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**Terms of Reference**

**Hiring National Expert for Development of National guidelines on prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children under 5 years in view of WHO revised Global guideline for Wasting Management.**

This consultancy is requested by:

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| Unit: | Nutrition, WHO country office Pakistan |
| Department: | Healthier Population Through the Life Course |
| Grade/Level | NOC |

1. **Purpose of the Consultancy**

The purpose of this consultancy to develop a comprehensive Wasting Management Guideline for children under five years for Pakistan that aligns with the World Health Organization (WHO) revised global wasting management guidelines 2023. This national guideline will serve as a crucial resource for healthcare professionals and policymakers in Pakistan to effectively address and manage child wasting.

1. **Background**

The last National Nutrition Survey (NNS) conducted in 2018 revealed an alarming situation of malnutrition in Pakistan. According to the results the Global Acute Malnutrition (wasting) rate is 17.7%, higher than the previous NNS 2011 and WHO public health emergency threshold of 15%, more than 28.9% of children are underweight; 40.2% are stunted. Around 1/3 of children under the age of five are anemic, and 18.6% of children are zinc deficient at national level, with remarkable provincial disparities which are much more alarming than national level. Therefore, management and treatment of acute and chronic malnutrition is one of the top priority agenda of the government.

1. **Justification of assignment**

The proposed review and update of the current CMAM guidelines, training package and reporting tools will contribute to strengthen the workforce capacity and ensure adherence and consistency in the application of the guidelines and protocols in the country.

The current CMAM guidelines and training materials were developed in 2010 followed by revision in 2014. Therefore, there is need to review and update the country’s CMAM guidelines to ensure consistent guidance is provided to all stakeholders involved in the management of acute malnutrition in the country.

This new 2023 WHO guideline includes recommendations and good practice statements informed by the best available evidence for the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema. It includes four areas of focus, including infants less than 6 months of age at risk of poor growth and development, moderate wasting in infants and children 6-59 months of age, severe wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children 6-59 months of age, and prevention of wasting and nutritional oedema from a child health perspective.

The guidelines are already in the process of revision from last 3 months through WFP and the process the present consultancy will take it forward to completion in next 1 month time.

Since this is an ongoing assignment, and national consultant was identified by cluster, this consultancy will continue to support the consultant for conduction of deliverables as detailed below

1. **Objectives:**

The objectives of this consultancy are as follows:

* + To develop National guidelines on prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children under 5 years that is aligned with WHO revised global wasting management guidelines 2023.
	+ To ensure that the guidelines are validated by federal and provincial Governments
1. **Work to be performed:**

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Review/synthesis of National and Provincial recommendations:
* Analysis and consolidation of feedback from National Consultation Workshop on adoption of the new WHO Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Wasting and Nutritional Edema
* Conduction of workshops at Provincial level for gaps analysis in line of CMAM Pakistan guidelines 2014 and WHO Wasting guidelines 2023 after identification of the relevant stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, experts, policymakers, and community representatives from government and non government organisations
* Drafting reports of all the consultations/ meetings with specific outcomes and recommendations. Synthesis of recommendations from the national and provincial workshops.
1. Guideline Development:
* Develop comprehensive National guidelines on prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children under 5 years in line with the WHO guidelines, considering the local context of Pakistan and outcomes of the workshops at National and Provincial levels.
* Provide evidence-based recommendations for prevention, screening, identification, treatment, and management of child wasting (0-5years) specifically focusing on areas of SAM, MAM, SAM with C and community interventions.
* Include approaches to cover children 0-6 months children to prevent and treat wasting.
* Include the good practices and recommendations from global guideline and national context.
* Include the monitoring and reporting tools used for data collection and reporting from nutrition programs.
1. Endorsement and Dissemination of Revised National Wasting Management Guideline:
* Coordinate with provincial and national health departments for endorsement of developed guidelines with support for WHO and sector partners.
* Outline the strategy for disseminating the guideline to a wider audience and specify the target audience and the channels to be used for dissemination.
* Plan national launch of the updated guidelines and facilitate in conduction of national launch workshop.
1. **Deliverables:**

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| **Task** | **Deliverable** | **To be delivered in:** | **Payment Schedule** |
| Deliverable 3: Synthesis/analysis of National and Provincial Consultations  | Analysis of gaps/recommendations from National consultation and conduct provincial consultations to get inputs and insights, lessons learned, experiences etc for development of the guidelines  | 15 days | 40% |
| Deliverable 4: Development of Guideline  | Develop a comprehensive document that includes evidence-based recommendations, guidelines, and protocols for the identification, prevention, treatment, and management of child wasting aligned with WHO global wasting management guideline and national context | 5 days | 20% |
| Deliverable 5: Support the endorsement and dissemination of the guidelines by the MoHSR&C | Lead finalization and concurrence from the provincial governments and partners followed by the Validation/ Dissemination endorsement and dissemination of the guidelines by the MoNHSR&C | 5 days | 20% |
| Deliverable 6: Final Report | A final report summarizing the consultancy's activities, findings, recommendations, a detailed plan for the implementation of the guideline, including timelines and milestones. | 5 days | 20% |

1. **Planned timelines:**
* The consultant along with WHO, MOHSR&C, CMAM TWG and sector colleagues will endeavour to complete the deliverables within a contract of 30 days, over a period of 60 days. The payment will be deliverable based.
1. **Technical Supervision**

The selected Consultant will work on the supervision of:

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| Responsible Officer:  | Ms Ellen ThomTeam Lead HPLC, WHO PakistanDr Noureen NishtarTechnical Officer-Nutrition, WHO Pakistan | Email: |  thome@who.intnishtarn@who.int |

1. **Specific requirements**

- Qualifications required for consultant/firm:

* A relevant advanced degree in public health, nutrition, medicine, or a related field.
* A strong background in child nutrition and child health is essential.
* Familiarity with international and national standards and guidelines related to child nutrition and wasting management, particularly the WHO guidelines.

- Experience required:

* Substantial experience in developing national level public health guidelines and protocols, with a focus on child nutrition and wasting management.
* A proven track record of working on projects related to child health and nutrition, especially in developing countries or regions with similar healthcare challenges.
* Previous experience working on assignments that involve collaboration with government agencies and non-governmental organizations would be advantageous.

- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

* Comprehensive understanding of child wasting, its causes, identification, and evidence-based treatment approaches.
* Strong analytical skills to review and synthesize complex medical and nutritional data.
* Excellent writing skills to draft clear and concise guidelines and training materials.
* Proficiency in research, data analysis, and evidence-based decision-making.
* Familiarity with public health program implementation and monitoring and evaluation practices.
* Proven ability to engage with and facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders, including government health departments, healthcare professionals, nutritionists, community representatives, and international organizations.
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills to conduct consultations, workshops, and interviews effectively.

- Language requirements:

* Proficiency in English (reading, writing and speaking)
1. **Place of assignment**
* Islamabad with domestic travel for provincial consultations