

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ABORTION CARE (CAC) PROVISION AT HEALTH FACILITIES IN TARGETED PSL PROVINCES

Executing Agencies:	Marie Stopes International Cambodia (“Marie Stopes”)
Consultation title:	Assessment of the availability of Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) Provision at health facilities in targeted PSL Provinces
Reporting to:	Country Programme Manager/Head of Public Private Partnerships
Location	CAC targeted provinces -Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Phnom Penh, Kratie, Monduliri, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Battambang, Pursat, Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Pailin and Tboung Khmum (13 provinces)
Dates	Dates: June-August 2017
Project Team	This consultant will work closely with Senior RM&E Manager, Head of Public-Private Partnerships, MSI clinical staff and other stakeholders as necessary.

Background and purpose

Marie Stopes International Cambodia (Marie Stopes) is a leader in the provision of quality and reproductive health services throughout Cambodia. Marie Stopes provides clinical technical support to public and private partners and delivers services across the country including through seven clinical centres and one mobile outreach team. MSI is part of global partnership of 37 countries, and works to improve the health and quality of life of women, men, and their families.

Partnering to Save Lives (PSL) is a partnership between CARE, Marie Stopes International Cambodia, Save the Children, the Australian Government and the Cambodian Ministry of Health (MoH). PSL interventions include comprehensive reproductive, maternal and neonatal health (RMNH) in four North East (NE) provinces, reproductive health and family planning and Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) activities in 9 additional provinces and support to infirmaries and behavior change communication (BCC) in up to 13 garment factories (GF). PSL aims ‘to save the lives of women and neonates in Cambodia through improved quality, access and utilization of RMNH services through a partnership approach’ in line with the objectives of the MoH’s Fast Track Initiative Roadmap for Reducing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality.

Through annual program review findings and the results of regular service quality supervision at public health centres by Marie Stopes quality assurance teams, it has been found that despite training providers in CAC service provision, which includes a pre-training assessment to confirm the provider will provide the service, many health centres still do not provide CAC services and/or CAC providers experience challenges in performing CAC services after completing their training. These reported challenges include various

factors such as religious beliefs, age of clients, support received from health center (HC) management, community and family, and financial incentives, lack of technical confidence, fear of previous complications, staff turnover, insufficient equipment and materials, and reportedly providers referring HC clients to their own private businesses for services. In other anecdotal reports, midwives refused the service to clients in exceptional circumstances (e.g. sexual assault) because they felt that women were becoming reliant on abortion.

While Marie Stopes and the PSL partnership have the program reports that indicate why CAC service provision can be lacking or inaccessible in HCs, there is no formal documentation of the supply-side/provider initiated barriers to CAC service provision, or a comprehensive investigation into the possible causes of the service disruptions. With better insight as to why CAC services are not available at the health center, despite the training and QA support provided through the PSL project, recommendations, and possibly programming adjustments, can be made to improve availability of this essential service through public health facilities.

Description of the consultancy

A. Objective:

The objective of this consultancy is to thoroughly review the key factors affecting CAC service availability at public health facilities in PSL targeted provinces where providers have been trained, with emphasis on exploring the above mentioned provider/supply side barriers to CAC provision that have been identified through PSL program activities, and to develop key recommendations which can be utilized for future programming.

B. Scope of work:

- **Desk review** of PSL reports (field reviews, QA assessments, research reports, other reporting etc.), other relevant research, grey literature and NGO documents relating to safe abortion access in public health facilities
- **Develop assessment plan** including pre-plan consultation with stakeholders such as National Maternal Child Health Centre (NMCHC) representatives, Marie Stopes program staff, and other PSL program staff as needed to seek input and advice prior conducting investigation
- **Write assessment proposal and seek local ethics approval for the field work**
- **Field work** including interviews with relevant health authorities, selected providers and other stakeholders as necessary
- **Final reporting** including presenting the draft findings to the Marie Stopes/NMCHC and finalizing the report incorporating feedback/comments from the Marie Stopes team members

C. Key deliverables

- Summary report of desk review
- Final proposal (research protocol) for the assessment, approved by Marie Stopes senior management
- Ethics approval from National ethic committee for health research
- Summary of key findings in advance of Final Report

- Final report with findings, challenges and recommendations for future intervention*

*Please note this will be an internal project report. It is not intended that the results of this investigation will be published. The report may be disseminated to key stakeholders at Marie Stopes’s decision/discretion.

Qualification and experience

Marie Stopes seeks to engage an individual or a research agency with the following qualifications and experiences:

- At least master’s degree in public health, social sciences or relevant background
- Experience in conducting both quantitative and qualitative assessments/studies, mainly in the field of sexual and reproductive health sector, including family planning and safe abortion
- Excellent understanding of Cambodian health sector, especially in the field of FP, safe abortion and SRH
- Experience conducting assessment in provincial Cambodia is highly desirable
- Strong research/assessment and analytical skills with special emphasis on data collection and analysis tools;
- Must be a strong supporter for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights for all men and women and Pro-Choice
- Experience in working with health facilities and local communities in the area of SRH interventions
- Excellent communication and reporting skills in English with ability to summarize and to write clear, useful reports

Proposal requirements

Individual/research agency credentials:	Meets qualification and experience criteria as outlined above, including quantitative and qualitative research abilities and experience working in the sexual and reproductive health field including abortion work
Narrative component:	Outlining how you will achieve assessment objectives and address delivery of scope of work and deliverables described above
Work plan:	Work plan with clear timings for each activity required for conducting the quantitative and qualitative assessment as per time frame outlined above.

Overview of the team if relevant:	Description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key personnel who will work on the assessment project and their qualification and experience in relation to requirements outlined above • Agency/personnel knowledge of Cambodian health context and if preferably of Khmer language (if not an independent).
Proposed budget:	Provide breakdown of estimated costs to undertake this assessment.
Sample of previous work	A sample of past work should be submitted together with the proposal
Submission:	Consultancy firm could submit either a hard or soft copy of the proposal

Timeline

- Marie Stopes aims to have all deliverables completed by end of August, 2017

Application process

Please submit your proposal outlining above mentioned requirements including your relevant experience/ CV to hrd@mariestopes.org.kh, cc'ing to Ms. Luong Soklay, Head of Public Private Partnerships via email at Soklay.luong@mariestopes.org.kh, Tel: 012728230 or hard copy to address: #12E0, Street 41, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Applications close on DATE. 26 May 2017

Contact person

For more information about this ToR, please contact Ms. Luong Soklay, Head of Public Private Partnerships via email at Soklay.luong@mariestopes.org.kh, Tel: 012 728 230