

Vasectomy: A review of the facilitators and barriers to the uptake of vasectomy in Nepal?

Request for Proposals

Deadline for Submission of Proposal: 2st February 2020
Estimated date for award of contract: 5th February 2020

Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
Evidence to Action Department
Sunaulo Parivar Nepal
Implementing partner of Marie Stopes International

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1. Organizational overview

Marie Stopes International (MSI)

Marie Stopes International (MSI), a registered charity, is a global Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) service providing organization registered in 1973 in United Kingdom. It works in close partnership with local non-government organizations (NGOs) in different countries, providing technical and managerial support for increasing access and utilization of quality FP/SRH services with a mission of enabling people to have children by choice not chance. MSI is a not-for-profit SRH organization that uses modern business methods to achieve the social goal of preventing unintended pregnancies and unplanned births in 37 countries worldwide. MSI works in Nepal in partnership with Sunaulo Parivar Nepal (SPN), a local not for profit NGO, since 1994.

Sunaulo Parivar Nepal (SPN)

SPN, established in 1994, is a Nepali NGO, an implementing partner of MSI. SPN provides a wide range of services to meet the SRH needs of the men, women and young people of Nepal. We are increasing awareness and understanding of SRH with increasing access to affordable quality services to prevent unwanted births. SPN uses an advocacy-based approach to support people in exercising their fundamental SRH rights, particularly targeting underserved, marginalized and hard to reach populations.

The goal of SPN is to prevent unwanted birth to ensure every birth is wanted amongst all segments of the population including poor, marginalized and poor community. SPN has been managing the static centers to provide full range of SRH services from Marie Stopes Centre; Comprehensive Mobile Family Planning Camps, Contraceptive Social Marketing, Reproductive Health Training Centre and Youth Friendly Service Centre¹.

2. Study Rationale

Despite the sustained efforts of the government, donors, and private organisations, the results of the 2016 Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) indicate that Nepal is struggling to increase FP coverage and appears slightly behind in meeting the SDG target for 2017 of reducing the unmet need for FP to below 22%². Of the 24% unmet need for family planning in the 2016 NDHS, 16% was an unmet need for limiting and only 8% was for spacing. The CRP has also remained in the mid-forties in the last decade with little improvement and male sterilization was used as a method of contraception by only 6% of currently married couples in the 2016 NDHS down from 8% in NDHS 2011. This is despite the fact that according to the 2016 NDHS, 57% of married men and 50% of married women do not want another child and over 90% of men and women surveyed had heard of male sterilization as a contraceptive option. The gap between wanted and actual fertility in the 2016 NDHS shows that women are having an average of half a child more than they want. More and more couples want to have

¹ <http://www.mariestopes.org.np/en/what-we-do>

² Ministry of Health and Population. 2016. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS). In: Population Division and New ERA, editor. Kathmandu: Population Division and New ERA 2017

smaller families and limit fertility yet the uptake of permanent methods of family planning, especially male sterilization is low.

Vasectomy has been available for men in Nepal through govt. health facilities and outreach clinics, but its use has been limited. While current program implementation has increased its focus on engaging men in FP based on the existing evidence on effective male involvement interventions and the knowledge of male sterilization as a contraceptive option is almost universal in Nepal there has not been a corresponding increase in uptake of services.

While there is a lot of evidence regarding the inclusion of men in family planning, barrier to uptake of male sterilization and evaluation of interventional approaches to increase uptake of male sterilization both regionally and locally, there is a lack of clear guidance on what strategies are most suited to the diverse geographical and cultural groups in Nepal as well as how to contend with the seasonal nature of demand for sterilization services.

In order to inform better strategic programming in generating demand and providing access to male sterilization services, we propose to conduct a desk review of available literature examining the facilitators and barriers to increasing the uptake of vasectomy services in Nepal. The aim of the review is to examine the trends in vasectomy in the country and the factors affecting uptake. Using the findings from the literature, the review shall identify key domains of influence on uptake on permanent methods and provide recommendations on how uptake of vasectomy can be increased. Various interventions and implementation modalities have been tested in influencing the dynamics of decision making in health and family planning and the review should also explore these interventions and their outcomes. The review should provide recommendations based on the evidence on what strategies would be effective in increasing family planning and vasectomy uptake especially no-scalpel vasectomy in particular.

