



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Reproductive Maternal New-Born Child & Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Policy, Strategy and Costed Implementation Plan for Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

The United Nations Population Fund Pacific Sub-Regional Office in Fiji in its new 7th multi-country programme (MCP7) is focused on strengthening integrated and comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRHR) agenda. This is aligned to the UNFPA Corporate Strategy aimed at accelerating the three Transformative Results of zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Two of the critical outputs of the new MCP7 are i) strengthened, integration of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and prevention of and response to gender-based violence into relevant policies, plans, financing mechanisms, and accountability frameworks; and ii) Improved availability, accessibility, and quality of integrated SRH/RR and GBV information and services as part of Universal Health Coverage, especially for remote and vulnerable populations, including adolescents, youth and people with disabilities across the humanitarian-development continuum.

In the Pacific region, significant strides have been made towards achieving SRHR goals outlined in international commitments. Universal access to SRH is improving in the Pacific, as evidenced by increasing antenatal care rates (ranging from 76 per cent to 100 per cent) and skilled birth attendance (ranging from 85 per cent to 100 per cent). This has contributed to notable reductions in neonatal and under 5 mortalities in PICs (Pacific Island Countries). Cook Island, Solomons and Tonga have met the neonatal mortality rate target of 12 per 1,000 live births. Countries like Cook Islands and Solomon has adopted national population policies and Tonga has integrated sexual and reproductive health into primary healthcare programs respectively.

However, despite these gains, the Pacific scores the lowest among all the regions in the world on the universal health coverage index. Significant challenges persist in above mentioned countries, such as low contraceptive usage rates (below 18% for Cooks and Solomon Islands and below 15% in Tonga), The recent analysis revealed concerning trends in the Pacific that some SRH indicators have remained relatively static for the past two decades: the unmet need for family planning among all women aged 15-49 years is above 20 per cent for countries where data is available (Solomon = 28 % and Tonga = 23%), while adolescent birth rates has increased for Cooks Islands (24 in 2008 to 25 in 2020) and Tonga (25 in 2006 to 30 in 2019). While the Solomon Islands has seen a decrease in its adolescent birth rate from 70 in 2007 to 49 in 2019, this figure is still notably higher than the global average of 42 births per 1000 women ages 15-19 yrs. Contributing factors to the low contraceptive rate and unmet need for family planning include limited access to contraceptives and a low demand for family planning services. The maternal mortality ratio in some PICs (Solomon Islands and Tonga) exceeds the SDG target of 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Inadequate quality of care (partially due to shortage in SRH personnel) and limited capacity to deliver SRH commodities and services to the last mile (due to distance and high transportation costs for referral) are contributing to high levels of maternal mortality and morbidities.

The PICs have some of the highest rates of GBV in the world – two out of three women have experienced sexual or physical violence at the hands of their intimate partners in their lifetime, compared to one out of three globally. Moreover, sexually transmitted infections are hyperendemic among sexually active young people in the Pacific, with approximately one-quarter affected. The Pacific



region has some of the world’s highest rates of NCDs and associated risk factors including cervical cancer caused by the sexually transmitted Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), challenging the achievement of the SDGs and the Pacific countries’ Healthy Islands Vision.

Addressing these complex SRHR issues requires sustained commitment to comprehensive healthcare policies and targeted interventions that are culturally sensitive and responsive to the diverse needs of Pacific communities. UNFPA Pacific recognizes the critical need to develop robust RMNCAH policies to create an enabling environment to ensure equitable access to quality SRHR services and to address the unique SRHR needs of women, children, and adolescents to improve health outcomes and overall well-being of people. On behalf of PICs Member States, UNFPA Pacific therefore seeks a suitably qualified and experienced service provider to undertake the development of Reproductive Maternal New-Born Child & Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Policy, Strategy and costed Implementation Plans for 3 Pacific countries: Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

WORK TO BE PERFORMED

Key Deliverable for Cooks Islands and Solomon Islands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare a draft inception report outlining the detailed methodology and workplan/ timeline (Gantt chart) to complete this assignment, and finalize based on feedback received
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake a literature review on recent global, regional and local evidence in the field of RMNCAH and national policy and programmatic developments/issues that have a bearing on RMNCAH in Cook Islands and Solomon Islands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake consultations and key informant discussions with stakeholders in Cook Islands and Solomon Islands to get information on implementation of the policy and to feed into the draft policy, strategy, costed implementation plan and M&E document
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate a stakeholders’ consultation meeting to validate preliminary findings and solicit inputs for the development of the draft policy, strategy, costed implementation plan and M&E framework for Cook Islands and Solomon Islands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft updated comprehensive RMNCAH policy for Cook Islands and Solomon Islands along with strategy, costed implementation plans and M&E framework with clearly defined targets and time frame which will include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specific and clear goals, objectives and expected outcomes; b. A wide range of universal and targeted actions based on most recent evidences particularly evidence based interventions of the Global strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health; c. A sustainability plan for contraceptives procurement d. Monitoring and evaluation plan identifying clear and measurable indicators in line with National Development Plans, SDG and Healthy Islands Monitoring Framework indicators, baseline and target values, sources of information, and assessment timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead validation of the draft policy, strategy, costed implementation plan and M&E plan to get stakeholders’ inputs



