



Terms of Reference

Role	Consultant - Country Health Assessment, Bangladesh
Location	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Period	Number of Days: Tentative 10 working days Start Date: February 2024 TBC End Date: Mid-March 2024

BACKGROUND

VSO is an international development agency with over 60 years' experience of addressing poverty and marginalisation through our unique approach of working through international, national and community volunteers. By bringing together different perspectives and working at all levels of society – from communities to government ministries – volunteers can build trust and provide the right support to ensure that national development efforts deliver lasting change. Our works falls into the three thematic areas of Health, Education and Livelihoods.

In July 2021, VSO launched its 3-year global health strategy (2021-2024), with the goal of achieving the right to quality health and wellbeing for all adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Since then, the new global health strategy has been the reference in our programme design and implementation as well as external engagement and positioning. Since we are mid-way through the strategy implementation and given our new 5-year organisational strategy as well as changes in the external environment which we need to align our global health strategy with, this is the right time to reflect on where we are, our positioning within the wider health sector and incorporate any missing areas that would maximise the impact of work to primary actors.

One of the key recommendations requires the health portfolio and countries of operation to double up and re-align our partnership strategy to better contribute to build on our core approaches 1) Inclusive Health 2) Youth-focused health systems 3) Resilient health systems 4) SGBV and MHPSS 5) Climate resilient and environmental health system strengthening. With this, VSO will position better to accelerate impact through technical collaborations, technical collaborations, policy and advocacy alliances, joint resource mobilization partnerships, private sector and or private-public sector partnerships, impact bonds etcetera.

The consultant will carry out a thorough review of the health partnership assessment and understand the health situation in Bangladesh. The review will help identify areas for in-depth analysis with key



informants and primary actors and draw best practices and lessons from VSO's programming. The findings will help inform VSO's future health programming in Bangladesh.

This country assessment will have a national focus where the consultant will be required to carry out a thorough desk review to understand the SRMNCAH situation in the country. The desk review will help identify areas of an in-depth analysis with key informants and primary actors. He/she will also review evidence drawn from VSO's programming to draw best practice and lessons for future programming. The findings from this assessment will help inform VSO health programming in Bangladesh.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the consultancy:

1. Assess the policy, institutional and operational situation mainly the bottlenecks/gaps/emerging issues in the health sector particularly in 1) Inclusive Health 2) Youth-focused health systems 3) Resilient health systems 4) SGBV and MHPSS 5) Climate resilient and environmental health system strengthening.
2. Identify practical solutions and recommendations that VSO - through its Volunteering for Development (VfD) implemented through the core approaches highlighted - can contribute to achieving adolescent health and wellbeing for all.
3. Provide a compilation of the five key UHC policy tools and innovations that aim at delivering the SDGs targets by 2030 and leaving no one behind in SRMNCAH. The compilation should include description of the tools/innovations, promoters and analysis of documented criticism and support for the same. detailed links or attachments should be included.

More specifically, this assignment will aim to address the following areas:

- Analyse the key development priorities and opportunities that affect SRMNCAH in the country. Part of this will include analysing the extent to which the external factors e.g., Climate Change, COVID 19, gender discrimination, social exclusion and a lack of social accountability have affected SRMNCAH at all levels in the country. Please use a PESTLE analytical framework (Political, Economic, Socio-cultural, Technological, Legal and Environmental) to conduct the analysis.
- Analyse the status of the blockages/gaps in SRMNCAH at policy, system, individual, family and community level that hinder the full achievement of the country's socio-economic objectives, UHC and health SDGs. A particular focus will be on barriers that affect the delivery of Primary Health Care/ Community health-based services.
- Identify the future trends and innovations in line with the country's strategy in the areas of SRMNCAH.
- Map the key stakeholders in country (including governments, government institutions, Civil Society, other INGOs, Private Sector, UN agencies and other multilateral agencies, Foundations, Academia, and institutes etc.) and their roles and responsibilities within the health sector (with a focus on SRMNACH). Identify opportunities and any barriers that exist in terms of effective engagement



towards the achievement of the health SDGs in the country. Explore areas of interest and influence, especially where VSO can add value.