Objectives:

To understand the facilitators and barriers in increasing the uptake of NSV in Nepal.

Specific Objectives

- I. To conduct a desk review on sterilization and its trends in Nepal using available literature (including manuscripts, program reports and project documents) and secondary data (DHS and HMIS data).
- II. To review the literature on couples' perspectives on sterilization especially vasectomy and factors that affect uptake including socio-demographic factors, seasonality, myths and misconception and the dynamics of a couple's decision making when selecting a permanent method and the profile of couples opting for vasectomy services.

3. Scope of Work (SoW)

The consultant will be responsible to carry out the study on behalf of the Evidence to Action (E2A) Department with the work to be completed **by February 21, 2020**. The main responsibilities of the consultant will include:

- I. **Prepare study plan:** Preparing a study plan and outline for review and feedback from the E2A department. This should contain a clear description of the research questions, the potential sources of information that will be used, and the analytical framework
- II. **Conduct Desk review :**The consultant will conduct a review of the body of evidence regarding sterilization -both local and regional- and its trends in Nepal using available literature (including manuscripts, program reports and project documents) and secondary data (DHS and HMIS data).

4. Timeline

The consultant is expected to submit a timeline for the activities proposed in the course of conducting this study, adhering to the total duration provided for completion of the study.

5. Deliverables

Deliverable 1

- Final study plan submitted to E2A department of SPN

Deliverable 2

- Study report submitted to E2A department
- Power-point presentation
- One-page brief

Interested research consultants are hereby invited to submit a proposal and quote on this assignment. A technical and financial proposal on the basis of this ToR (considering all requirement and responsibilities) is expected from consultant. The technical and financial proposals should be submitted in separate sealed envelopes with appropriate labeling. These sealed proposals should be kept in another common envelope and again sealed and submitted. The proposal should include the requested information written in English. The main text should be submitted in a size 12 Times New Roman font, spacing 1.5.

6. Payment Terms

Bidders are invited to note that, if awarded the contract, payment terms will be subjected to negotiation. SPN Nepal's standard terms of payment will be done upon completion of each delivery in the following way.

- I. 25% upon completion of 1st deliverable
- II. 75% upon completion of 2nd deliverable

7. Submission of Proposal

I. Sealing and marking of proposal

The Bidder shall seal the proposal in one outer and two inner envelopes, as detailed below.

(a) The outer envelope shall be addressed to –

Procurement Officer, Sunaulo Parivar Nepal, Baluwatar (opposite to the Chinese Embassy) Nepal and marked with – RFP: NSV Study

(b) The 2 inner envelopes shall indicate the name and address of the Bidder and should be clearly marked with “Technical Proposal” and “Financial Proposal”. In summary, there will be one separate sealed envelope for the Technical Proposal and one separate sealed envelope for the Financial Proposal.

II. Deadline for submission of proposals

Proposals must be received by SPN at the address specified no later than 17:00 hours (local time), 2nd February 2020.

SPN may, at its own discretion extend this deadline for the submission of proposals by amending the solicitation documents in accordance with clause Amendments of Solicitation Documents, in which case all rights and obligations of SPN and Bidders previously subject to the deadline will thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.

III. Late proposals

Any proposal received by SPN after the deadline for submission of proposals will be rejected.

IV. Modification and withdrawal of proposals

The Bidder may modify or withdraw its proposal after the proposal's submission, provided that written notice of the modification or withdrawal is received by SPN prior to the deadline prescribed for submission of proposals. The Bidder's withdrawal or modification notice shall be prepared, sealed, marked and dispatched in accordance with the provisions of SPN. The modification document must be signed and sealed by the same person/authority who submitted original proposal.

No proposal shall be modified subsequent to the deadline for submission of proposals. No proposal may be withdrawn in the interval between the deadline for submission of proposals and the expiration of the period of proposal validity specified by the Bidder on the Proposal Submission Form.

V. Opening and evaluation of proposals

SPN will open the proposals in the presence of the Procurement Committee which will include representation from technical partner, Marie Stopes International. To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of proposals, SPN may at its discretion, ask the Bidder for clarification of its proposal including breakdowns of unit cost. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing and no change in price or substance of the proposal shall be sought, offered or permitted, except as required to confirm the correction

of arithmetic errors discovered by the SPN in the evaluation of the proposal.