- Update the draft RMNCAH policy, strategy, costed implementation plan and M&E plan based on results from the workshop and then finalize based on feedback received and submit to the Ministry of Health for endorsement.
- Develop a PowerPoint presentation that will be used for dissemination of the policy, costed implementation plan and monitoring framework

Key Deliverable for Tonga
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and update the draft comprehensive RMNCAH policy for Tonga Islands along with strategy, implementation plan and M&E framework with clearly defined targets and time frame which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specific and clear goals, objectives and expected outcomes; b. A wide range of universal and targeted actions based on most recent evidences particularly evidence based interventions of the Global strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health; c. A sustainability plan for contraceptives procurement d. Monitoring and evaluation plan identifying clear and measurable indicators in line with National Development Plans, SDG and Healthy Islands Monitoring Framework indicators, baseline and target values, sources of information, and assessment timeframe
Lead validation of the draft policy, strategy, costed implementation plan and M&E plan to get stakeholders’ inputs
Update the draft RMNCAH policy, strategy, costed implementation plan and M&E plan based on results from the workshop and then finalize based on feedback received and submit to the Ministry of Health for endorsement.
Develop a PowerPoint presentation that will be used for dissemination of the policy, costed implementation plan and monitoring framework

1. PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

The service provider is intended to travel to countries for conducting the validation workshops. Final deliverables are intended to be delivered remotely. The travel costs will need to be included in the proposal.

2. TIMELINES

Tentative Date: Contract duration from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.



3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The project coordinator of the selected contractor will be expected to provide an updated status on a fortnightly basis. Formal reporting (the final governance document and presentation) is expected upon completion of the contract. Additional reporting activities may be requested by UNFPA Pacific or initiated by the project coordinator on a need basis.

4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Contractor will be evaluated on:

- their capacity to deliver products of an optimal technical quality within the agreed timelines;
- the control of the costs;
- their proper and smooth project management (including communication with the Technical Officer, the Project Lead and any other stakeholder);
- their service orientation and responsiveness to UNFPA's needs and expectations.

5. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SERVICE PROVIDER

i. Status

The Contractor shall be a nonprofit institution operating in the field of SRHR/ maternal and newborn health/ communicable disease/cancer control/STI with preference to those who are located within the PICs or partnered with local PIC agencies.

ii. Accreditations

An accreditation or an on-going accreditation process by a certified accreditation body would be an asset (desirable).

iii. Previous experience

Mandatory:

- Proven experience in the field of SRHR projects, especially in the Pacific islands region;
- Working in or with PIC governments;
- Managing multiple simultaneous projects and staff;
- Policy development, especially SRHR;
- Previous work with UNFPA, other international organizations and/or major institutions in the field of public health.

Desirable:

- Based in the Pacific islands
- Specific examples of development of SRHR policies or plans in PICs
- Having contact/focal persons within PICs
- Staffing

The selected contractor is expected to dedicate the following human resources to the project:

- A project manager of an adequate level of qualification and experience (please attach resume to your proposal) shall be dedicated to the project.



- The designated project manager should be the same throughout implementation, and across all PICs.
- Multiple counterparts/focal points in different PICs is highly recommended, ideally in each sub-region (Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia)
- UNFPA Pacific pays utmost attention to the level of qualification and experience of the individuals involved, and to continuity in the services. The profiles (no individual names required) of the personnel proposed for these services should be included in the technical proposal.

8. FURTHER CAPACITIES

Technical Skills and Knowledge

Essential:

- Understanding of the public health, medicine, international development Studies and Public Policy
- Health Problem
- Health policy development and health strategic planning
- RMNCAH program in Pacific context
- Knowledge and experience of research on socio-economic issues in Pacific region
- Gender equity and social inclusion.

Desirable:

- Health care environment of small island developing states
- Health system analysis
- Pacific islands culture and international relationships
- Conducting gender analysis