

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR 'INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINDING MISSING PEOPLE WITH TUBERCULOSIS (TB)'

#### PR427152

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

#### **BACKGROUND** on Save the Children

Save the Children is the leading global independent organisation for children. Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

**Our vision:** A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

**Our mission:** To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Our values: Accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity and integrity.

We are committed to ensuring our resources are used as efficiently as possible, in order to focus them on achieving maximum impact for children.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CONTEXT**

TB is one of the top 10 causes of death in Nepal, every day around 15 people lose their lives to TB, and over 180 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease. The national TB prevalence survey conducted in 2018/19 showed that the TB prevalence rate is 416/100,000 which is 1.8 times higher, and revised incidence rate is 245/100,000 which is 1.6 times higher than previous estimates. WHO estimates around 69,000 new TB cases in Nepal per year, and although TB case notification has increased from 32,474 (2020/21) to 37,595 (2021/22), still significant number of TB cases are missing in the communities.

The treatment coverage reached 55% in 2021 showing a gap of 31,400 (45%) TB cases against the WHO estimation of 69,000 TB incidents in 2021. As per the WHO estimate, 16,000 people (almost 25% of incident TB cases) die from TB in Nepal. Similarly, 2,200 DR TB cases are estimated in in the country and only 682 cases were enrolled in 2021/22. Therefore, the missing TB case notification is identified as the key challenges of the national TB program.

The program has been successful in maintaining the treatment success rate above 90% for drug susceptible TB in the last years. Similarly, treatment success rate of DR TB has remained above 70% (74% in 2021).

The National Tuberculosis Control Centre (NTCC) along with Save the Children which is the Principal Recipient, works in close collaboration with local Sub-Recipients which are engaged in implementing innovative TB case finding strategies nationwide.

The main interventions include,



- Sputum transportation in 42 districts
- Contract tracing in 42 districts
- TB screening among malnourished children in 29 districts
- Screening of DR Suspect in 42 districts
- Childhood TB screening in major hospitals
- Private Sector Engagement in 7 major cities
- TB case finding from referral of Pharmacy in 7 major cities.
- Screening & diagnosis of TB in major hospitals with Finding Actively, Separating safely,
   Treat (FAST) strategy
- TB preventive therapy (TPT) for the Children in 42 districts
- Active case finding (ACF) in Prisoner- in 9 prisons
- ACF in Migrants (Cross borders)- in 10 Points of Entry at Indo-Nepal borders.

# Key challenges

- Low TB case finding- The drop in TB notification started from 2015 onwards and continued up to 2020/21, however there were some unsubstantial increments in some years between the period. The trend of declining started improving from fiscal year 2020 which has been substantially changed in 2021. In 2021 there has been almost overall increment by 30% (around 9000 cases) compared with the result of 2020 (28,608 TB cases). Despite the substantial increment in the notification there is still a gap of 45% in TB notification compared with the 69,000 TB cases estimated by prevalence Survey.
- High initial defaulter- The initial defaulter is substantially high, while analysing the crude data of HMIS, it seems around 25% to 30%, however in the preliminary data cleaning process, it has been noticed that many duplicate tests between GeneXpert and MC sites as same person has been tested positive in both GeneXpert and MC sites. Besides this, there has been duplicated number of test due to repeated test to confirms TB in the health facility. After adjusting such cases the initial defaulter is estimated to be 10 to 15% in DS and 15 to 20% in DR TB.
- Functionality/utilization of GeneXpert (GX) machines- the functionality in terms of the operation condition of GeneXpert machines is above 80%. However, there has been issue of utilization rate of GeneXpert machines while comparing with the optimal capacity of GX test in official working hours. The utilization has been directly affected by the supply of cartridges to GeneXpert sites. In January, there was almost 60% utilization rate which dropped to 35% in April, which was mainly due to problems in cartridge supply. After receiving cartridges in mid of April the utilization rate increased and reached 56% in June. However, besides the cartridges, there are other issues like sufficient samples in all GeneXpert sites, skill, and availability of HR for whole office hour, denial of receiving samples referred from other HFs, especially in tertiary level hospitals, lack of GX machines in strategic location etc.
- Low performance of Sub-Recipient (SR) specially in contact tracing, DR TB, PPM-TB case notification from private practitioner and childhood TB (HF level). However, SR has achieved 70% of its target of 6 month from Jan to June, there has been issues to improve the performance further to achieve better result.
- Reporting from pharmacy/private sector- the TB notification from private sector has shown some improvements however there are still areas of substantial improvement in engaging and getting better TB notification from private sector.



