Health in emergencies and humanitarian settings consultancy

15 November 2018 – 30 April 2019

1. Purpose of the Consultancy

The consultant will be responsible to assist the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MCA) to advance work related to maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in emergencies and humanitarian settings.

2. Background

Globally it is estimated that 65.6 million people are forcibly displaced, 22.5 million people are refugees and 10 million people are stateless. Women, children and adolescents who face crises and who are in need of humanitarian assistance are at increased risk of preventable morbidities and mortality. At the same time, they often have lesser access to health services and the quality of services they can access may be compromised.

More than half of all maternal, newborn and child health deaths have been estimated to occur in humanitarian or fragile settings, including countries with conflict and post conflict situations, transnational crises, countries that have experienced one or more natural disasters and situations of protracted socioeconomic and political instability. It is well recognized that significant further gains in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) are difficult to reach, without addressing the health needs of women and children in the humanitarian settings.

Currently a number of actors are involved in responding to humanitarian crises, all with the aim of minimizing casualties and mitigating suffering. WHO has established the Health Emergencies Programme and in support of this, a number of interagency working groups and networks are operational to coordinate inter-agency action (Interagency working group on SRHR, Every Newborn working group, working group for Mental Health and for Nutrition in emergencies). Multiple guidance documents and tools are available and in use to support the provision of quality care to women, children and adolescents in health services. To strengthen the response, the MCA Department in close collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, has identified priority objectives and activities as detailed below:
3. Objectives

The Consultant, under the Department’s guidance, and in close collaboration with colleagues in the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, will support priority work on RMNCAH in humanitarian settings, including on:

(1) Assessment of available normative guidance for addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) in humanitarian settings, with a focus on newborn and child health, identification of gaps, and initiation of activities to fill these gaps based on needs.

(2) Prioritization of research questions for RMNCAH in humanitarian settings Field testing of operational guidance for child and adolescent health in emergencies in 1 or 2 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

(3) Adaptation of selected WHO guidelines to be relevant in humanitarian contexts (15%)

(4) Partnership on RMNCAH in humanitarian settings and coordination of workplans and activities within WHO and with partners.

4. Work to be performed

Output 1
Assessment of normative guidance for addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in humanitarian settings for (40%)

The MCA department is undertaking a mapping of globally available guidance on RMNCAH and nutrition in humanitarian settings. The mapping exercise is expected to reveal gaps and issues for adaptation. These gaps will need to be transferred into time-bound deliverables for the department, in consultation with technical colleagues. The consultant will:

- Assist in finalizing an analysis of the repository of tools that has been compiled and develop a summary paper.
- Identify gaps and priority areas for further development.
- Prepare a proposal for the development of complementary tools.
- Initiate work to fill the gaps.

Deliverables for Output 1

- Contribution to a manuscript on the current status of tools to support RMNCAH in humanitarian settings, for publication in peer reviewed international journal.
- Up-to-date repository of available tools to support RMNCAH in humanitarian settings that meet quality standards available and accessible.
- Proposal to address priority gaps in guidance developed.
Output 2
Prioritization of research questions for RMNCAH in humanitarian settings (15%)

The MCA department, in collaboration with the RHR department, has initiated a research prioritization exercise following the CHNRI methodology. Approximately 1000 experts have been approached digitally with a request to contribute their research questions, and feedback is currently being compiled. In consultation with stakeholders in the field, the received feedback will be prioritized in a transparent process. Outcomes of the process will be discussed in a meeting with key stakeholders in order to catalyse follow-up activities. The consultant will:

- Assist in of the exercise following the steps in the CHNRI methodology.
- Assist in convening an expert meeting to discuss the results of the exercise and plan for follow-up actions.

Deliverables for Output 2

- Contribution to manuscript on RMNCAH research priorities for humanitarian settings after completion of CHNRI prioritization exercise.
- Meeting of key stakeholders convened and plan developed for dissemination and follow-up on findings.

