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**MIHR: Research Consultancy**

Request for Consultancy

**INTRODUCTION**

MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience (MIHR), funded by USAID, works in fragile settings to strengthen the capacity and resilience of both community and health systems in focus countries to enable them to plan and implement health strategies that reach target populations while addressing the underlying determinants of poor health and the impacts of fragility. In South Sudan, MIHR will work in 6 counties to improve the availability, quality, and utilization of an essential package of family planning, reproductive health (FP/RH), and maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) services; improve the governance and accountability of health systems; and increase the adoption of healthy behaviors and demand for health services, with the goal of a more resilient health system that supports improved health outcomes.

Working in complex environments while sequencing, layering, and integrating public health activities across the humanitarian development nexus requires in-depth contextual awareness for effective programming. To initiate work in these fragile settings, MIHR has created the F2C (Fragility, Crisis, Complexity) combined assessment tool that will inform the project design and monitoring systems for crisis-sensitive and complexity-aware programming.

The purpose of this assessment is to better understand the context where MIHR will work in South Sudan, specific shocks (including conflict and other crises), and stresses that are both more likely in fragile settings and perpetuate fragility. This information will enable MIHR/South Sudan to initiate evidence-based crisis-sensitive interventions that build resilience through strengthening absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacity. Information will also inform monitoring systems that allow MIHR/South Sudan to track the context surrounding the project’s interventions at the district, facility, and community levels.

The F2C Assessment is done in four parts:

1. Desk Review to gather information on recent and current shocks and stresses, and factors contributing to fragility in areas where MIHR/South Sudan is working/will be working (Bor, Wau, Yambio, Juba, Magwi and Kajo-Keji counties. Examples of data sources include EWARS, STAR, and VRAMS.
2. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with a diverse group of stakeholders in to capture how communities, organizations, and institutions experience, cope with, and respond to past, current, and anticipated shocks (including conflicts and crises) and stressors. It will look at how these experiences, coping capacities, and responses impact health service provision and outcomes.
3. Data synthesis to bring together information from the desk review and KIIs for each prioritized shock and stressor.
4. A “Pause and Reflect Workshop” to create an **action plan** for the MIHR/South Sudan project and stakeholders. Participants will be asked to prioritize recommendations or actions for MIHR, and detail how these actions are responding to fragility, sensitivity to crisis, and awareness of the complexity. These recommendations, along with the actions will be reviewed by MIHR staff and incorporated into the implementation approach and country workplan, as appropriate.

**The consultant will be responsible for PARTS 1 and 2, and will assist with PARTS 3 and 4.**

**objective of the SOW**

The primary objective of this SOW is to lead parts 1 and 2 of the F2C. The selected consultant will lead the desk review of fragility analytics and conduct interviews with key informants and stakeholders.

**Activity Plan**

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| **Activity Plan:** | |
| *Pre-Desk Work* | * *Readiness briefing with the MIHR/South Sudan team.* * *Readiness briefing with the MIHR/ Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) team (Washington, DC)* |
| *During Desk Work* | * *Conduct desk review for factors of fragility (shocks and stressors) in 5 counties in South Sudan. Review reports (local and international sources) and local media, as well as conduct secondary analysis of Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS), Strategic Tool for Assessing Risk (STAR), and Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Mapping (VRAM) datasets. Analyze findings and populate fragility analytics table.* ***(6 days FTE)*** * *Conduct KIIs in 6 counties using provided interview guide. The consultant is responsible for taking notes during the interview and conducting audio recordings* ***(6 days FTE)*** * *Assist MIHR/South Sudan Monitoring, Evaluaiton, and Learning (MEL) team to synthesize data from the desk review and KIIs and analyze how these experiences, coping capacities, and responses affect health service provision and outcomes in the selected counties.* ***(2 days FTE)*** * *Assist MIHR/South Sudan MEL with planning and presentations for Stakeholder “Pause and Reflect” Workshop. (****1.5 day FTE****)* |
| *Post-Desk Work* | * *TA debriefing with MIHR/SS, MIHR/MERL and Resilience teams* ***(1 day FTE)*** |

**Expected outcomes and deliverables**

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| **Expected Outcomes:** | |
| Together with the MIHR staff in South Sudan and Washington, DC, the consultant will conduct parts 1 and 2 of the F2C assessment to better understand the South Sudan context where MIHR will work, specific shocks (including conflict and other crises), and stresses that are both more likely in fragile settings and perpetuate fragility. | |
| **Final Deliverables Required & Due Dates:** | |
| ***Deliverable*** | ***Due Date*** |
| * *Fragility Desk Review Report (3-5 pages)* * *Fragility analytics table (provided)* | **1 week from start date** |
| * *Final Interview Guides* * *Audio Files* * *Recorded Transcripts* | **3 weeks from start date** |
| **Required qualifications of consultant:** | |
| * *Background in health or resilience research (10 years)* * *English language and local language skills* * *Familiarity with South Sudan context and environment* * *Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.* * *Communication and interpersonal skills* * *Proficiency in Microsoft Office software* * *Previous experience conducting assessments in Fragility Analytics, Crisis Sensitivity, and / or Complexity Monitoring is highly desirable* | |
| **Key Reference Documents supporting SOW:**   * *F2C Tool* | |

**Local COnsultant Responsibilities**

The local consultant:

* Develop workplan
* Translate data collection tools to local languages, as needed
* Data collection
* Data transcription as needed
* Data analysis
* Develop report and presentation of findings
* Assist with data synthesis
* Assist with workshop, including presenting findings
* Other tasks required to successfully conduct and complete F2C Assessment