Title: Consultancy to support overall project management of the newborn research project

Contract type: Short-term consultant

Duration: 2 years

Expected Start date: 14 September 2018

Application Deadline: 29 August 2018

Duty station: N/A

Organizational Unit: Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MCA), Research and Development (MRD)

Interested applicants should send cover letter, résumé and example of published related work by e-mail to Ms Sachiyo Yoshida, Technical Officer, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MCA), Research and Development (MRD) – (yoshidas@who.int)

1. Purpose of the Consultancy

The consultant will support the overall project management of the newborn research project, immediate Kangaroo Mother Care Study (i-KMC) to ensure both quality and standardisation of implementation of the study protocol across all sites and mothers and babies in the study receive highest quality of care that is standardised across sites.

2. Background

i-KMC study is an on-going multi-country randomized clinical trial. It is a multi-country randomized clinical trial to evaluate the impact of continuous KMC initiated immediately after birth compared to KMC initiated after stabilization in newborns with birth weight 1.0 to <1.8 kg on their survival in Ghana, India, Nigeria, Malawi and Tanzania. The study was launched in all sites between November 2017 and April 2018. The study is expected to complete in November 2020. WHO provides overall technical coordination and oversees the implementation of the study. For this large trial, data collection will continue during the next two years among 5 sites. The consultant will be expected to work on a full time basis over this 2-year period.

3. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 14 September 2018

End date: 14 September 2020

4. Work to be performed

Output 1: Support coordination of the conduct of study to ensure both quality and standardisation of implementation of the study protocol across all sites.

- Deliverable 1.1: Facilitate teleconferences with the PIs of the 5 sites on a fortnightly basis until the end of the contract, taking into accounts comments from the PIs and providing technical specialized advice to facilitate the work and ensure consistency across the sites.
- Deliverable 1.2: Review and update standard operating procedures
- Deliverable 1.3: Prepare webinars destined to an audience of nurses and research assistants involved in the study to improve quality of care and safety of the intervention
Output 2: Monitor the occurrence of severe adverse events (SAE) on a daily basis and review the report form to ensure that all SAEs are of a consistently high standard including all relevant information concerning KMC and treatments received, analyse any details and reasons for any interruptions to KMC and within this SAE report, review the laboratory reports to check its adequately updated.

- Deliverable 2.1: SAE reports available to send to Data Safety Monitoring Board every 4 weeks.

Output 3: Conduct site monitoring visits to make sure that the highest quality of care, standardized across sites, is provided to the babies in the study.

- Deliverable 3.1: Site monitoring report sent to WHO for each of the five sites between October 2018 and March 2019.

- Output 4: Provide support in the preparation of DSMB meetings for the DSMB to review study progress, and discuss other factors (internal or external to the study) that might impact continuation of the study as designed. Deliverable 4.1: Finalize DSMB analysis tables in preparation for the DSMB meetings (yearly) or on ad-hoc request made by DSMB members.

5. Technical Supervision
The selected Consultant will work under the supervision of the Coordinator, MRD

6. Specific requirements
- Qualifications required:
  - Medical degree with post-graduation degree in Paediatrics/ Neonatology

- Experience required:
  - At least 7 years of clinical practice in paediatrics/neonatology.
  - Experience in newborn health research

- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:
  - Excellent knowledge in the area of newborn health and newborn health research
  - Skills in research methodology
  - Expert knowledge of newborn health and its public health aspects. Strong research, analytical and scientific writing skills, as evidenced by publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals in the topic area.
  - Strong planning and organizational skills, demonstrated ability to manage converging priorities and deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines.
  - Ability to present clearly in oral and written presentations.

- Language requirements:
  - Expert knowledge of English

7. Place of assignment
The consultant is not required to be present in Geneva to conduct this work.
Site monitoring trips may be required
8. **Medical clearance**  
The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

9. **Travel**  
The Consultant is expected to travel according to the itinerary and estimated schedule below:

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<th>Travel dates</th>
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**Purpose:** Conduct site monitoring visits

*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.*