

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Bangkok, Thailand**

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The Program and Technical Section of UNICEF, Asia Pacific Shared Services Center (APSSC) is urgently seeking an individual consultant to undertake a desk review of most at Risk Young people groups (MARYP), context, and existing programs and to identify future programming opportunities for the Pacific Islands.

## Consultant for MARYP

### Background

The evaluation of the Adolescent Health and Development (AHD) Programme in 2007 recommended the programme to specifically target the vulnerable, marginalized and most at risk groups of young people (which will now be collectively referred to hereafter as Most at Risk Young people – MARYP). The evaluation noted that specific interventions for this group were inadequate. In response, the AHD programme has sought to review its current strategies and assess the extent to which MARYP approach has been used, with a view to strengthening programme results and outcomes

As part of the review, the programme seeks to collect available information to identify the context, groups and locations of MARYP in the Pacific and determine the extent to which specific interventions have been implemented to reach this group of young people. In 2008 UNICEF conducted a review of data to identify information which can support baseline indicators for the HIV programme in the Pacific, which revealed that data were unavailable or inadequate for almost all HIV/AIDS Output indicators for Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Similarly, most outcome indicators were incomplete, not easily available, and not up-to-date. Reasons for data gaps included: data not reported, unclear, not current, not for the defined age group, not representative of the population of interest, of unknown methodology, and not conforming to indicator specifications.

### Purpose

With guidance and assistance from Key Partners of the AHD programme, the Consultant will undertake collation of relevant information through a desk-based review of relevant reports, documents and literature related to MARYP; and interviews with AHD Coordinators in six countries including Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall, Tonga, Tuvalu and Samoa.

The assignment comprises 4 aspects:

Firstly, a desk-based review will be carried out using existing literature, reports and data. Relevant documents will be provided by the AHD programme. Analysis should include at a minimum, both qualitative and quantitative information taken from sub-regional and national surveys that have been undertaken by the partner agencies and other relevant stakeholders. This will include any relevant IBBS, MICS, SGS reports, amongst others. Literature that was used in the UNICEF desk review of 2008 will also be sourced, in addition to any relevant research undertaken after that. Where possible, information about service availability and usage will be included. The desk review should provide information on: the current

understanding of MARYP at regional and country levels; strategies / tools currently used; the gaps found in the existing tools; some options for countries to improve them.

Secondly, the consultant will communicate with respective AHD coordinators to obtain additional information that may exist in-country that could be used included in the research. This may be “local information and wisdom” that can enhance the research. This will include national data and records used by relevant agencies working amongst MARYP. AHD coordinators should support communication between the consultant and other relevant national agencies and personnel working with MARYP, which may be done via a teleconference with the group.

Thirdly the consultant will consolidate the findings obtained from the desk-based review in a Draft Report on MARYP in the Pacific Countries. While its major focus will be on the six specified countries data about Fiji, Solomon’s and Kiribati may be included as relevant in supporting claims about the Pacific or in drawing comparisons and or commonalities.

Finally the draft report will be verified through a workshop process and refinement and modifications made following the workshop.

Expected collaboration:

- The consultant is expected to confer with other UN, CROP, and NGOs (UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, UNIFEM, SPC, Save the Children Fund, etc.) and identify ongoing or planned opportunities for primary data surveys/studies, from which the program can collect relevant information.
- The consultant is expected to closely liaise with UNICEF, particularly to seek advice on harmonization of data collection methods, variables and indicators used, and the nature of analysis and reporting from the similar studies conducted in three countries in the Pacific Islands.
- The format for the report should be discussed and agreed with the AHD programme at the initial briefing.

## **Major tasks**

UNICEF Asia Pacific Shared Services Centre, in collaboration with the Pacific AHD programme, proposes to seek the services of a consultant or a consulting agency to undertake the following tasks:

- (a) Conduct a desk review of appropriate literature with specific reference to the identified 6 countries including but not limited to: official government reports and surveillance data about HIV; published and unpublished reports relating to HIV and MARYP in the Pacific; reports and findings from significant projects focusing on at risk young people and or risky behaviors for HIV; reports and data related to STI, pregnancy, abortion, reproductive health problems and drug and alcohol abuse among young people.
- (b) Provide synthesis, analysis and summary of available data in a written report and present the data to the Pacific AHD team and other stake holders for their verification and feedback.
- (c) Liaise with UNICEF Pacific for harmonization, where possible, of data collection methods, variables and indicators used and the nature of analysis and reporting, with their study of three countries in the Pacific Islands.

- (d) Prepare a Draft Report and make a 30 minute presentation- highlighting key elements with specific reference to key countries.
- (e) As an active participant at the November MARYP meeting, engage with participants with the intention of verifying the draft report, identifying new research for inclusion in the final report and exploring recommendations for future research and priority actions around MARYP into 2010-2011.
- (f) Finalize the report, based on feedback from the meeting, including recommendation for future research and priority programming areas for MARYP.

### **Duration**

The assignment will take place from 13<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2009, with a maximum of 20 working days.

### **Deliverables and Timeline**

1. Survey brief and agreed tools for data collection by 17<sup>th</sup> November
2. Draft Report on the Current and Recommended Strategies for MARYP Programming by 23<sup>rd</sup> November
3. Final Report on the Current and Recommended Strategies for MARYP Programming by 20<sup>th</sup> December

### **Consultant Profile**

- Advanced degree in Public Health and related disciplines.
- Expertise and extensive research experience in reproductive health including /HIV and AIDS, with particular reference to adolescents and youth.
- Minimum of 5 years professional work experience in public health with proven research skills. Previous work experience with UN agency is an asset.
- Prior experience in the Pacific Island countries is required.
- Prior experience in behavioral/cultural/communication research strongly preferred.
- Excellent editing, written and oral communication skills in English.

### **Workplace**

The Consultant will be based at the SPC Office in Suva. The Consultant will be required to supply his/her own lap-top computer

Interested candidates are requested to provide CV, P11, profile, professional fee in USD and availability along with a one to two page cover letter describing your expertise and how you propose to undertake the assignment, by **8<sup>th</sup> November 2009** to [msheehan@unicef.org](mailto:msheehan@unicef.org) with copies to [wkulpisitthicharoen@unicef.org](mailto:wkulpisitthicharoen@unicef.org) and [hbangkok@unicef.org](mailto:hbangkok@unicef.org)