

Vacancy Announcement

Job title:	Consultant – Researcher (BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH)
Unit/dept/delegation:	Programme Department, Maldivian Red Crescent Headquarters, Hulhumale’
Reports to:	Manager - Programmes and Services
Key Responsibility:	To manage, implement, and support coordination of the Formative Assessment : Audience Consultations in Maldives to inform design of communication to address COVID-19 Vaccine hesitancy : Inception Report with Methodology & Conceptual Framework; Summary Findings and Recommendations; Final Report and Accompanying Technical Paper/s

Background

The Maldivian Red Crescent is an independent, voluntary, humanitarian organization, established on the basis of the Maldivian Red Crescent Law [Law 7/2009]. Its primary objective is to provide humanitarian aid, and to prevent and alleviate human suffering. It is the 187th member of the world’s largest humanitarian movement — the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – which every year helps millions of people whose lives have been devastated by crises or conflict.

The Maldivian Red Crescent aims to be the nation’s leading humanitarian organization, with Units spanned across Maldives. It recruits members and volunteers, implements programmes, and delivers services in adherence to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, and Universality – making no discrimination as to nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs, language, class, or political opinions.

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is a five-year global project funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and USAID, dedicated to achieving and maintaining epidemic control. Currently, EpiC and its consortium members implement COVID-19 activities in more than 60 countries across the world. The project delivers high-quality technical assistance at the community, facility, district, regional and national levels, and builds relationships with relevant partners working to address COVID-19.

FHI 360 is the technical assistance (TA) partner of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the EpiC Project. Although originally designed as an HIV program, EpiC has been modified to accept Pillar-2 COVID-19 funding to prevent, prepare for, respond to and bolster health systems to address COVID-19 and its re-emergence.

In Maldives, EpiC has been extending technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) since July 2020 in the COVID-19 response. Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Maldives, Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) is supported to conduct formative assessment to find knowledge, attitude and perceptions among different segments, and reasons for vaccine hesitancy among populations, especially in the remote islands

Purpose

MRC is looking for a consultant researcher to work on a project related to the conduct of formative assessment for creating a prevention and control strategy for Covid-19 in Maldives. The consultant will conduct Behavioural science research in Covid-19 prevention and control, with a special focus on vaccination hesitancy. We are seeking to understand the social, cultural, behavioural (psychological) determinants / pathways / barriers that impede the achievement of Covid-19 prevention and control. The consultant will support in identifying possible solutions with respect to the behaviour change process associated with Covid-19 prevention and control through timely vaccination and adherence with prescribed schedule of vaccination, including boosters.

The consultant will be required to travel to islands, to engage with different participants including parents, youth, adult men and women, community stakeholders such as local leaders, frontline workers, teachers, staff of any local organizations, and staff from health and other relevant ministries and international development agencies.

The consultant will work closely with Project team from MRC and in the initial phases will be supported by FHI-360.

The Consultant will work in close coordination with the Programme Coordinator - Health and Inclusion and Manager – Programmes and Services

Key tasks and responsibilities

The Consultant will be expected to:

- Conduct consultation meetings, participatory meetings with various audiences and stakeholders in different locations in Maldives, including some islands distant from Male. (10 days)
- Support in conducting participatory ranking exercises and prioritization exercises for barriers, problems and potential solutions with stakeholders. Conduct at least 1-demo exercise. (5 days)
- Note taking and preparing transcripts from these consultative meetings and participatory exercises.
- Monitor and supervise field staff such as moderators / facilitators of consultation meetings
- Prepare summary of findings and recommendations for review by MRC and FHI360 (1-2 weeks)
- Conduct training of moderators/facilitators of consultation meetings (1 week)
 - Data management (in appropriate program)
 - Data analysis – quantitative descriptive analysis for secondary research
 - Generate tables and write findings in a report
 - Qualitative thematic analysis
- Based on feedback received, draft prepare a final report of findings and recommendations including short Technical Papers as relevant and agreed with MRC and FHI360 (1 week)
- Finalise report and technical paper/s (1 week)
- Develop inception report with study approach, methodology and conceptual framework for levels and domains of behavioural influencers (barriers/bottlenecks, enablers) and predictors for COVID19 compliance (1 week)
- Conduct the desk/ literature review of published and grey literature based on agreed upon framework, domains, and other parameters & conduct interview senior members of relevant stakeholders (2 weeks)

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS and FREQUENCY OF REVIEWS:

Key deliverables will need to be submitted in time (as per agreed timeline) and satisfactory quality (as per agreed upon approach and scope; and incorporating all comments from MRC and FHI360 team).

Performance will be tracked through routine calls and feedback on deliverables.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Assignment will require the design of an inception report that will specify workplan and key milestones which will be agreed upon by MRC & FHI360. Regular calls with consultant based on an agreed upon schedule and frequency, will be held to ensure timely completion of assignment

Duties applicable to all staff/consultants

- Actively work towards the achievement of the MRC's goals and objectives.
- Abide by and work in accordance with the Red Cross and Red Crescent 7 Fundamental Principles.

Qualifications, Skills and Competencies

Academic Qualification

Preferably a Master's degree in relevant social science, socio-behavioural science, public health or Management Please apply if you have experience of 5+ years and only a bachelor's degree in any of the social-behavioural sciences (including psychology, sociology, anthropology, social work, public health, among other related disciplines).

Experience

At least 5 years of institutional experience in social or behavioral research with a focus on public health promotion and communication. Experience in behavioral insights research linked to social, political and economic context analyses will be an asset.

Experience in conducting desk research and field research, secondary and primary research in a health or social sciences topic is essential.

Experience in analyzing and synthesizing socio-behavioral or public health research for policy and programme recommendations.

Published works or publicly available documentation in the area of social behavioral research and/or public health communication

Experience in conducting research and analysis in a humanitarian/ emergency or fast-paced complex development context

Experience in conducting qualitative research will be helpful.

Skills/knowledge

Ability to plan and coordinate the formative assessment or information-gathering efforts in an organized and detailed manner

Ability to adapt to changes in study schedule and scope

Creative problem solving skills

Good verbal, visual and text communication

Ability to work with a variety of stakeholders / beneficiaries / audience groups / clients / topics /junior staff

Should be able to connect with people of different socio-economic, educational, cultural background.

Fluency in Dhivehi and English (written and verbal)

Competencies

Interpersonal relations

Results focus, dedicated and high standards of accountability

Organised and attention to detail.

Teamwork

Good communications skills and able to build rapport with diverse groups in the community.

Excellent written and spoken Dhivehi & English

Contract and Salary

Contract Type: **2 months with possible extension**

Monthly Salary: **commensurate with qualification and experience and highly competitive with similar consultancies in Maldives**

Application

Applications must contain:

- Letter of Interest
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copy / photo of ID card
- Copies of certificates
- Previous publications/ Research work
- Letter of Recommendation

Applications must be emailed with job title in subject to : info@redcrescent.org.mv

Deadline: The deadline for application is 12 PM on July 04, 2022.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.