



## CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY: MATERNAL AND FAMILY HEALTH EXPERT FOR THE MATERNAL NUTRITION AND INFANT GROWTH (MING) PROJECT

**Position:** Maternal and Family Health Expert

**Organization:** Harare Institute of Public Health (HIPH)

**Location:** Zimbabwe (with potential for remote work and site visits)

**Contract Type:** Consultancy

**Duration:** Approximately 10 months

### Background:

The Maternal Nutrition and Infant Growth (MiNG) Project, spearheaded by HIPH with support from SickKids, is a comprehensive research initiative focused on understanding and enhancing maternal and infant nutritional outcomes in Zimbabwe. This project seeks to identify effective drivers and interventions that mitigate issues such as undernutrition, low birthweight, and early growth challenges. The findings aim to enrich the global evidence base while tailoring insights for impactful, localized action within Zimbabwe. HIPH is dedicated to advancing research excellence that translates into practical policy and programmatic solutions.

To support this ambitious endeavor, HIPH is seeking an experienced Maternal and Family Health Expert. The consultant will be instrumental in contributing their extensive knowledge and expertise to review maternal health practices, family health dynamics, and related interventions that affect maternal and child nutrition. The selected expert will collaborate closely with the multidisciplinary research team to provide comprehensive analysis and contextual understanding, ensuring that project findings are robust and actionable.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Conduct comprehensive reviews and detailed analyses of current maternal and family health practices, programs, and policies that have a significant impact on maternal and infant nutrition outcomes, both at the local and national levels.
- Collaborate with other research team members to integrate maternal health insights seamlessly into broader data analyses, facilitating a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to maternal and child health research.
- Engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including government health ministries, healthcare providers, community health organizations, and international partners, to gather valuable qualitative and quantitative data and gain a clear understanding of existing challenges and best practices.
- Identify, source, and compile additional data sets that are relevant to the project's objectives, ensuring that these data sets are of high quality and suitable for supporting thorough analysis and insights.
- Support the synthesis of research findings into detailed reports, policy briefs, and academic publications, ensuring that complex information is communicated effectively to a range of audiences, including policymakers, healthcare practitioners, and the research community.
- Provide mentorship and technical guidance to team members, sharing expertise in maternal and family health practices, and supporting capacity-building efforts that enhance the team's overall knowledge and analytical skills.

### Qualifications and Experience Required:

- A Master's degree or higher in Pediatrics, Public Health, Maternal and Child Health, Family Health, Community Health, or a related field. A PhD in a relevant field will be considered an advantage.
- A minimum of 6 years of experience in maternal and family health research or in implementing health programs focused on maternal, infant, and child health, particularly in nutrition and growth outcomes.
- Demonstrated success in conducting and contributing to mixed-methods research that integrates qualitative and quantitative data to produce meaningful health insights and policy recommendations.
- Experience collaborating with governmental health agencies, academic research institutions, or international health organizations to inform or improve health strategies and interventions.
- Extensive knowledge of maternal health frameworks, intervention strategies, and evidence-based practices relevant to low- and middle-income country settings, especially within Zimbabwe.
- Ability to interpret, synthesize, and translate research data into impactful recommendations and reports that are both scientifically sound and contextually relevant.
- Proficiency in using research and analysis tools to compile, organize, and present health data effectively.
- Strong capacity to create comprehensive documents that bridge complex health concepts with practical policy and programmatic applications.

**Desired Competencies:**

- Familiarity with Zimbabwe's healthcare infrastructure, including the operational structures of maternal and child health services, and an understanding of how these services are delivered and monitored at the community and national levels.
- Strong communication and stakeholder engagement skills that enable effective dialogue and collaboration with a range of partners, from government officials and healthcare workers to community members and other researchers.
- Ability to foster collaborative work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team environment, enhancing mutual understanding and collective problem-solving.
- A commitment to upholding ethical standards in research practices, including respect for participant confidentiality and data integrity.
- A proactive and solution-oriented approach to identifying challenges within maternal and family health and devising strategic interventions to overcome them.

This consultancy provides a unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in a research project that seeks to improve maternal and child health outcomes through evidence-based interventions. By joining HIPH's dedicated team, you will contribute to research that informs critical health policies and practices in Zimbabwe, while also contributing to a larger body of global health knowledge. This position allows you to leverage your expertise in maternal and family health to drive meaningful change and influence programs that benefit entire communities.

**Application Process:**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit the following documents:

- A detailed cover letter that explains your suitability for the consultancy and highlights your most relevant experiences and achievements.
- An updated CV that outlines your academic qualifications and professional experiences, emphasizing work related to maternal and family health.
- Examples of previous research or published work that demonstrate your expertise in maternal and family health.
- Contact information for at least two professional references who can attest to your qualifications, expertise, and collaborative work.

**Submission Deadline:**

All applications should be submitted electronically in PDF format to The Principal on [principal@hiph.ac.zw](mailto:principal@hiph.ac.zw) by 12pm (CAT), Saturday 30th November 2024. Ensure the subject line reads "Maternal and Family Health Expert – MiNG Project."

***HIPH is committed to diversity and inclusion. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.***