VI. Preliminary examination of proposals

SPN shall examine the proposals to determine whether they are complete, whether any computational errors have been made, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the proposals are generally in order.

Arithmetical errors will be rectified on the following basis: If there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price that is obtained by multiplying the unit price and quantity, the unit price shall prevail, and the total price shall be corrected. If the Bidder does not accept the correction of errors, its proposal will be rejected. If there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words will prevail. Prior to the detailed evaluation, SPN will determine the substantial responsiveness of each proposal to the ToR. For purposes of these clauses, a substantially responsive proposal is one which conforms to all the terms and conditions of the ToR.

A proposal, which does not meet the requirements outlined above, shall be rejected by SPN.

VII. Evaluation and comparison of proposals

The Procurement Committee will evaluate and compare the proposals which have been determined to be substantially responsive in accordance.

A two-stage procedure is utilized in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any price proposal being opened and compared. The technical proposal is evaluated on the basis of its responsiveness to the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The financial proposal will be opened only if they meet the following condition:

The bidder's proposal passed the minimum technical score of 70% of the obtainable score of 100 points in the evaluation of the technical proposals.

In the second stage, the financial proposal of all Bidders, who have attained minimum 70% score in the technical evaluation, will be evaluated. The financial proposal carries a total score of 30 %.

70% weightage will be given to the technical proposal (which pass the minimum technical score of 70%) and 30% weightage will be given to the financial proposal. The contract will be awarded to the Bidder scoring the highest combined scores.

8. Intellectual Property Right (IPR)

The Intellectual property rights for all tools, data and reports emerging from this study is reserved with SPN. The consultant may neither disclose, share nor publish in part or full anything related to the study without prior written permission.

9. Safeguarding

SPN safeguards and protects the rights of children and vulnerable adults with whom we interact in the course of our operations. The consultant must abide by the vision, mission values behavior and relevant policies of SPN.

10. Contacting SPN

Clarification on ToR can be sought up to January 29, 2020 through email correspondence the provided email address using the subject line “ **RFP: NSV Study Queries**”.

msi@mariestopes.org.np

No Bidder shall contact SPN on any matter related to this proposal, thereafter. Any effort by a Bidder to influence proposal evaluation, comparison or contract award decisions may result in the rejection of the Bidder’s proposal.

11. Award criteria and award of contract

SPN reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or any obligation to inform the affected Bidder.

12. Signing of the contract

The successful Bidder will reply within the time specified otherwise it will be considered as non- interested. In such a case the next Bidder in the list will get the offer letter. Within **7 days** of receipt of the contract the successful Bidder shall sign and date the contract and return it to SPN.

13. Annex: Proposal Guidelines for Applicants

General Instructions

- i. All proposals should be a maximum of 10 pages (Excluding Title page and Annexes)
- ii. All budget figures must be presented in both local currency (Nepali Rupees) and US dollar (\$). Exchange rate to be declared.

Required Proposal Format

- A. Abstract (maximum 1 page)**
- B. Qualifications and Experience of Consultant**
 - a. Curriculum Vitae with 3 references

- b. Sample of previous work reports/manuscripts
- c. Copy of PAN card
- d. Copy of citizenship

C. Program Plan/Narrative

The narrative must be a clear and concise program description that details the research question, methodology, scope of services, ability to perform all required services, and comprehensive service plan. Each proposal should show a clear understanding of the needs noted in this RFP and demonstrate how your plan will meet the goals and objectives of this particular RFP. Bidders must provide a detailed description of the methods to be employed to accomplish the tasks as noted in this RFP, including methodologies for reviewing non-English citations. Proposals must include but not be limited to:

- 1) **Study methodology**
 - a. Understating of research questions
 - b. Description of how studies will be collected
 - c. Analytical framework
- 2) **Foreseeable study limitations/ caveats**
- 3) **Operational approach** (with detail engagement plan of key team members, no. of days, roles and responsibilities)
- 4) **Work Plan** (with milestones and timeframes)
- 5) **Budget** – use the following budget headings
 - i. Personnel Cost
 - ii. Operational Cost

- * Present unit costs, number of units, and total costs for each budget line item
- * Clearly state all budget assumptions