

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH ON EXPLORING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF INTRODUCING DMPA-SC⁽¹⁾ WITHIN RAHNUMA FPAP SYSTEM

Mode of assignment: Operations Research Study

Duration of consultancy: 30 days (starting from the signing of contract)

Requested documents: Prospective individuals/ firms should provide a CV/ profile detailing their relevant skills and experience. The overall proposal package must have following documents:

- Cover letter (Maximum 2 pages clearly demonstrating the suitability of applicant for stated assignment)
- Updated profile of the individual Consultant or a Firm supported with resume of Chief Consultant and maximum of other 3 key team members (Maximum 3 pages each)
- Proposal including cost of assignment covering all expenses (Maximum 4 pages)
- Submit soft copy of one example of previous similar work.

Instructions to be followed:

- All documents must be forwarded through postal service only. Please clearly write '**Proposal for Operational Research on DMPA-SC**' on sealed envelope.
- Please fold details of cost of assignment in a separate envelop to send along with other documents.
- Please send your proposals to Director Monitoring Evaluation and Research (MER), Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan, 3 A Temple Road, Lahore, 54000.

Note: *Rahnuma FPAP reserves the right of disqualifying proposals with pages more than above mentioned numbers and/or if any of the above instruction is not followed adequately. Proposals sent through an email will not be considered for shortlisting.*

Shortlisted consultants may be required to undertake a telephone or Skype discussion before finalization of decision.

Deadline for the submission of proposal: October 18, 2020

Expected date of initiation of consultancy: October 25, 2020

Payment schedule: 30% payment will be made on submission of finalized OR methodology after inception meeting with focal staff in Rahnuma FPAP; which will be held soon after the signing of Agreement. Second installment of 30% will be paid on the submission of draft OR report whereas remaining 40% will be paid on submission of finalized deliverable after incorporating feedback by Rahnuma FPAP.

¹ Subcutaneous (SC) Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate (DMPA), or DMPA-SC

All payments will be made through cross-cheque in Pak Rupees after deduction of withholding of Income Tax i.e.

- i) For individual, 10% in case of Filer and 20% in case Non-Filer; and
- ii) For Companies, 8% in case of Filer and 16% in case of Non-Filer. And, Withholding of Sales Tax i.e. 16% on services as per Law of Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA). The above rates may change if there is any amendment in tax rates by PRA & Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Liaison person from Rahnuma FPAP (R-FPAP): Please direct your submission of proposal related queries to Director Monitoring Evaluation and Research, Rahnuma FPAP, 3-A Temple Road, Lahore Phone: (042) 111 22 33 66, Ext. 323. Direct line: (042) 3636 1583. Email address: asifa@fpapak.org

Background

Injectable contraceptives are among the world's most widely used methods for preventing pregnancy, offering women safe and effective protection, convenience, and privacy. Until now, access to injectable contraceptives has often been limited to clinic settings. Innovative products such as DMPA-SC (brand name- Sayana Press), a lower-dose formulation and 'all-in-one' sub-cutaneous presentation of Depo-Provera®, can expand family planning access by increasing opportunities for lower-level health workers and even clients themselves to administer injections.

During London Summit 2012, DMPA-SC was introduced as part of the FP 2020's commitment to ensure FP services for additional 120 million women and girls in the world's poorest countries. Furthermore, it was decided to provide DMPA-SC as modern contraception to an additional 3 million women. The funding partners of this innovation included DFID, UNFPA, USAID and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. During the course of the discussion, it was decided to pilot the innovation in few countries that included Pakistan. The main intent was to evaluate DMPA-SC ability to: a) generate new users; b) improve contraceptive continuation; and c) reduce service delivery costs. As an outcome of the Summit, in 2014 a consortium of private sector donors and aid organizations, which include PATH, DFID, UNFPA and USAID; piloted DMPA-SC in four Sub-Saharan African countries i.e. Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Uganda.

In sync with Government of Pakistan commitments to FP 2020 to 'offer greater contraceptive choices through an improved method mix' DMPA-SC is rolled out in three provinces, however, trainings of service providers is completed in almost all provinces. Moreover, under its commitment to 'Sayana Press® total roll out from registration to delivery through community-based workers', the progress include: i) more than 900 DMPA-SC administered through trained staff in three roll-out districts in Sindh; ii) 37 self-injecting clients also administered DMPA-SC; iii) about 285,000 units of DMPA-SC procured in Sindh; and iv) scale-up initiated in rest of 26 districts by trained providers, where commodity has been supplied in Sindh province.

