



JOB ADVERTISEMENT

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| Job Title: | National Consultant(s) to review South Sudan Community Health Strategy 2016 |
| Location of the Assignment: | Juba, South Sudan |
| Duty Station: | Directorate of Primary Health Care, Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan |
| Opening date: | Thursday, 31st of August 2023 |
| Closing date: | Wednesday, 13th of September 2023 |
| Period of consultancy | 30 working days only from the date of commencement |

1. Background of the consultancy

I. Background and Context of the South Sudan Health System:

The Healthcare system for the then southern Sudan was started haphazardly by the missionaries who trained Sudanese helpers and house boys/girls on basic medical care and later made them as Clinicians to manage health care centres established by the church to provide health care services to the community. Some of these health care centres include Kedi'ba Health facility in Mundri East, Western Equatoria State established in 1934 by Chief Ruba Koyongwa's family. Mundri County Hospital formerly Mundri dispensary established in 1958 by Christian Missionaries and later promoted to a Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) between 1979 and 1980 after declaration of Al-mata in 1978 which started in Rajaf Payam, Juba County, Central Equatoria State.

II. Boma Health Initiative

The "Boma Health Initiative" is a Home-grown Community Health Strategy inspired by the vision of the late Dr John Garang De Mabior, the founder and leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of "Taking towns to Villages," and directed by the former Minister of Health, Dr Riek Gai Kok, to deliver the Basic Package of Health and Nutrition Services to families and communities through community health action so as to address the weaknesses of the Basic Package for Health and Nutrition Services (2018) and Health Sector Development Plan South Sudan (2017–2027) which include: fragmented programmes and diseases specific approaches; duplication of development system to serve the same community; engagement of the same person with different titles and incentives to serve the same community; insufficient clarity on structures, composition, roles and responsibilities with existing structures; lack of accountability and transparency; no commitment of resources for operations, lack of training and supervision from the government; too much expectation of facility staff for community health activities with high clinical workload; limited technical skills for facility staff and coercive attitudes towards work by health facility staff resulting into ineffectiveness; high infant and maternal mortality rates in the community largely due to preventable condition yet the top ten diseases in the country are communicable diseases which are preventable; lack of a harmonized health system that targets and engages individuals, households and communities and the government among others.

The Boma Health Initiative (BHI) is envisioned as the entry point for all community level health activities in the Community/ Boma and to close the gap between health facilities and communities by delivering an integrated package of health education, health promotion and disease prevention activities through Boma Health Workers. The BHI was adopted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) on Monday, 3rd of April 2017 after 3rd National Health Summit which took place in Juba at Juba Grand Hotel from 27th to 31st March 2017. The BHI was launched to formalize the role of Boma Health Workers (BHWs), standardize community health services as well as improve access to essential primary healthcare services in areas with limited access to healthcare institutions. The BHI strategy was developed in May 2016, and health partners started implementation from 2019 to date and Mid-Term Evaluation of the BHI was conducted

from April to November 2022. The review of the BHI strategy is to enable implementation of the recommendations of the Mid-Term Evaluation report dated 30th December 2023.

2. Purpose of the consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical guidance in the revision of the BHI policy guideline and Strategy.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

The following are the duties and responsibilities of the incumbent:

- To conduct a desk review of all key documents related to BHI guidelines for South Sudan, identify gaps that will inform the revision and updating of the policy guideline and strategy.
- To develop the draft technical guidelines based on the gaps identified in the desk review of the existing BHI guidelines and literature review of key technical guidelines from WHO and Africa CDC and other resource documents.
- To technically guide discussions on the zero draft of the policy guidelines in a one-day stakeholders consultative meeting to be conducted in Juba, South Sudan.
- To guide other discussions with technical working group members leading to the development of the final draft of the technical guidelines for BHI in South Sudan.
- To present the final draft of the technical guidelines to stakeholders in a one-day validation workshop.

