TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT- INVESTMENT CASE

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| **TERMS OF REFERENCE** | |
| Hiring Office: | UNFPA Lesotho is recruiting a local consultant to assist the government of Lesotho in developing an investment case for improving maternal and neonatal health, increasing family planning uptake, preventing gender-based violence, and ending child marriage. |
| Background of Programme: | Lesotho is a lower-middle-income country experiencing significant poverty and inequality. As of 2017, the Gini coefficient was 44.9, and approximately 49.7% of the population lived below the poverty line. The human development index was 0.52 in 2020, with a 27.6% decline when adjusted for inequality. Economic growth has slowed, with GDP per capita growth decreasing from 4% annually (2000-2010) to 2% (2015-2019). Key economic activities include small-scale agriculture, water extraction, diamond mining, and textile manufacturing, with over 80% of exports being textiles and diamonds. Dependence on South Africa is high, with more than 80% of goods imported from there. Declining government income has led to increased domestic and international borrowing, resulting in unsustainable debt levels. External shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, have exacerbated economic fragility and uneven wealth distribution.  Expenditure on health is about 15% of the national budget, despite this significant spending, outcomes are poor. HIV prevalence among adults is 22.7%, and maternal mortality is the second-highest in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, with a ratio of 530 per 100,000 live births. Neonatal mortality is also high at 26 per 1,000 live births, with major causes being prematurity, birth asphyxia, sepsis, infections, and congenital anomalies. Factors contributing to poor health outcomes include limited healthcare access, a shortage of skilled healthcare professionals, poverty, malnutrition, lack of awareness, and cultural practices.  Family planning utilisation is at 67% among married women, with a total  demand of 80%. The unmet need for family planning is 13%, with adolescent girls facing a higher unmet need at 21.2% and teen pregnancy is estimated |

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|  | at 17%. Gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage, are prevalent, with 36% of women experiencing some form of violence in their lifetime.  The National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030, focusing on primary health care, financial risk protection, quality of care, and addressing social determinants of health. The health sector has made some strides in coverage indicators, 96% of pregnant women attend Antenatal care at least once, and delivery by the skilled birth attendant is 90%, however, challenges such as limited resources, access inequalities, and quality of care persist. The situation calls for a strategic investment that will enhance the 2030 Agenda of 17 Sustainable Development Goals aimed at achieving a sustainable future for all. |
| Purpose of consultancy: | The objective of this consultancy is to;   * Contribute towards the development of an investment case for improving maternal and neonatal health, increasing family planning uptake, and preventing gender-based violence in Lesotho. * Identify key interventions and strategies to improve maternal and neonatal health. * Outline approaches to increase family planning uptake. * Develop strategies for preventing and addressing gender-based violence and child marriage * Provide a cost-benefit analysis of proposed interventions. * Recommend policy actions and investment priorities   The Consultant will;   * Work closely with the Technical specialist from UNFPA ESARO with the main focus on collecting survey and financial data from different government ministries. * Conduct situational analysis on the financing of maternal health, neonatal health, family planning, GBV, and child marriage. * Capture data within the system provided for analysis of data * Conduct a data verification workshop with the reference group * Assist with modeling and drafting the investment case. |

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| Scope of work:  (Description of services, activities, or outputs) | The local consultant will undertake the following tasks:   1. An inception report outlining how the consultant understands the assignment. As well as providing a time line for the assignment. 2. Situation analysis on the Financial landscape of maternal health, neonatal health, family planning, gender-based violence, and prevention of child marriage 3. Come up with a work plan for data collection and data verification meetings 4. Collect data from different line ministries and populate in the provided tool Use the draft Toolkit and Internal Guidance Note to guide the development of investment cases 5. Conduct a data verification workshop with a reference group on the data collected. 6. Assist the UNFPA specialist in drafting the investment case and facilitate validation |

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| Duration and working schedule: | * The assignment will be 40 working days in total from February – May 2024. * Inception report – February * Situation analysis and on the Financial landscape of maternal health, neonatal health, family planning, gender-based violence, and prevention of child marriage. - February * Data collection- March * Data verification Meeting- March * Draft Investment Case Report- April |
| Place where services are to be delivered: | Maseru Lesotho |
| Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.): | * Inception report: Delivered electronically within 5 man-days * Situational analysis report: Delivered electronically * Draft Investment Case and validation meeting (By 30th April,2024) |
| Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format, and deadline: | The Consultant working will directly report to the reference group which will provide oversight on the development of the investment cases.  An integrated Regional team and UNFPA HQ will support the process in Lesotho and provide technical oversight for the undertaking of investment cases to ensure coherent, valid, and reliable methodology and use of tools based on the focus of investment cases opted for by the country. |
| Supervisory arrangements: | The consultant will work under the overall guidance of the UNFPA SRHR Coordinator and Monitoring and Evaluation analyst in collaboration with the government reference team. |
| Expected travel: | There will be a few travels to the district for stakeholder consultation while some of the stakeholder meetings will be held in Maseru |

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| Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements: | The consultant should possess the following qualifications:   * Advanced degree in public health, health economics, social sciences, or a related field. * At least 10 years of experience in health sector analysis, policy development, and investment planning. * Proven experience in developing investment cases or similar strategic documents. * Strong analytical and research skills. * Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills. * Familiarity with the health context in Lesotho or similar settings is an advantage |
| Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g support services, office space, equipment), if applicable: | UNFPA will provide relevant support and guidance to ensure the successful undertaking of this consultancy, including administrative and financial support. |
| Other relevant information or special conditions, if any: | **Confidentiality:** The consultant is required to maintain confidentiality of all sensitive information gathered during the consultancy.  **Travel and Logistics:** Travel and accommodation expenses for stakeholder meetings will be covered by UNFPA according to UNFPA travel policies. |
| Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office: Date: | |

Interested candidates should submit their CVs and proof of written work to [**mmathe@unfpa.org**](mailto:mmathe@unfpa.org)by

**12:00 PM on 31st January 2025**. The email subject line should read **Investment Case.**