

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR A CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A RESEARCH REPORT AND POLICY BRIEF ON CONDUCTING RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY AND ANALYZE THE EXISTING DIGITAL HEALTH SERVICES AND APPLICATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON BESTS PRACTICES: A PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH STUDY IN KENYA

Work Description:	Consultant to carry out desk research, conduct field research, and develop a research report and a policy brief on the existing digital health services and applications across the country and make recommendations on bests practices.
Project Title:	Advocate for people-centered digital health Standards and for standardization of digital health services and applications to achieve the goals of UHC: A Participatory Action Research Study in Kenya
Duration:	6 months
Expected Start Date:	1st April 2023
Expected End Date:	31 August 2023

PROJECT BACKGROUND

With the rise in development and utilization of digital health applications in Kenya which enhances Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality in health, there is a limited comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework that guides the process. The county E-health bill was developed but there is lack of a national E-health bill that would provide the broad framework in which the county E-health bill would aim to borrow from and domesticate this at the county level. With all these challenges and the dire need of the digital health solution to enhance achievement on UHC where Kenya adopted Universal Health Coverage as one of the big four priority agenda by His Excellency the President. The Kenya's UHC aspiration is that by 2022, all persons in Kenya will be able to use the essential services they need for their health and wellbeing through a single unified benefit package, without the risk of financial constraints. This has not been achieved with only four counties that were able to pilot this without a clear policy framework to guide it until early this year when the policy was developed while the pilot faced numerous challenges hence the objectives were not achieved.

PHDA aims to contribute to the new body of knowledge on conducting research and mapping out different health applications in the country and the role of KP communities in the development of such applications. In order to realize this objective, PHDA shall map out the networks working on health related interventions in the southern region, northern region, western region, eastern region and central region of Kenya to establish the commonly used digital health applications. Once this has been done, research will be conducted to understand the level of usage in relation to health access, especially with the key population and assess if they were engaged in the development of the digital health applications. Further to this, gender equality and social analysis in the development and usage of the digital health applications will be conducted to establish gender gaps as well as social and economic exclusion. Recommendations on best practices will be reviewed through identifying a consensual approach, process tracking of digital health applications used informed by those involved during the development of the applications.

Activity 1.2.1 Interventions

- Establish existence of standards on digital health technologies at national and global level applicable in advancement on UHC.
- Mapping of the existing digital health technologies in Kenya
- Identify the digital health technologies KPs are mostly using
- Identify compliance on standards and guidelines on digital health development process from KPs
- Identify compliance on standards and guidelines on digital health development process from developers
- Develop research report with key recommendations and best practices
- Comparative analysis of on digital health technologies at national and global level applicable in advancement on UHC
- Develop research report with key recommendations and best practices

Activity 1.2.3 Interventions

- Development of a policy brief informed by the research findings and standards and guidelines comparative analysis
- Develop advocacy asks informed by the policy brief
- Dissemination of the policy brief

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Through a participatory action research approach, PHDA will actively engage key stakeholders from the community level, county level, national level, private sector/developers amongst other key stakeholders throughout the project. This will be done by training of research assistants (community researchers) recruited from different demographics on research methods and methodology, collaboratively developing data collection tools and involving them in gathering and compiling data at the different level of engagements. Using

focus group discussions and key informant interviews, the researchers together with the community researchers will constitute a project steering committee that will be responsible for conducting field research and documenting the lived experiences of the communities of KP in relation to digital technologies and collect data on the impact this strategy has had on their access to health services. This approach will ensure that there is both ownership of the framework of the project and an embedded culture of learning.

STUDY POPULATION

Participants in the study will be Key Population in all their diversities. We aim to have a pool of participants that is inclusive of all KP, particularly those with varied sexual and reproductive needs as well as different sexual or gender identities.

STUDY SITE

The study will be conducted in Nairobi and Machakos County with the aim of recruiting a total of 100 participants across the two research modalities i.e., focus group discussions and key informant interviews. We will have 8 focus group discussions with an average of 8 participants each which will be held in selected 8 sub-counties in Nairobi and Machakos. Research assistants shall accompany the consultant during data collection and transcribe the conversations held in each discussion.

The community researchers will also be tasked with conducting 2 in-depth key informant interviews within their communities. Interviewees may be drawn from the focus group discussions held or through referrals. Finally, PHDA will conduct key informant interviews with up to 5 experts, such as national and county health officials, healthcare workers, members of civil society and policy makers, more specifically those that contributed to the development of the E-Health policy . In summary, we will hold 8 focused group discussions and 35 key informant interviews.