#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The primary objective of this technical assistance initiative is to support Nepal in implementing innovative strategies to locate and provide care for missing individuals with TB. Specifically, the objectives include:

- 1. Assessing the current mechanisms for identifying and locating missing TB cases in Nepal.
- 2. Recommending and implementing innovative approaches and technologies to enhance TB case finding and tracing efforts.
- 3. Building capacity among healthcare professionals and community workers to effectively utilize innovative tools and approaches for TB case finding.
- 4. Strengthening collaboration and coordination among relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups, to improve TB case detection and management.

#### Parameters to be re-viewed:

- 1. What are the scope and scale of interventions to improve TB case finding in country? Are these adequate to meet the NTP/GF grant case finding targets including the pay for performance for private sector?
- 2. What factors explain receding notification rates with current TB response interventions?
- 3. Which population groups are targeted for active case finding? Do they belong to the key and vulnerable population groups that face higher risk for TB? Are certain KVPs missed out?
- 4. How is active case finding carried out in terms of services (screening, diagnosis, treatment initiation) are organized and who delivers it. Is this patient centred and efficient? How can it be improved?
- 5. What screening and diagnostic tools and algorithms are used for active case finding. Is this based on the latest WHO guidelines? Is this optimized to increase the yield of TB cases?
- 6. Is the diagnostic network and referral system fully functionality and capacitated to support active case finding? What are the specific issues and how can they be addressed?
- 7. What is the contribution of active case finding to overall case notification at the appropriate level national, district or sub-district level depending on the scale of the activity and the unmet need per level.
- 8. What are the data that available to inform cost considerations in designing case finding interventions?
- 9. Any other information related with case finding strategies that worked well and should be scaled up, and not worked well which should be corrected or stopped.
- 10. What are the reasons for the high loss-to-follow up of diagnosed patients and how can this be effectively addressed?
- 11. What are the opportunities for the enhancement of the TB/HIV collaboration?



#### Location and official travel involved:

Consultant has to travel to Nepal as per agreed workplan.

**SCOPE OF WORK:** The scope of work for the technical assistance to Nepal for innovative approaches to finding missing cases with TB includes, but is not limited to:

- 1. Reviewing existing literature and data on TB case finding strategies and innovative approaches implemented globally.
- 2. Conducting an assessment of the current TB case finding and tracing mechanisms in Nepal, identifying gaps and challenges.
- 3. Developing tailored strategies and recommendations for implementing innovative approaches based on the local context and available resources.
- 4. Providing technical support and training to healthcare professionals and community workers on the use of innovative tools and techniques for TB case finding and tracing.
- 5. Facilitating stakeholder meetings and workshops to foster collaboration and coordination among relevant organizations and agencies.
- 6. Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of innovative approaches, documenting best practices, and disseminating lessons learned.

#### **DETAILED LIST OF DELIVERABLES:**

The following deliverables are expected from the technical assistance initiative:

- 1. Comprehensive assessment report on the current TB case finding and tracing mechanisms in Nepal.
- 2. Strategy document outlining recommended innovative approaches and technologies for TB case finding.
- 3. Training materials and sessions conducted for healthcare professionals and community workers.
- 4. Documentation of stakeholder meetings and workshops, including action plans for collaboration.
- 5. Progress reports on the implementation of innovative approaches and outcomes achieved.
- 6. Final report summarizing the overall impact of the technical assistance initiative and providing recommendations for sustainability.

