



## **Terms of reference**

<b>Terms of Reference for “<i>Technical Assistance on Health Financing in South Sudan</i>”</b>	
<b>Geographical location</b>	<b>South Sudan (National)</b>
<b>Programme area</b>	<b>Health Financing and Policy</b>
<b>Project period:</b>	<b>6 Months</b>
<b>Expected ETE Start date</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> June 2024</b>
<b>Expected ETE End date</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>

**April 2024**



## Terms of Reference for Technical Assistance on Health Financing in South Sudan

### 1. Background:

The Republic of South Sudan faces numerous challenges in its healthcare sector, including limited access to essential health services, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and a high burden of preventable diseases. These challenges are exacerbated by systemic weaknesses in health financing, which hinder the country's ability to mobilize resources, allocate funds efficiently, and ensure financial protection for its population.

The country's protracted conflict, political instability, and economic downturn have further strained its healthcare finances. Government revenues are constrained, public expenditures are limited, and the healthcare budget is insufficient (at only 2.1%) to meet the population's needs. Out-of-pocket payments for healthcare services stands at 23% (WHO 2022) and impose a significant financial burden on households, contributing to inequities in access to care and catastrophic health expenditures. South Sudan's health system faces multiple challenges, including inadequate healthcare infrastructure, human resource shortages, and weak health information systems. These challenges undermine the delivery of essential health services and hinder efforts to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health.

Amref Health Africa recognizes the urgent need to address the above challenges, in a Ministry of Health (MoH) led initiative which prioritizes health financing reform as a key component of health sector development agenda. Technical assistance is required to strengthen the capacity of the MoH and other stakeholders in health financing policy development, resource mobilization, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. The provision of technical assistance on health financing presents an opportunity to build the capacity of the MoH and other relevant institutions to develop and implement evidence-based health financing strategies, mobilize domestic resources, and improve financial accountability and transparency in the healthcare sector. By strengthening health financing systems, South Sudan can enhance access to quality healthcare services, reduce financial barriers to care, and ultimately improve health outcomes for its population



## **2. Objectives:**

The main objectives of this technical assistance initiative are as follows:

- a) To assess the current health financing landscape in South Sudan, including revenue generation, pooling mechanisms, purchasing arrangements, and financial protection mechanisms.
- b) To provide technical support in the development and implementation of health financing policies, strategies, and plans aligned with national health priorities and UHC objectives.
- c) To strengthen the capacity of MoH staff and relevant stakeholders in health financing, including budgeting, financial management, costing, and resource allocation.
- d) To support the establishment or enhancement of health financing monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress, outcomes, and impacts.

## **3. Scope of Work:**

The scope of work for the technical assistance provider includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- a) Conducting a comprehensive assessment of the health financing landscape in South Sudan, including a review of existing policies, strategies, and financing mechanisms.
- b) Facilitating stakeholder consultations and workshops to gather inputs and feedback on health financing priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
- c) Developing a health financing reform roadmap or action plan in collaboration with the MoH and other relevant stakeholders, outlining key activities, timelines, responsibilities, and resource requirements.
- d) Providing technical guidance and capacity-building support to MoH staff and partners on health financing concepts, principles, and best practices.
- e) Assisting in the design and implementation of financial management systems, budgeting processes, and costing exercises to optimize resource allocation and utilization.
- f) Developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks, indicators, and tools to track progress, outcomes, and impacts of health financing interventions.
- g) Documenting lessons learned, best practices, and success stories from health financing interventions for dissemination and knowledge sharing.



#### **4. Deliverables:**

The technical assistance provider is expected to deliver the following key outputs:

- a) Comprehensive assessment report on the health financing landscape in South Sudan, including findings, recommendations, and action points application of the Strategic Health Purchasing (SHP) Progress Tracking Framework.
- b) Health financing reform roadmap or action plan with clear objectives, activities, timelines, and indicators.
- c) Capacity-building materials, training modules, and workshops for MoH staff and stakeholders on health financing topics.
- d) Financial management systems, budgeting templates, and costing tools tailored to the needs of the MoH and health facilities.
- e) Monitoring and evaluation frameworks, dashboards, and reports to track progress and outcomes of health financing interventions.
- f) Two knowledge products, such as policy briefs, technical reports, and case studies, highlighting key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations.
- g) Disseminate the outputs from (f) above during policy dialogue or an opportune dissemination events.

#### **5. Duration:**

The technical assistance initiative is expected to be implemented over a period six months commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> November, 2024.

#### **6. Reporting and Coordination:**

The technical assistance provider will be collocated at the Directorate of Policy Planning, Budgeting and Research domiciled at the MOH and will report directly to the Country Manager, Amref Health Africa in South Sudan, with dotted relationship with the Director General, Directorate of Planning, Policy, Budgeting and Research at the National Ministry of Health. and work closely with relevant departments, units, and stakeholders throughout the implementation period. Regular progress updates and reporting mechanisms will be established to ensure effective coordination and communication.

#### **7. Qualifications and Expertise:**

The technical assistance provider should have expertise in health financing, health economics, public financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. Relevant experience working in fragile and conflict-affected settings, particularly in South Sudan or similar contexts, is highly



desirable. The team should include experts with a diverse range of skills, including policy analysis, capacity building, and program management.

#### **8. Budget and Resources:**

The MoH will provide the necessary resources, including office space and furniture. Amref Health Africa will provide remuneration and logistical support, to facilitate the implementation of the technical assistance initiative. A detailed budget and work plan will be developed by Amref South Sudan in consultation with Amref HQ Health Systems Strengthening directorate to ensure efficient utilization of resources.

#### **9. Evaluation and Review:**

The technical assistance initiative will be subject to periodic review to assess progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments. Initial evaluation will be conducted in November 2024 to assess the impact and effectiveness of the technical assistance in achieving its objectives.

#### **10. Ethical Considerations:**

The technical assistance provider is expected to adhere to ethical standards and principles throughout the implementation of the initiative, including respect for confidentiality, integrity, and cultural sensitivity.

#### **11. Approval and Endorsement:**

This Terms of Reference has been reviewed, approved, and endorsed by the relevant Amref Health Africa Health Leadership as well as authorities at the MoH before commencement of the technical assistance initiative.

#### **12. Evaluation and Award of TA Assignment**

Amref Health Africa will constitute a technical panel to evaluate the expressions of interest (EOI) on a rolling basis and award the assignment based on technical and financial feasibility. On the basis of technical and financial proposals, the panel will select an expert that meet the best overall value. Amref health Africa reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI received without giving reasons and is not bound to accept the lowest or the highest bidder.

**Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest:** Applications are invited from **qualified individual experts**. Interested candidates should email their expression of interest to Amref Health Africa via the link provided [HERE](#); quoting the assignment reference in the subject line on or before 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024.