

Terms of Reference

Maternal and Newborn Health Consultant

Introduction

During the years following the end of the civil war in 2002, Angola has enjoyed a rapid and sustained expansion of its economy and an enormous increase in government resources with the gross domestic product (GDP) increasing on average 11.5 per cent annually. The economic boom followed nearly four decades of civil war which devastated public infrastructure and services; and resulted in massive population migration to urban areas. While Angola has made significant efforts to rebuild health and education systems and strengthen its governance, the challenge remains to fully realize the rights of Angolan children and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are enjoyed equitably and sustainably.

While the causes of poor Adolescent and sexual reproductive health involve males and females, it is young women who bear most of the burden; and this burden frequently accompanies them for the rest of their lives. “Simply put, no society can truly flourish if it stifles the dreams and productivity of half of its population” (Bill Clinton)¹. Young people have the potential to lift their families and nations out of poverty and contribute to sustained economic growth and security, and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). If a large population cohort ² is followed by a smaller one, the country benefits from the productivity of a large working labour force. At the same time the country saves resources because of the reduced need for expenditures to meet the needs of the smaller younger generation; these resources can then be invested for economic development and family welfare³.

The total fertility rate in Angola (6.3 births per woman⁴) remains among the top 5 highest rates in the world. Adolescent fertility rates reached 165/1,000 in 2011⁵, and 239/1,000 for rural girls aged 15 to 19. Two thirds of Angolan teens have had a child by the age of 19⁶. Today 48% of the population is under the age of 15⁷, which means that close to 10 million additional young women and men will potentially need family planning (FP) and SRH services within the next decade and a half. Official contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) for modern methods among young women aged 15 to 19 living in union is 12.4% ⁸, and only 1.0% for girls aged 12 to 14 living in union. Only about 1 of every 16 FP users uses a long-acting method (which are more effective)^{9, 10}

Duration: 4 months with estimated start date of 20th April 2015

Required qualification/expertise

- Advanced university degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the following areas: Public Health & Maternal and Newborn Health; International Family Health; Public Health & MNCH; Family Health & MCH Epidemiology, Reproductive Maternal Newborn Health Promotion and Disease Prevention or other relevant discipline(s).
- Eight years of relevant professional work experience, including in developing countries.
- Experience in monitoring gender inequalities and in programming interventions that reduce these inequalities an asset.

Tasks

¹ Clinton, B. 2012. The Case for Optimism. Five Ways the World is Getting Better all the Time. TIME Oct 1 2012.

² In Angola, 69% of the population is under 25 years of age. PRB 2012. World Population Data Sheet.

³ Ross, J. 2004. Understanding the Demographic Dividend. Policy Project, Futures Group. Washington DC.

⁴ Population Reference Bureau. 2011. The World's Women and Girls Data Sheet.

⁵ WHO: Reproductive Health at a Glance, Angola April 2011.

⁶ Pathfinder Intl. 2008. Conhecimentos, Atitudes e Praticas em Materia de Planeamento Familiar en Angola. Inquerito de Linea Base. Luanda.

⁷ Population Reference Bureau 2011. The World's Women and Girls Data Sheet.

⁸ Government of Angola, INE 2012. Inquerito Integrado sobre o Ben-estar da Populacao (IBEP).

⁹ Government of Angola, INE 2012. Inquerito Integrado sobre o Ben-estar da Populacao (IBEP).

¹⁰ Trussel J 2007. Choosing a Contraceptive: Efficacy, safety and personal Considerations. Contraceptive Technology 19th Revised edition. Ardent Media Inc. New York.

- To technical guide and support the formulation of an Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive health strategy and plan of action. This is partnership with UNFPA, Pathfinder and WHO; and
- To conduct an assessment of circumstances around maternal and newborn deaths in Secondary health institutions or maternities in Luanda Province and/or another identified province; including QOC and cEMOC update design with WHO and UNFPA

Expected output/deliverable

- a. Final draft of Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Strategic plan and work plan
- b. Revised and updated QOC and cEMOC tool and survey proposal
- c. Report on the circumstances around maternal and newborn mortality

Key competences, technical background, and experience required

1. At least 8 years of relevant experience. Masters or qualifications in Public Health, Development Studies or Social Science preferred.
2. Sound technical knowledge and operational experience of qualitative research methodologies and best practice case study methodologies
3. Sound technical experience in HIV/health programming, particularly around community-based approaches to health promotion. Proven track record and solid understanding of community-health unit referral systems and community-based approaches.
4. Strong data analysis and data interpretation skills.
5. English/Portuguese communication and writing skills and previous experience with the development of evidence informed best practice frameworks.
6. Experience planning workshops and facilitation skills.
7. Creative thinking, drive for results and strong commitment. Excellent commitment to time and delivery deadlines and good track record of producing quality deliverables
8. Good inter-personal relationship even in diverse work environment and professional background

Remuneration based on the revised 2015 consultancy fee

How to Apply

Applications will be considered only if accompanied by an updated CV and completed United Nations Personal History (P-11) Form attached, as well as a cover letter to: UNICEF Angola Country Office, email luandarecruitment@unicef.org. All applications are treated with strict confidentiality.

Application deadline 13 April 2015