

Terms of Reference

for

Impact Modelling Expert, Evidence Review: Assessing the Barriers to Scaling MNCH Commodities

GATES MNCH COMMODITIES

1. BACKGROUND

Options Consultancy Services Limited was established in 1992 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of MSI Reproductive Choices. We are a consultancy organisation providing technical and management expertise in the health and social sectors to governments and international development partners to transform the health of women and children. We provide information, expertise and influence to governments, health workers, NGOs and businesses to catalyse change so that health services can be accessed by the people who need them most.

2. RATIONALE

Working at the global level and within focus countries (UP/Bihar state in India, Kano and Lagos states in Nigeria and Kenya), Options will lead an assessment of the barriers, enablers and opportunities for scaling maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) commodities in low resource settings. This assignment will turn a complex set of existing information into actionable recommendations for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to prioritize investments with the maximum potential for impact.

Options and its partners will undertake this assignment by connecting evidence and learning, stakeholders and country contexts to:

- 1) Understand and strategically make sense of the existing evidence on bottlenecks and barriers to the functional availability of priority MNCH products in low-resource settings;
- 2) Develop and validate a methodology for comparing the relative merit of solving many different types of barriers across commodity access, in terms of agreed parameters such as impact, cost, feasibility and need;
- 3) Develop, sense check and implement a method to support the Foundation in prioritizing areas of action and identifying practical, implementable actions and solutions.

3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

As per the Terms of Reference¹ for this assignment, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has identified Options Consultancy as a partner to collect and synthesize the existing research and evidence regarding the barriers to access and availability for maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) products¹ in three selected countries (Nigeria, Kenya, India). The goal of the assessment is to advise a cross programmatic team within the Foundation on findings around key bottlenecks and barriers for availability and prioritization of areas for action. "Prioritization should be based on (i) comparative advantage of the foundation, (ii) the relative feasibility and impact of addressing these specific bottlenecks/barriers, (iii) and consideration of other partners working in this space".

The total assignment is for 6 months, divided in 3 phases:

¹ TOR provided by BMGF, to be read in conjunction with this document

- Phase I (2 months): Evidence Collation and Synthesis
 - Output: Country evidence map and ecosystem analysis.
- Phase II (4 months, overlapping with Phases I and III): Capture the Impact of Current Solutions
 - Output: Impact model and case studies for each focus country.
- Phase III (2 months – overlapping with Phase II): Priority Areas for Action
 - Output: Summary report on comparative areas of advantage for Gates' investment within the domestic ecosystem

Impact modelling expertise is required to support particularly phase 2 and the development of a robust impact model and feed into the final prioritisation methods in Phase III.

4. TASKS

Emphasis on the assignment is on the “potential financial return and impact” of specific solutions or a package of interdependent solutions to the barriers to accessing MNCH commodities in low resourced countries and to identify the highest value areas in which intervene. The analysis will contribute to provide robust evidence and methods for the allocation of catalytic investments.

The expert will provide technical leadership to the development (or adaptation) of an impact model to measure the impact of selected MNCH commodities and interventions, as applied in different context and combinations, including scale. The model will serve to inform investments decisions by prioritising interventions (mainly to remove barriers across the end-to-end commodities cycle) and commodities for MNCH. The impact model will be developed collaboratively with the Foundation and applied in the three focus countries by the resource partners.

The expert will work in close collaboration with the rest of the team, including supply chain and quality of care experts, and be responsible for the development and tailoring of the impact model. Responsibilities will include, but not limited to:

- Identify the most relevant impact measures to assess investments in end-to-end supply chain interventions for MNCH products.
- Identify key drivers and barriers to scale-up of MNCH products, including costs, dependencies and relative impact.
- Contribute to the ecosystem analysis with critical understanding of economies of scale with reference to MNCH supply chain and the barriers that make difficult scaling up MNCH interventions.
- Work collaboratively with the Supply Chain Expert, Evidence & Impact Specialist(s), and the project's Team Leader to jointly develop and deploy suitable tools for analysis and prioritization in different countries.

5. DELIVERABLES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payments will be made to the consultant based on the number of days worked, as agreed with the Team Leader and Programme Manager. The consultant will submit timesheets of days worked, indicating the workstream and (if applicable) the country support, as well as the specific piece of work undertaken and submitted in accordance with timelines indicated by relevant Primary Technical Support (PTS). Any changes to this should be agreed in advance.

6. TIMEFRAME

This assignment is for a total of up to 30 days of work between 5th June 2021 to 1st September 2021.

7. Reporting

The main point of contacts for technical aspects of this assignment are the Team Leader and Technical Specialist.