**Terms of Reference (ToR)**

Conducting Health Need Assessment in Afghanistan

1. **Introduction and Background:**

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) is an international aid agency that provides humanitarian relief and development programmes in over 40 countries, serving communities in need regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief. Founded in 1984 in the UK, it has international headquarters in Birmingham (Islamic Relief Worldwide) and a network of national offices, affiliated partners, registered branches and field offices spanning 50 countries. Islamic Relief's key areas of work are humanitarian relief and disaster preparedness; development programmes that improve access to sustainable livelihoods, healthcare, education, water, sanitation and hygiene; and advocating on behalf of those in need. Islamic Relief has been working in Afghanistan for more than 18 years, providing emergency relief and implementing life-changing development projects for some of the most vulnerable people in the country. Islamic Relief set up its Afghanistan field office in 1999. We have worked in 06 provinces across the country, and in sectors as diverse as sustainable livelihoods, education, health, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, and emergency response.

This ToR defines the modalities and deliverables of a needs assessment to be carried out in for an action aiming at the improvement of Mother and Child Health Care and Primary Health care in the districts level. Islamic Relief Afghanistan for looking for a consultant or a consultancy firm who will be conducting health need assessment in Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat and Bamiyan provinces in Afghanistan.

1. **Objective of the Assignment:**

The objective of this assignment to analysis the provisions of mother and child healthcare, and primary healthcare in the district level in targeted provinces; identify gaps in public and private healthcare service provisions; find out the needs in different level and recommendation for activities for strengthening provision of healthcare services.

1. **Scope of Work of the Assignment:**

The scope of this assignment covers conducting needs assessment on health sector particularly for mother and children healthcare and primary health in targeted provinces as well as Afghanistan as a whole and provide specific recommendations for designing longer-term programme.

The Consultant should assess, identify, and report on the following aspects:

* The general socio-economic and health situation of the poor people, particularly for women and children in the target areas as well as for Afghanistan as a whole.
* The target groups and other stakeholders’ needs with regards to primary healthcare.
* Mapping provisions of public and private healthcare facilities in Afghanistan, particularly in Kabul, Bamiyan, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat provinces including district level (accessible); assess accessibility, quality and affordability of poor people (focus on mother and child) into these healthcare services.
* Mapping of humanitarian actors and their healthcare activities in these regions, and in Afghanistan.
* Assess technical capacities of the primary health care system in the targeted areas, including availability of services, needs of infrastructure, medical equipment, supplies, human resources and other facilities; and identify specific needs for strengthening these.
* Identification of needs for improving healthcare for mother and children and primary health in target areas; prioritization of these needs; assess feasibility to address these priority needs including preferable geographical areas.
* The capacities and level of awareness, participation to be expected from local civil society, selected communities, and administration.
* Potential risks to the planned action.
* Recommendation for future healthcare projects for mother and child and primary health in target areas.

1. **Methodology:**

The consultant will design methodologies of the assessment based on scope of works. However, the following methodologies can be included (but not be limited to):

* Desk review on relevant studies/assessment, policies, plans, and reports etc.
* Collect secondary data from reliable sources in collaboration with MoPH, Health Cluster and other agencies.
* Conduct household survey and focus group discussions (FGDs) with the targeted people.
* Key Informant Interview (KII) with relevant stakeholders.
* Arrange meetings with the IRA Team and relevant persons.
* Assess IRA capacity regarding experiences, implementation of programmes and access to the areas.
* Field visit and interact with the target groups and relevant stakeholders.

1. **Expected outputs:**

* An inception report with detailed work plan, setting out the detailed methodology and deliverables, and to be approved by IRA prior to commencing the field visits.
* Deliver PowerPoint presentation on initial findings of the need assessments, with IRA team.
* Submission of the need assessment report, and to be reviewed and approved by IRA.

1. **Assessment geographical areas:**

Kabul, Bamiyan, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat provinces.

1. **Timeline:**

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| **Action** | **Time** | **Responsible** |
| Submission of inception report | Within 4 days of contract issue. | Consultant |
| Review and approval of inception report | Within 2 days of submission | IRA |
| Field assessment | 2nd and 3rd week | Consultant |
| Presentation of initial findings of the need assessments | 4th week | Consultant |
| Submission of the draft need assessment report | 5th week | Consultant |
| Review and feedback on the draft report | 5th week | IRA |
| Final submission of the report | 6th week | Consultant |
| Review and approval of the report | 6th week | IRA |

1. **Qualification and experience**

**Academic qualifications:**

The consultant must have a postgraduate/Ph.D degree in a field relevant to the assignment, for example in Medical Doctor, Public Health, Social Science, ideally with an additional qualification in public health.

**Technical competencies and experience:**

* A minimum of five years of professional experience of working in a humanitarian context preferably with health sector.
* Proven experience in the performance of needs assessments, particularly in health sector.
* A good knowledge of the local context.
* Proficiency/experience in qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis, including participatory data collection, and reporting.
* Fluency in Dari, Pashto and English.

1. **How to apply**

Interested candidates should submit the following documents in English:

* 1. **Technical proposal** outlining their experiences and track records (including evidence of experiences), the methodological approach on how to conduct the assignment, work-plan, CVs of the key personnel.
  2. **Financial proposal** outlining all costs of this assessment.

Please submit the technical and financial proposal in a sealed envelope at the IR Afghanistan Country Office’s tender box by 25 April 2021 (01:00pm).