

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SOCIAL POLICY SPECIALIST

TERMS OF REFERENCE - SOCIAL POLICY SPECIALIS	
Hiring Office:	UNFPA, Sri Lanka
Purpose of consultancy:	<p>The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the leading UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA works in partnership with governments, civil society, and other key stakeholders to promote reproductive health, gender equality, and the rights and well-being of young people.</p> <p>The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) plays a crucial role in shaping social policy, focusing on gender equality, reproductive health, and population dynamics. In the context of Sri Lanka, UNFPA's efforts likely include advocating for policies that support reproductive rights, providing data for informed decision-making, and offering technical assistance in health systems, particularly for maternal health. UNFPA emphasizes integrating population trends into national planning and actively promote gender equality and youth engagement. Additionally, in response to emergencies, UNFPA focuses on protecting the health and rights of vulnerable populations, especially women and girls. UNFPA's work in Sri Lanka is instrumental in driving progress towards Sustainable Development Goals by collaborating with the government, NGOs, and other partners.</p> <p>Guided by the prevailing and evolving landscape of population dynamics, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the Country, the SOCIAL POLICY SPECIALIST will ensure UNFPA leverages opportunities and mitigates risks in a timely manner, while also learning from the continued impact of megatrends, multiple threats, geopolitics and polycrises on constrained policy and resource environments.</p>
Scope of work: <i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i>	<p>The consultant will be responsible for:</p> <p><u>Strategic Policy Advice:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide policy advice informed by political scanning and multidimensional analysis of the prevailing political environment for the ICPD Programme of Action. ● Contribute to delivering strategic, timely, and comprehensive analysis, advice, and foresight on social policy to support decision-making. ● Contribute to internal coherence and alignment of approaches as may be required, including the use of reliable sources of evidence to guide corporate recommendations on political positioning and inter-governmental relations, and communicating these in a clear and compelling manner; <p><u>Capacity Development on Policy advisory support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish and manage working relations with social policy and research think tanks with the ability to provide external perspectives and capacity to support decision-making ● Provide support for sustained monitoring, analysis, and synthesis of political and policy environmental scanning across the

	<p>spectrum of the political economy, through guidance notes, tools, and approaches</p> <p><u>Policy Research and Evidence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop policy research, evidence, and knowledge management tools to guide regular trends analysis of the policy environment for the ICPD Programme of Action and produce periodic political scanning and policy snapshots of current positions, shifts, and future outlooks ● Develop three policy briefs that are based on country priorities within the sphere of UNFPA’s three transformative results ● Advise on the peace and security dimensions for advancing the role of women and youth to ensure equitable access to sexual reproductive health and rights information and services ● Generate and share policy evidence and knowledge from within and beyond the country and the region on political influence and agenda shaping for SRHR, including through south-south cooperation. <p><u>Strategic Partnerships and Positioning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities for strategic partnerships required to further mobilize key partners at the country level, including strategic partners at regional and global levels in support of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Sustainable Development Goals, Beijing Declaration, Conference of Parties, among others.
Duration and working schedule:	6 months: from 01 May 2024 to 31 October 2024; Office-based 4 days a week
Place where services are to be delivered:	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):	Delivery dates and how work will be delivered will be agreed between the consultant and UNFPA based on the work plan to be provided by the consultant within 3 days from the start date of the assignment. Outputs will be required in soft copy.
Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:	The consultant will be paid in six tranches by providing the defined products to be delivered.
Supervisory arrangements:	The consultant will work under the direct guidance of the Assistant Representative and in close coordination with the Head of Programme and the National Programme Analyst for Population Data and Ageing.
Expected travel:	No travel is expected.

<p>Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:</p>	<p>Academic/professional Qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advanced University Degree in Social Science, Political Science, Health Science, Gender, Law, Development or similar relevant field <p>Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum 5 years of experience in the field of social policy, intergovernmental, inter-agency, and multilateral affairs ● Experience in the implementation of political scanning, policy research, and analysis of complex socioeconomic and human rights dimensions across humanitarian, development, and peace contexts is an asset. ● Experience with policy advisory support within intergovernmental processes and strong networking and negotiation skills ● Experience working with engaging civil society, including faith and religious organizations, traditional leaders, women, and youth-led social movements as it relates to the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs is desirable ● Prior experience in working with UN agencies is an asset. ● Excellent written and verbal communication skills as well as proven experience in the substantive areas of the role ● Demonstrable skills in strategic thinking, agile leadership, tact and diplomacy and Innovation will be desirable ● Understanding gender transformative and human rights approaches will be an asset <p>Required Competencies:</p> <p><u>Values:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exemplifying integrity ● Demonstrating commitment to UNFPA and the UN system ● Embracing cultural diversity ● Embracing change <p><u>Core Competencies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Achieving results ● Being accountable ● Developing and applying professional expertise/business acumen, ● Thinking analytically and strategically ● Working in teams/managing ourselves and our relationships ● Communicating for impact <p><u>Functional Competencies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivering results-based programme/Ability to meet the deadlines ● Good planning and organisational skills including multi-tasking and time management ● Excellent writing and communication skills in English ● Proficiency in statistical, projection software and MS Office software ● Excellent analytical and report writing skills <p><u>Language:</u></p> <p>Fluency in spoken and written English and Tamil and/or Sinhala</p>
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Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g. support services, office space, equipment), if applicable:	Office space. The consultant is expected to use her/his own office equipment.
Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:	-
Date: 01/04/2024	