- Assess the understanding amongst the key strategic stakeholders at national and local levels about how VSO's Volunteering for Development model adds value and can contribute towards the realisation of UHC and the health SDGs in country.
- Undertake a donor mapping of potential donors who are funding Health in the country and analyse the donor trends over the next few years in terms of the typology, interests, Strategic priorities, and funding etc. in SRMNCAH.

Individual area of work:

- Bangladesh

SCOPE OF WORK

Under the responsibility and accountability of the Global Practice Area Lead Health, the consultant is expected to help facilitate the following tasks:

- Desk review of external and internal documents as relevant.
- Interviews with key informants including Government at national and local levels, existing VSO partners, CSOs, INGOs, donors, UN agencies etc -only as needed.
- Leadership on the planning and execution of partnership round table (s) in collaboration with the global health partnership team, VSO's country programme implementation lead, and business pursuit lead/designate.

Key relationships in the project are Global Head of Health, Global technical Lead, Global Programme Development Specialist, country Health Programme Manager, Global Partnership Advisor, Strategy Partnership Leads.

DELIVERABLES & TIMELINES

The expected level of effort is estimated to maximum 10 days.

Key expected deliverables	Nr of Days
An <i>inception report</i> at the start of the assignment, detailing the agreed upon methodology. Variations will be observed based on the initial review of the current contextual analyses from specific countries	1
Donor map disaggregated by VSO's strategic core approaches, geographies of interest, key implementing partners etc. This should also highlight the current donor technical and operational strategy	1.5
A country-specific comprehensive database/map of identified donors and partners aligned to the health strategy. This should also highlight international partnerships with	3



local affiliates/networks, private sector, religious institutions receiving significant donor funding, global fund recipients, USAID/CDC local partners, National key population/marginalized group registered networks and others	
A presentation PPT using VSO's template and summarizing the key findings and recommendations	0.5
Facilitating partner round table and narrative report on the partner round table	1
An <i>analytical report</i> using VSO's template and preferred report structure, which basically comprises a format of the below format	1

The analytical report should comprise:

- Title page
- Acknowledgement
- Acronym list
- List of figures and tables
- Executive summary (maximum 3 pages)
- Background
- Methodology
- Limitations of the assessment
- Key findings and analysis based on the questions
- Conclusions and recommendations
- List of annexures

Note:

- The final report should be provided in an electronic format compatible with Microsoft Word for Windows.
- All data collected in the form of questionnaires will be returned to VSO for safe disposal according to organizational policy, unless otherwise agreed on safe disposal with the consultant.

SKILL, KNOWLEDGE, & EXPERIENCE

The consultant should be based in Bangladesh. Given the nature of deliverables required, the consultant should have good current relations with key players and partners.

Qualifications/Experience

- At least 7 years' experience in Public Health and especially in SRMNCAH and Health Systems Strengthening, Primary Health Care
- Experience of conducting analytical research and studies
- Strategy and Theory of Change development
- Experience in delivery or engagement with UN/AU systems around Health SDGs or Agenda 2063 targets

Knowledge



- In depth knowledge of Health (SRHR and MNCH), at country level
- Good knowledge of the principles of Universal Health Coverage and of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they relate to health
- Good connections with key players in the sector
- Knowledge of the Volunteering for Development approach and VSO

Skills/Abilities

- **Professionalism:** Knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts and approaches relevant to strategic planning at organizational level. demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines, and achieving results.
- **Communication:** Strong in written and oral communication; a good listener; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.
- **Planning & Organizing:** identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.
- **Accountability:** Takes ownership of all responsibilities and honours commitments; delivers outputs for which one has responsibility within prescribed time, cost, and quality standards; operates in compliance with organizational regulations and rules.

Payment

VSO shall pay the consultant the agreed fee in the local currency, 25% after signing the agreement and 75% after submission and after completion of the deliverables and subject to withholding tax deduction.

Application

Interested individuals should submit their application through VSO recruitment system making sure to attach the following components, in one PDF file, of no more than 4 pages in length:

- **Cover letter** that addresses the motivation for taking on the project, states the track record and competencies of the consultant based on the above requirements and assets, and clarifies the consultant's expected rate.
- **Curriculum vitae** of the consultant.

Should you be shortlisted, you will be expected to share via e-mail, in one PDF file, the following elements:

- Draft proposal, including methodology and deliverables.
- Detailing timeline and budget.

Two references of previous employers and a police check are part of the recruitment process.