SCOPE OF THE WORK

The consultant will be expected to conduct 8 focused group discussions with the community researchers of in Nairobi and Machakos county. Once the FGDs and KIIs are completed, the consultant will develop a research report which should document specific opinions, concerns, attitudes and perspectives (positive and negative) acquired from the targeted study population on their experiences with digital health technologies and the impact this has had on their access to health services including SRH services. In addition, the report should include a desk assessment on the legal and policy framework governing the right to privacy for KP, particularly designing, development, usage and feedback on digital health technologies . A validation meeting will be held with key stakeholders who will provide feedback on the draft report, highlighting key themes and issues to be included in the final policy brief.

The policy brief will provide a summary of the research report as well as a set of recommendations for county, national government, private sector, CSOs and KPs . It should also identify the necessary actions required to be undertaken, and who should undertake them. This will enable the brief to be used for advocacy by civil society organizations

centered on promoting a human-rights based approach to digital health technologies. The policy report will then be launched during a virtual dissemination forum with civil society actors working in the KP and digital health space, ministry of health officials and policy makers.

Finally, a project implementation committee will be constituted comprising of the consultant, and the internal PHDA research team. The consultant will be required to attend all planning and project meetings, trainings and forums under the project as follows:

1. A one-day physical inception meeting to introduce the project;
2. A two-day physical training of the community researchers;
3. Conduct a one-day physical validation meeting with the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) to discuss research findings;
4. A virtual validation meeting with key stakeholders on the draft research report; and
5. A virtual dissemination forum with civil society actors working in the KP, digital health and SRHR space, ministry of health officials and policy makers.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of ICT Manager, the Consultant will do the following:

- Develop a work plan
- Provide all ethics research application related documentation to PHDA (CV, Ethics course training certificate etc.)
- Coordinate and work with the community researchers and research assistants under the project to conduct the field research (FGDs & KIIs)
- Attend and facilitate all planning and project meetings and trainings
- Prepare draft research report
- Prepare draft policy brief
- Finalize the research report and policy brief based on inputs from stakeholders.

DELIVERABLES

The key deliverables for the consultancy are as follows:

a. A draft research report:

The report will be used as a source document for the development of the policy brief and for advocacy. (The above document will be in electronic format and should include an executive summary.) It should also be logically structured, contain evidence-based findings, conclusions, lessons and recommendations among other relevant information. PHDA will

provide comments on the draft document and the consultant will finalize the draft in view of these comments

b. Final Policy Brief:

The Policy brief should succinctly summarize the research report and highlight key findings from the field and desk research. It should include a set of specific recommendations formulated for the project, and identify the necessary actions required to be undertaken, and who should undertake these actions (If any)

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Consultant will report to the ICT and research team

DURATION OF THE WORK

This assignment should be completed within 6 (six) months of signing the Agreement.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT

a) Functional Competencies:

- Expert knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, HIV and AIDS, legal frameworks, health and the law;
- Experience in writing research reports, policy briefs and other relevant publications; Significant knowledge and experience in the health sector
- Experience in conducting field research i.e focus group discussions, key informant interviews;
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience working in the community (working with young women and girls is a plus)

b) Core Competencies:

The consultant must have the ability to:

- Produce high quality outputs in a timely manner, while understanding and anticipating the evolving needs of the client;
- Assess situations or circumstances, and to draw sound conclusions;
- Think strategically, manage competing priorities and be highly organized;
- Work independently and produce high quality outputs;
- Demonstrate integrity by modelling PHDA's values and ethical standards;
- Promote the vision, mission and strategic goals of PHDA; and
- Display cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.

Required Experience and Skills

- Education: University degree in Public Health or any of the Social Sciences; A Master's Degree on the aforementioned is desirable;
- Experience: Minimum of 3 years relevant experience is required;
- Languages: Excellent written and spoken English and Kiswahili.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Applications from qualified and interested candidates should be sent by e-mail to: recruitment@phdaf.org. Applications should consist of an updated CV with current daytime telephone contact and a Cover letter. All applications must be received no later than **11th April 2023**. While submitting your application ensure your email subject line is **CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP A RESEARCH REPORT AND POLICY BRIEF - (Your Name)**

Important Notes:

1. All CVs must be accompanied by a cover letter expressing your interest and suitability for the position. Any candidate that applies by only sending their CV to the designated email will not be considered.
2. Please group all your documents into one PDF document.
3. A signed consultancy agreement and terms of reference will be the main documentation required in contracting the consultant.