Moreover in 2020, as part of its efforts to document best practices and experiences, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination in collaboration with WHO has gathered information/ data on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) related self-care interventions that include DMPA-SC usage as method mix contraceptives.

Rahnuma FPAP is the pioneering private sector organization in the country that has introduced DMPA-SC within its health delivery system with the generous support of UNFPA in 2018. Since then, Rahnuma FPAP has provided formal as well as on-job technical training to its service providers and has administered 204,400 DMPA-SC units.

Capitalizing on the gained experience, Rahnuma FPAP proposes to undertake an Operational Research (OR) on DMPA-SC, which will document organization's experience of introducing and administering DMPA-SC in its service delivery network. Furthermore, OR will focus on exploring different aspects of DMPA-SC that include acceptability, accessibility, affordability and effectiveness from clients' perspective, experiences/ views of FPAP's management and services providers, existing knowledge of service providers on this method mix demand and supply chain management challenges, existing follow-up mechanisms, trials of self-injections by selected clients and their experience, way forward on self-injection by clients and its waste disposal by clients among others.

Purpose of the assignment

The main purpose of this OR is to document overall experience of Rahnuma FPAP in introducing and administering DMPA-SC in its service delivery system and suggesting way forward. Documentation of inferences over its acceptability, affordability and effectiveness from perspective of clients and service providers along with programmatic challenges including supply chain, assess existing knowledge of service providers on DMPA-SC, trials of self-injections by selected clients and their experience, way forward on self-injection by clients and its waste disposal by clients are few of the expected outcomes of the study.

Furthermore, final study report must include literature review covering global context of DMPA-SC (referencing research studies especially the most recent publications on DMPA-SC), national positioning and stance of provincial governments on DMPA-SC, overview of public and other partners experience of implementing different projects/ programs in Pakistan utilizing DMPA-SC, market situation/ supply chain management scenario, and general challenges and recommendations that include way forward on self-injection by clients.

Assignment locations

Lahore, Chakwal, Faisalabad, Muzaffargarh and Rawalpindi/ Islamabad (Punjab province)
Peshawar and Mardan (KP province)
Karachi (Sindh province)
Quetta (Balochistan province)

Roles and responsibilities of the consultant

The Consultant will be responsible to:

- Attend inception meeting called by Rahnuma FPAP for the finalization of research study methodology.
- Finalize report outline in prior with Rahnuma FPAP project staff.
- Finalize data collection schedule in consultation of Rahnuma FPAP for interviewing potential respondents.
- Finalize data collection tools after incorporating feedback from Rahnuma FPAP.
- Conduct research study as per suggestions provided by Rahnuma FPAP following the timeline set forth between both parties.

- Add brief literature review in OR study report.
- Incorporate comments in first draft of the study within 5 days and share again the revised version with Rahnuma FPAP concern staff.
- Remain available for multiple reviews of draft documents including data collection tools and study report.
- Finalize the research study in the light of comments/suggestions provided by Rahnuma FPAP.
- Provide electronic copy of primary data; both qualitative and quantitative, collected during the course of study.
- Share final study report with Rahnuma FPAP within given timeframe.
- Present research study's key findings during Rahnuma FPAP organized dissemination seminar.
- Provide technical facilitation and/or produce PowerPoint presentation for consultative meeting organized by Rahnuma FPAP with key stakeholders.

Support from Rahnuma FPAP

Following will be provided by Rahnuma FPAP:

- Hold inception meeting with the Consultant for orientation of the project and handing over relevant project documents.
- Feedback on survey methodology and data collection tools to be used in operational study.
- Facilitate throughout the consultancy process in accessing potential respondents from community, service providers and any other stakeholder for interviews.
- Provide thorough feedback on first draft of the operational study report and remain available for multiple reviews; if needed.
- Review report for ensuring incorporation of feedback before its finalization by the consultant.

Final deliverables submitted by the consultant

- Covering letter three hard and three soft copies (in USBs) of the finalized OR report, Power Point presentation and primary data both qualitative and quantitative collected during the course of study.

Qualification and experience of the consultant

The consultant applying for this assignment must have:

- At least 5 years prior experience of conducting research study preferably operations research on family planning and sexual and reproductive health care related services.
- Demonstrate deep understanding and sensitivity of women's health issues, sexual and reproductive health and gender-related issues.
- Demonstrate excellent skill of meaningful interpretation of qualitative and quantitative findings.
- Committed to produce high quality analytical report within given timeframe with minimalistic supervision.