

National Consultant
Terms of Reference for National Consultancy to Pilot Nutrition Intervention Package and
School Food Guidelines
Maldives
TOR Reference Number: TOR/2018/ xx

Programme Information

- **UNDAF Outcome:** Inclusive and equitable social service for children and adolescents, especially the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups improved
- **CPD Outcome:** Inclusive and equitable social services for children and adolescents, especially the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups are improved by 2020
- **CPD Output 1.1:** Comprehensive mechanism for child and adolescent nutrition interventions strengthened, especially in the regions with high malnutrition rates.
- **2-year Result:** Systems developed for delivery of child, adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services
- **JRWP 2016-2017 Activity:** 1.1.2.2. 1. Support to strengthen the nutrition and health components of the school health strategy

1. Purpose of Assignment & Background:

Health and education are inextricably entwined fundamental rights of every child in Maldives. All children in Maldives have right to belong to school communities which are committed to promote inclusive education, health and well-being of children. School health is an essential element of a quality learning environment. Students with poor health and malnutrition are less likely to profit optimally from the educational process and suffer the consequences of reduced productivity in later years.

The Ministry of Education has been conducting health screening of students in early primary to assess the growth and key health indicators. This has enabled the capturing of baseline data on the health of children who has entered primary schools since 2014. The screening of grade one students has been done consequently in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The assessment helped to identify common health issues of children including nutrition issues and oral health problems.

Improved nutrition has the potential to positively influence students' academic performance and behaviour. Adequate nutrition fosters mental, social and physical well-being, contributing to increased self-esteem and positive body image. Nonetheless, despite the evidence, the recognition of the benefits of good nutrition has not been adequately applied in by individuals, families, schools and larger community. Introducing school nutrition intervention package, resources and guidelines is the key step towards a better health promoting schools. School nutrition intervention package and guidelines are also required to start piloting and adapting to the local context prior to final implementation.

In this regard, with support from UNICEF Maldives Country Office, Ministry of Education is seeking a national consultant to pilot Nutrition Intervention Package and School Food Guidelines in selected schools, for the.

2. What are the objectives to which the consultancy is related?

The objective of this consultancy is to pilot Nutrition School Food Guidelines in selected schools. The specific objectives of the national consultant are to:

- Pilot Nutrition School Food Guidelines in selected five (HDh. Hanimadhoo, K. Hura, K. Gulhi, Fuvahmulah) schools
- Finalise a template for adaptation of the School Nutrition Food Guidelines to island specific context
- Identify gaps and challenges in enforcing the guidelines and find possible solutions for future

The incumbent is expected to work closely with schools, the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and other stakeholders as suggested by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF.

3. Duty station and Timeframe:

NA - Male', Maldives (based in the Ministry of Education), time frame 11 months only

4. Supervisor

Head of School Health Section, ESQID, Ministry of Education, Male', Maldives will provide support and supervision.

5. Major tasks to be Accomplished

The main role of the consultant is to provide technical expertise and implement the following:

- Develop a simplified template for schools to apply the Food-based dietary guideline. Present the Island Specific Nutrition Template and Guidelines to technical group, MoE and UNICEF to be commented and approved.
- Visit selected five (HDh. Hanimadhoo, K. Hura, K. Gulhi, Fuvahmulah) schools and orient the relevant staff on the school nutrition initiative
- Conduct sessions in each school with relevant teams to contextualise the current guidelines to school:
 - Support the each team to review the school health assessment data for the past four years and identify list of nutrition issues (to be supplemented by FGD discussions if needed)
 - Support to identify priority nutrition issues for the school / island and identify relevant aspects in the Food based dietary guide, and adapt it
 - Support drafting of plan at school level to ensure implementation of localised plan
- Adapt and amend the Intervention Package and Guidelines to the island context with input and consultation from working group and relevant stakeholders. In the adaptation phase, the following areas must be considered to ensure their practicality:
 1. Under nutrition
 2. Over-weight and obesity
 3. nutritional issues identified in the health screening
 4. holistic interventions such as healthy lifestyle

5. awareness on nutrition, health and well-being
 6. inclusivity of most marginalised and vulnerable children
 7. A whole school approach with parent awareness and indirect benefits reaching the household
- Support the demonstration of localised plans in the pilot schools

6. Official travel involved (itinerary and duration)

Short field visits to select islands to pilot the guidelines.

7. Timeframe

It is estimated that the assignment will take up to 11 Months year starting on 1st March 2018.

8. Qualifications or specialized knowledge and/or experience required

- Have at least an undergraduate degree in nutrition, dietetics or food science, public health or relevant field. Advanced Degree in Nutrition is an added advantage
- Relevant experience, preferably in developing nutrition related documents or working in school health or nutrition context. Familiarity with school systems, and school health will be an advantage.
- Experience conducting trainings is a requirement, and must have excellent facilitative skills
- Excellent communication skills in English (oral and written) and Dhivehi language advanced skills in professional writing.
- Able to lead groups and coordinate groups. Receptive to feedback and is flexible to changes. Able to travel if required
- Have an open attitude towards working with people at different levels. Able to liaise with different stakeholders and work proactively. Must be able to manage diverse view points and work in demanding situations.
- Willing to travel to the islands on a need basis

Deadline for application is **1st July 2018**

ONLY SHORT-LISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED