Innovations in Maternal and New-born Health

Terms of Reference

1. **Background:** The Health Section of The Health Section of UNICEF’s Program Division is seeking a consultant to support research and dissemination efforts related to innovations in maternal and new-born health (MNH).

Innovative approaches for MNH problems abound, from community-based solutions to nationally driven initiatives to global agendas on innovation. At the global level, a number of large-scale initiatives have formed in the last few years tasked with identifying, testing and/or providing grants to support innovative approaches in MNH. Examples include Saving Lives at Birth (collaboration between several agencies), Accelovate (Jhpiego), Innovations for MNCH (Concern Worldwide). There is also high level attention to innovation in MNH and an Innovation Working Group as part of the Secretary General’s Every Woman, Every Child initiative. Some “game changers” in the domain of innovation highlighted by this group include results-based financing, mobile technologies, development of new and better technologies, and public-private partnerships and other organizational models.¹

While no resource or academic literature currently defines innovations in MNH nor systematically describes the landscape of initiatives, tested or currently in implementation, the term ‘innovation’ is frequently used in the domain of MNH to describe new interventions and approaches to service delivery and behaviour change. Innovation is also used to describe new features or approaches such as new policies and financing mechanisms. Further, justifications of why a new or modified intervention or approach is innovative can be wide ranging or absent.

This is an opportunity for UNICEF to contribute to evidence around the landscape of innovations in MNH and provide guidance for scaling up MNH innovations in an effort to increase impact of investments in health for women and infants. With many countries off track in reaching MDGs 4 and 5 by 2015², UNICEF is interested in conducting research on innovations in the MNH field to understand where resources, attention and emphasis for innovation are directed and where these may be lagging with regards to increasing utilization of maternal and new-born health services, improving MNH service quality, increasing efficiency and enhancing equity. Following this research, UNICEF will then look towards dissemination of research through published material, organization of a workshop in the Africa region and developing guidance on considerations for scaling up innovations in MNH.

2. **Purpose:** To undertake a global desk review of innovations in maternal and new-born health to support the development of guidance for UNICEF’s country MNH programming around innovations.

3. **Specific objectives:**

   a. Conduct a review of both published and unpublished literature on innovations in MNH, including literature on scaling up MNH pilots/innovations and conceptual frameworks for innovations in health;
   b. Develop a report and conceptual framework for classifying MNH innovations and contribute to an academic paper on innovations in MNH; and
   c. Support dissemination strategies including a workshop and development of guidance.

4. **Duration:** 7 months (June 1st to December 21st 2012)

5. **Activities**

   a) Develop protocol for review of published and unpublished literature of innovations in MNH and literature on scaling-up pilots/innovations (with inclusion criteria, definitions, review parameters, etc.)

   b) Undertake a literature review of innovations in MNH.


c) Undertake a literature review of conceptual frameworks for scaling up health/MNH pilots/innovations.

d) Develop a report that includes: a) a definition of innovation in health for innovation in MNH, b) puts forward a classification/conceptual framework for innovations in MNH, c) synthesizes review of literature on innovations in MNH and literature on scaling-up pilots/innovations, and d) presents overall conclusions/findings on landscape of innovative interventions and approaches, including gaps.

e) Engage in at least 2 rounds of revisions for the report.

f) Develop a PowerPoint presentation summarising above work for UNICEF internal technical update, workshop in Africa region and other possible uses.

g) Contribute to preparation for organization of workshop on innovation in MNH, including developing background paper/concept note, shaping content and agenda.

h) Contribute to facilitation of the workshop and workshop report.

i) Draft outline for guidance for UNICEF and H4+ partners including key thematic areas/issues it should cover based on global review, conceptual framework and workshop outcomes.

j) Contribute to the writing of an academic paper on global review of innovations in MNH and conceptual framework for classifying MNH innovation in collaboration with UNICEF Health Specialists.

k) Engage in at least 2 rounds of revisions for the academic paper.

6. Outputs/Deliverables

a. Protocol for systematic review of literature of innovations in MNH

b. Draft report that includes: a) a definition of innovation in health for innovation in MNH, b) puts forward a classification/conceptual framework for innovations in MNH, c) synthesizes review of literature on innovations in MNH and literature on scaling-up pilots/innovations, and d) presents overall conclusions/findings on landscape of innovative interventions and approaches, including gaps

c. PowerPoint presentation summarising above work for UNICEF internal technical update, workshop in Africa region and other possible uses

d. Background paper/concept note and agenda for workshop in Africa region on innovations in MNH

e. Draft workshop report

f. Draft outline for guidance including key thematic areas/issues it should cover based on global review, conceptual framework and workshop outcomes

g. Academic paper on global review of innovations in MNH and conceptual framework for classifying MNH innovations in collaboration with Senior Advisor MNH, Senior Advisor Health, Policy & Knowledge Management Specialist

Key skills, technical background, and experience required

- Masters or PhD in public health
- 8-10 years’ experience in public health; international experience in maternal and newborn health preferred
- Demonstrated ability to work in multi-cultural environment and establish harmonious and effective working relationships with both headquarters and field staff
- Demonstrated ability to produce high quality scientific publications and reports, including literature reviews. Submit a sample of previous work

Management and Supervision: The incumbent will report to the Senior Adviser (Maternal and Newborn Health), Health Section, UNICEF New York
How to Apply:
If you have experience of working in a similar capacity and want to make an active and lasting contribution to build a better world for children, send a cover letter, a detailed curriculum vitae in English, AND a duly completed United Nations Personal History form to pdconsultants@unicef.org with subject line “Maternal and Newborn Health Innovations” by 22 May 2012.
Only short listed applicants will be contacted.