SN	Deliverables	Duration			
1	Desk review 7 days				
2	Field visit 6 days				
3	Consultative meeting with NTP partners 1 days				
4	Meeting with key stakeholders 2 days				
5	Report writing	5 days			
6	Report finalization with incorporating the feedback	4 days			
	Total	25 days			

**TIMELINE:** 25 days Level of Effort (LoE) starting from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**SUPERVISION, COORDINATION AND SIGN OFFS:** Consultant will coordinate with Senior Program Director/Senior Program Manager/SCI-NTCC.

#### **EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS:**

#### **Essential:**

- Education: Advanced university degree in medicine/public health.



- Minimum 10 years of relevant professional experience working on TB including at the international level.

#### **Preferred:**

- Experience in designing, implementing, and monitoring TB projects including interventions related to systematic screening for TB.
- Experience in conducting TB program reviews, assessments, or evaluation including on TB case finding strategies.

Skills: Ability to work professionally and diplomatically with a variety of stakeholders including government officials, technical agencies, donors and civil society partners.

Language: Excellent knowledge of English.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** All data and information collected during the course of the technical assistance initiative shall be treated with strict confidentiality and used solely for the purpose of this project.

### **Budget:**

Bidders are required to propose their daily remuneration, air tickets, Food and Accommodation during travel to Kathmandu and in field at Nepal.

#### How to apply for the services

Proposal Submission Guideline/Required Documents

Proposal Submission Deadline - 13th March 2024, 11:45PM Nepal Time.

- Required Documents-
  - Filled out Consultancy Proposal Form (enclosed with this ToR)
  - o CV of the proposed consultant with full date of birth in dd/mm/yyyy format.
  - For firms: Copies of- company / firm registration as per the prevailing act of the country.
  - For individuals: A copy of passport.
- A proposal should have four (4) separate files:

1<sup>st</sup> for essential documents

2<sup>nd</sup> for technical proposal

3<sup>rd</sup> for financial proposal

4<sup>th</sup> for other supporting documents as per ToR

Each of the above should be properly labelled respectively as "essential documents", "technical proposal", "financial proposal" and "other supporting documents as per ToR"

Proposals should be submitted via email to <a href="mailto:nepal.bids@savethechildren.org">nepal.bids@savethechildren.org</a>

Proposals submitted in another email addresses will not be considered in the process. (Please note that, bidder must not cc/bcc/forward proposals to any other email addresses).



# Instruction and Template for PROPOSAL Submission

Consultancy Title: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR 'INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINDING MISSING PEOPLE WITH TUBERCULOSIS (TB)' PR No. PR427152

Date of Proposal Submission: < Insert date>

This instruction & template for proposal development consists of the following sections:

- 1. Section A: Instruction for Proposal Development
- 2. **Section B**: Proposal Development Form
- 3. **Section C**: Essential Evaluation Questions

# **Section A:** Instruction for Proposal Development

#### Please READ and FOLLOW the instructions before completing the proposal form

- 1. A proposal will not be considered for review if:
  - It is received after the deadline
  - It is not sealed properly (NA in case of email proposals)
  - There are any missing documents mentioned in the ToR
  - Information submitted by the company is found to be false
  - It is incomplete
- 2. A proposal submitted through email should have four (4) separate files:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> for essential documents
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> for technical proposal
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> for financial proposal
  - 4<sup>th</sup> for other supporting documents as per ToR
- All attached documents should be clearly labelled so it is clear to understand what each file relates to.
- Emails should not exceed 15mb if the file sizes are large, please split the submission into two emails.
- Do not copy other SCI email addresses into the email when you submit it as this will invalidate your bid.
- 4. Only shortlisted bidder/s will be contacted by Save the Children at each stage of the selection process.
- 5. Shortlisted bidder/s will be invited to deliver a 15minute presentation to the Procurement Committee on their technical proposal.