In 2022 the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNICEF South Sudan conducted a mid-term evaluation and the purpose of the evaluation was to (i) assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability, and impact of BHI implementation in South Sudan between the period 2019 – 2022. The objectives of the mid-term evaluation were:

The relevance of the programme had not been evaluated as the programme was initiated based on the relevant needs of the people across the country. The impartial and in-depth review of the BHI implementation across county was aimed at guiding MoH and its partners to understand the current health awareness levels of individuals and community members across the country, bring to light factors that have influenced the achievement of the programme as well as highlight the gaps and bottlenecks in the implementation of activities/ health serviced provided which would eventually help in the formation of a strong, affordable and sustainable national integrated community health worker system.

The Mid-term review report recommended for the following: .

- Promotion of the BHI secretariat to a directorate.
- Scale up of BHI coverage from current 25% to 50%.
- Integration of all community-based health programmes into the Boma Health Initiative (BHI).
- Harmonization of community-based health care workers' incentives.
- Enhancement of domestic funding to ensure sustainability of BHI.
- Streamlining of BHWs and supervisors under the Ministry of Health.
- Strengthening of the BHI Structures at all Level.
- Comprehensive mapping of the BHWs.
- Streamlining the supply chain and coordination.
- Enhancing gender transformative approaches in BHI.



To implement these recommendations in the short, medium, and long term; a review of the Community Health Strategy is paramount.

Objectives of the Community Health Strategy review

- 1) Assess the level of implementation of the Community Health (BHI) strategy 2016.
- 2) Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threat in the BHI implementation strategy and amend the strategy for the period 2024 to 2028.

Scope of Work for the consultancy

Under the direct supervision of the Director General for Primary Health Care and BHI Department and the consultant will be responsible for the following:

- Conduct inception meetings with stake holders.
- Provide leadership for the comprehensive review of the Community Health Strategy 2016
- Conduct stakeholder's consultations and SWOT analysis of the Community Health Strategy 2016.
- Identify areas and gaps to be addressed in the revision.

- Review of the last assessments reports and its recommendations.
- Develop a draft revised Community Health Strategy for the period 2024 to 2028
- Share the draft Community Health Strategy 2024 –2028 for stakeholders’ review and comments.
- Present the draft Community Health Strategy 2024 to 2028 to MOH and partners for validation and endorsement.
- Finalization and submission of the revised Community Health Strategy 2024 – 2028.
- Consultancy report to be submitted.

Deliverable

1. Desk review of key technical documents conducted.
2. Technically sound BHI policy guidelines and strategy developed.
3. Revised strategic components of the Community Health (BHI) Strategy
4. Review BHI operational structure.
5. Review and an integrate Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
6. BHI SWOT Analysis and summary activities to be included in the revised strategy
7. Final revised Community Health (BHI) Strategy 2024 – 2028
8. Operational budget for the Community Health Strategy 2024 - 2028
9. Review BHI training guidelines/ Modules & tools



Reporting

The consultant will report to SSRC but work closely with the Department of BHI in the Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan. SSRC will deliver the final report on the development of the BHI Policy and strategy guidelines to the Ministry of Health and the final product of the revised guidelines to the Ministry of Health.

REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications:

- A medical doctor with advanced university degree in Public Health, International Health, Community Health and Development, Global Health, or any other similar qualification.
- Advanced university degree in Public Health, International Health, Community Health and Development, Global Health, or any other similar qualification.

Experience and competencies

- A minimum of 10 years of experience in working with either the MOH, National societies, UN and/or an NGO.
- Demonstrated experience in programme coordination, strategic planning, health systems strengthening with a focus on community systems
- Experience in implementation of Community Health Strategies with emphasis on community health worker programmes or the Boma Health Initiative.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks within agreed deadlines.
- Knowledge and experience of MOH policies and strategies is considered as an asset.
- Strong analytical skills and ability to work with and as a part of teams.
- Fluency in English (verbal and written).
- Good written and spoken skills in the language of the humanitarian operation and knowledge of Arabic is an asset.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants should submit their cover letters, curriculum vitae and references, copy of National Identity Card and certificates including date time telephone contact. Address it to the Human Resources Department. Or by email: vacancy@ssdredcross.org .Please clearly indicate the position you are applying for on the subject line of your email.

Alternatively, applications can be hand delivered to South Sudan Red Cross Headquarters Office. Plot #4 along Ministries –Munuki road in Juba. Please, indicate clearly the position on you are applying for on the back of your envelop.

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview. Copies of documents submitted are not returnable.