Output 3

Field-test of operational guidance for child and adolescent health in emergencies in 1-2 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (15%)

The child and adolescent team in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office has prepared Child and Adolescent Health in Humanitarian Emergencies: Field Guide. The aim is to fill a perceived and critical gap in guidance to address child and adolescent health in emergency operations. The department will closely collaborate with the EMRO team to test the guidance in at least one country, and provide feedback towards completion of the tool. The consultant will:

- Help prepare and participate in a field test of the EMRO operational guide in one country.
- Prepare detailed feedback and collaborate with the developers of the tool in its further updating.

Deliverables for Output 3

- Contribution to field tests of Child and Adolescent Health in Humanitarian Emergencies: Field Guide completed
- Detailed feedback provided.
Output 4
Adaptation of WHO guidelines to be relevant in humanitarian contexts (15%)

A methodology for adapting existing guidelines to be suitable for use in humanitarian settings has been developed in the Department of Reproductive Health and Research and MCA will apply this in first instance to adapt guidelines on breastfeeding and on early childhood development. Monitoring and evaluation of programming for RMNCAH in humanitarian context is essential but as yet there is no recommended framework with indicators for inputs, outputs and outcomes to guide such efforts. WHO is gathering available tools and information in order to come up with a recommended and standardized framework.

- Assist in the process of adaptation of existing guidelines using a standard methodology and bringing together existing information and experts for virtual consultation.
- Contribute to the development of a standardized monitoring framework for RMNCAH in humanitarian settings, through review and feedback on proposed model.

Deliverables for Output 4

- Contribution made to adaptation of guidelines for use in humanitarian settings.
- Contribution made to the development of a harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework for RMNCAH in humanitarian settings.

Output 5
Partnership on RMNCAH in humanitarian settings and coordination of workplans and activities within WHO and with partners (15%)

At present, various forums/networks exist for collaboration and coordination between partners on specific areas of RMNCAH in humanitarian settings. These include the Global Health Cluster, Inter-Agency Working Group for Sexual and Reproductive Health, the Every Newborn working group and working groups on mental health and nutrition on humanitarian settings. MCA and RHR are exploring the extent to which collaboration and coordination across the spectrum of RMNCAH is effective and are working with partners including the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (PMNCH) to develop mechanisms for strong coordination across the continuum of care for women, children and adolescents. The consultant will:

- Work with partners to strengthen coordination on the humanitarian response, with particular emphasis on the underserved area of child and adolescent health.
- Facilitate the dissemination of WHO and partner guidance on RMNCAH in humanitarian settings.
- Respond to requests from within WHO and from partners for guidance on technical issues.
Deliverables for Output 5

- MCA well positioned within global coordination mechanisms for RMNCAH in humanitarian settings.
- MCA responsive to the requests for technical advice from within the Organization and from partners.

5. Timelines
Start date: 15 November 2018
End date: 30 April 2019

6. Technical Supervision
The selected Consultant will work under the supervision of the Coordinator, PPP

7. Specific requirements

Qualifications required:
Medical degree, master degree in public health, health systems management or a related field, Training on RMNCAH and/or healthcare in humanitarian settings is an asset.

Experience required:
At least 10 years of experience, at the senior level, in developing technical guidance on RMNCAH and in working with low and middle income countries to facilitate implementation. Experience working in healthcare delivery in humanitarian settings. Experience in building partnerships and facilitating collaborative work.

Skills/Technical skills and knowledge:
- Demonstrated experience in developing normative guidance for RMNCAH in line with WHO guidelines and standards
- Demonstrated experience in supporting country programming for RMNCAH in resource constraint settings
- Excellent collaboration/coordination skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Language requirements: English compulsory, French and/or Arabic desirable
8. **Place of assignment**
WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

9. **Travel**
Duty travel under the scope of the contract will be covered by the department separately. All travel arrangements will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased by the Consultant without the express, prior authorization of WHO. While on mission under the terms of this consultancy, the Consultant will receive subsistence allowance.

*Visas requirements: it is the consultant’s responsibility to fulfil visa requirements and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.*

10. **Medical clearance**
The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

11. **Closing date for submission: Friday 26 October 2018.**
All nomination submissions should be sent to Dr Bernadette Daelmans (daelmansb@who.int), with copy to Ms Laure Cartillier(cartillierl@who.int), labelled “health in emergencies and humanitarian settings consultancy”.