# **Section B:** Proposal Development Form

I.		n (NA in case of individual consultant)
	Address	·
	District/State	:
	Country	:
	Phone number	·
	E-mail	

V	Vebsite	:			
II. Details of contact perso Name Position Address District/State Country Phone Number E-mail		n /individual : : : : : :			
III. N	/lajor topics and sub-top	oics for proposal devel	opment		
1.	<ul><li>1.1 Work experie</li><li>1.2 Existing and c</li></ul>	current human resource	e and organization		
2. SN	Full Name (Avoid	sed Consultants Inforn Date of birth	Designation	Academic	
SIN	abbreviations)	(dd/mm/yyyy AD)	Designation	Qualification	
	abbi eviations/	(uu/IIIII/yyyyAD)		Qualification	
3.	and workplan to co technical proposal in	_	t. Please refer to document.	ethodology / approach evaluation criteria of	
4.	countries related to	· ·	s, please provide	w- and Middle-income experience letter or	
5.	assessments, or eval	luation including on T	B case finding str	g TB program reviews, rategies? If yes, please ed reports as evidence	

6.	Do you (proposed consultant) have experience in designing, implementing, and monitoring TB projects including interventions related to systematic screening for TB? If yes, please provide details below and attach experience letter or published reports as evidence with this proposal:					

7. Proposed Budget which includes daily remuneration, air tickets, Food and Accommodation during travel to Kathmandu and in field at Nepal. (Please specify the proposed cost is inclusive / exclusive of applicable taxes in Nepal)

Bidder shall submit financial proposal in separate file with file name – financial proposal.

# **Section C:** Essential Evaluation Questions

# ESSENTIAL CRITERIA (Exclusion if not met)

In order to qualify as a bidder you must be able to answer 'Yes' against all of the Essential Criteria. After passing the essential criteria you will be scored against Capability and Commercial criteria.

S. No.	Criteria	Please specify <b>Yes / No</b>
a)	Do you have a legitimate business/official address OR are you registered for trading or tax purposes with the authorities.  If yes, have you attached a copy of registration documents with this proposal? (not applicable to individual bidders)	
b)	We, the Bidder, hereby confirm we compliance with the following policies and requirements:  Terms & Conditions of Bidding  Terms & Conditions of Purchase  Sc-C-01 Short Form Goods and Services A  Supplier Sustainability Policy and the included mandatory policies  Conditions of Click Here to Access	
c)	Do you confirm that the company is not linked directly or indirectly to any terrorism related activity, and does not sell any Dual-Purpose goods / services that may be used in a terror related activity?	
d)	Do you confirm that you are not a prohibited party under applicable sanctions laws or anti-terrorism laws or provide goods under sanction by the United States of America or the European Union and accepts that SCI will undertake independent checks to validate this?	r

e)	Do you confirm that you are not a prohibited party or	
	on government blacklisting	
f)	Have you attached a copy of passport of proposed	
	consultant with this proposal?	
g)	Have you attached CVs of Proposed Consultant/s.	
h)	Do you / proposed consultant have advanced university	
	degree in medicine/public health?	
i)	Do you / proposed consultant have minimum of 10	
	years of relevant professional experience working on TB	
	including at the international level? If yes, is this clearly	
	reflected in CV of the proposed consultant?	



Date: 6th March 2024

Request for Proposal (RFP) Reference No: PR427152

Dear Sir/Madam,

Save the Children requests submission of proposal to provide goods/services in accordance with the conditions detailed in the attached documents. Save the Children intends to enter into a contract for the following goods/services: consultancy assignment entitled "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR 'INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINDING MISSING PEOPLE WITH TUBERCULOSIS (TB)".

We include the following information for your review:

Policy	Policy / Document
Terms & Conditions of Bidding	1. Terms & Conditions of Biddii
Terms & Conditions of Purchase	SC-C-01 Short Form Goods and Services A
Supplier Sustainability Policy and the included mandatory policies	Click Here to Access

Your proposal must be received in the following format:

- Full completion of the "Consultancy Proposal Form" document in order that your proposal may be regarded as compliant. Those proposals not completed may be treated as void.
- Proposal to be submitted via email to <a href="mailto:nepal.bids@savethechildren.org">nepal.bids@savethechildren.org</a>

The email subject should indicate "Proposal for TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR 'INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINDING MISSING PEOPLE WITH TB".

Your proposal must be received at <a href="negative-negat

Should you require further information or clarification on the proposal requirements, please contact Mr. Asesh Baidya (Contact Person) in writing at the following address: <a href="mailto:eoiconsultant.nepal@savethechildren.org">eoiconsultant.nepal@savethechildren.org</a>

We look forward to receiving a proposal from you and thank you for your interest in our account.

