in developing countries; 3. Demonstrated experience in results-based management of development programmes/projects and M&E; especially in health and/or gender sector; 4. Experience in supporting and working with government health care systems as well as willingness to work with key Ministry of Health technical teams; 5. Experience of working with UN/UNFPA is an asset; 6. Understanding of development challenges and underlying socio-cultural factors post-conflict contexts such as Liberia, particularly regarding maternal health, equity and gender equality; 7. Proven negotiation, communications, analytical and interpersonal skills; 8. Ability to work as part of a team, within a multicultural setting; 9. Candidate must be fluent in spoken and written English; 10. Good organizational skills, including time management, and ability to meet deadlines; 11. Experience in the usage of computers and office software; 12. Availability for full duration of assignment.
Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g support services, office space, equipment), if applicable:	<p>UNFPA will cover and arrange all required in-country transportation for work related travels. S/he will be provided working space in Country Office.</p> <p>The Consultant will bring her/his own laptop computer.</p>
Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:	N/A
<p>Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office:</p> <p>Date:</p>	

Please note that this Consultancy is only for Liberian Nationals, and applicants of either sex are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to equally qualified women candidates. UNFPA does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process. Please submit all fraudulent notices, letters or offers to the UNFPA fraud hotline at <http://www.unfpa.org/help/hotline.cfm>

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should submit their applications indicating the purpose; attach an updated CV, and a completed United Nations Personnel History Form P.11 obtainable from the UNFPA website at www.unfpa.org. **ALL APPLICATIONS, WITH RELEVANT ATTACHMENTS, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO: ewatkins@unfpa.org with cc to debashish@unfpa.org**

The last date to receive applications is 21 October 2019 at 17:00 hrs. GMT. UNFPA will only respond to applicants who will meet the stated job requirements.

“There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process”

“UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect to HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status”