Yours faithfully,

Asesh Baidya

Procurement Coordinator - Consultancy



#### PART 1: PROPOSAL INFORMATION

#### Introduction

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in 120 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential. We work together, with our partners, to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

#### **Provisional timetable**

Activity	<u>Date</u>
Publication / Circulation of Request for proposal	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Last day for bidders to send clarification questions to Save the Children	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Last day for SCI to answer clarification questions to bidders	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Return of Proposals (Closing Date)	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024, 11:45pm Nepal Time
Award Contract and "Go-Live" with Supplier	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024

#### **Indicative information**

# Background

TB is one of the top 10 causes of death in Nepal, every day around 15 people lose their lives to TB, and over 180 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease. The national TB prevalence survey conducted in 2018/19 showed that the TB prevalence rate is 416/100,000 which is 1.8 times higher, and revised incidence rate is 245/100,000 which is 1.6 times higher than previous estimates. WHO estimates around 69,000 new TB cases in Nepal per year, and although TB case notification has increased from 32,474 (2020/21) to 37,595 (2021/22), still significant number of TB cases are missing in the communities.

The treatment coverage reached 55% in 2021 showing a gap of 31,400 (45%) TB cases against the WHO estimation of 69,000 TB incidents in 2021. As per the WHO estimate, 16,000 people (almost 25% of incident TB cases) die from TB in Nepal. Similarly, 2,200 DR TB cases are estimated in in the country and only 682 cases were enrolled in 2021/22. Therefore, the missing TB case notification is identified as the key challenges of the national TB program.

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- ACF in Migrants (Cross borders)- in 10 Points of Entry at Indo-Nepal borders.

#### Award criteria

Award of the contract will be based on the following criteria:

#### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA (Exclusion if not met)**

Bidders must meet the following criteria:

- That the bidder has legitimate business /official premises, or that they are registered for trading and tax as appropriate.
- That they are not any prohibited parties or on government blacklisting
- Bidder's confirmation of compliance with the attached Conditions of proposal, Terms and Conditions of Purchase, Supplier Sustainability Policy and the included mandatory policies.
- For Company/Institution/Organization: The company / firm should be registered as per the prevailing act of the country. This is not applicable for individuals.
- Proposed consultant should have advanced university degree in medicine/public health.
- Minimum 10 years of relevant professional experience working on TB including at the international level.



# **Evaluation Criteria**

The following criteria are considered very important in the evaluation of this proposal.

Capability Criteria: 50%

Criteria	Weight	Sub-Criteria	% Weight
Capability	50%	Academic Qualification: 5%  Advanced university degree in Medicine / Public Health: 3%  PhD in Health: 2% (Additional)  Experience in conducting TB program reviews, assessments, or evaluation including on TB case finding strategies: 5%  Yes = 5%, No = 0%  (Evidence - Experience letter or published report)  Experience in designing, implementing, and monitoring TB projects including interventions related to systematic screening for TB: 10%  Yes = 10%, No = 0%  (Evidence - Experience letter or published report)  Proposed approach, methodology and workplan: 20  Understanding of ToR: 5  Proposed Methodology: 10  Workplan: 5	20%
		Excellent: 17 to 20, Very Good: 13 - 16, Acceptable: 9 - 12, Fair: 5 to 8, Poor: 0 - 4	2010
		Interview / Presentation (For shortlisted only)  Excellent: 10, Very Good: 8 Acceptable: 6, Fair: 4 Poor: 2	10%

Sustainability Criteria: 10%

Criteria	Weight	Sub-Criteria	% Weight
Sustainability	10%	Bidder has work experience in Low and Middle-income countries related to TB program.  Yes = 10%, No = 0%  (Evidence: Experience letter or relevant documents)	



Remark

Bidders shall secure minimum of 20 marks out of 40 in capability to be eligible for financial evaluation / review and presentation / interview.

# Commercial Criteria (Financial Proposal): 40%

Financial proposal will be scored in inverse proportionate basis.

#### How to apply for the services

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