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**Consultancy – Terms of Reference**

**Support ACF’s Mental Health, Care Practices and Protection Sector on updating Care Practices/Nurturing Care approach and developing scaling up Nurturing Care Interventions**

**Application**

Please send your CV and a cover letter/proposition of the consultancy to Cécile Bizouerne cbizouerne@actioncontrelafaim.org with “Application to Nurturing Care-consultancy” as the subject of the email before the 10th of November, 2020.

**Context and rationale**

Action Contre la Faim (ACF) saves the lives of undernourished children, promoting particularly treatment and prevention of undernutrition related to severe and moderate acute malnutrition. In its International Strategic Plan, ACF aims to mitigate the consequences of hunger, address the causes of hunger and change the way hunger is viewed and addressed. The four guiding principles to achieve ACF goals are focused on technical expertise and innovation, operational capacities, powerful and legitimate voice and transfer of knowledge and experience. ACF’s intervention policy in child care practices and mental health is part of ACF’s global strategy and contributes to the fight against hunger and response to emergencies. MHCP sector objectives consists in improving prevention of acute malnutrition by reinforcing positive child care practices and assisting in changing practices, preventing the deterioration of child care practices during disruptions, improving treatment and limit the negative impacts of malnutrition on children’s health, as well to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for populations.

New evidence, tools and guidelines have been published recently on Care practices/Nurturing Care, Early Childhood Development, and on the importance among other important components of the mental health of the caregivers. ACF is willing to update its strategy on Nurturing Care based on the most recent tools and approaches and adapting them to ACF mandate and specificities.

**Objectives of the consultancy**

Through this consultancy, ACF’s MHCPGP sector wants to revise and design its own Nurturing Care/Care Practices and MHPSS strategy and toolkit. ACF position on nurturing care and care practices includes a strong component on mental health (child development and psychology, parental mental health, caregiver child bonding and attachment) and should be related with Child protection[[1]](#footnote-1). A specific focus concerns support to families with pregnant women and children under 5.

**Tasks**

* Briefing session by MHCPGP advisor on ACF’s programs, on MHCPGP integrated approach, activities and tools and on consultancy details and expectations *(1/2 day)*
* General reading overview of the existing ACF guidelines, projects and policy *(1/2 day)*
* Update and compile existing evidence-based knowledge in care practices/nurturing care with a MHPSS lens *(5 days)*
* Update and compile evidence-based interventions that scale up the care practices/nurturing care/ECD interventions *(3 days)*
* Map out the different coordination plate-forms and groups on these topics and make recommendations/suggestions for ACF participation/memberships *(1/2 day)*
* Evaluation and use of parent/child scale *(3 days)*
* Work with the MHCP advisor, presentation of the work and deliverables *(1 day)*
* Review (after MHCP advisor comments) and finalization of tools *(1/2 day)*

**Deliverables**

All deliverables must be written in **academic** English or in French (to be discussed)

1/ **Update and compile existing evidence-based knowledge in care practices/nurturing care with a MHPSS lens (articles/practical guidelines)**

* A document updating and compiling this new knowledge should be written (cf ACF conceptual models of child malnutrition as an example but the new document might be shorter) that will reframe/update ACF approach on care practices and nurturing care.
* A toolkit with recent articles/documents/technical manuals will be proposed in annex
* A brief 2 pages document will synthetize the recent knowledge and ACF approach. The document might be used internally and externally to share ACF approach.
* A brief 2 pages document will outline the importance and ACF approach on caregiver mental health

**2/ Update and compile evidence-based interventions that scale up the care practices/nurturing care/ECD interventions (including field interventions, advocacy, etc)**

* The toolkit in nurturing care will include evidence-based technical guidelines
* A document on how to propose scale-up interventions in nurturing care and MHPSS[[2]](#footnote-2)

**3/Map out the different coordination plate-forms and groups on these topics and make recommendations/suggestions for ACF participation/memberships (2/3 pages document)**

* 2/3 pages document with existing plate-forms and recommendations for ACF

**4/ Evaluation and use of parent/child scale**

* Compile scales and indicators that may be used for evaluating parent/child dyad
* Make suggestions for using scales as support for parenting guidance and support and for improving parents-child relationship and child stimulation.

**Contract duration & deadline**

* 14 days of work in total, by the end of december 2020.
* Deliverables and bill expected by the 31rst of December 2020.

**Location of the consultant and communication**

* Teleworking.
* Briefing and debriefing moments can take place in Paris office to work directly with MHCP’s advisors, ideally. Due to Covid19 situation, this is not mandatory
* Regular e-mailing and visio call meetings for questions, updates, discussions and validation of work.

**Contact person in Action Contre la Faim (ACF)**

Cécile Bizouerne

Email :  cbizouerne@actioncontrelafaim.org)

**Qualifications**

Consultant’s necessary qualifications and experience:

* Background on MHCP/MHPSS/ECD/Child protection/humanitarian and/or development context
* Master’s degree or PHD in psychology or related
* Previous experience with ACF is an asset
* Proved experience on writing methodologies and developing tools
* At ease with distance work with teams, good communication and coordination skills
* Rigorous, organized, creative and practical sense
* Excellent written English skills. French (spoken and written) is a plus
* Proficiency in MS Office / Mac OS

**Payment**

* ACF’s France consultancy contract
* Fixed daily rate: to be determined with the consultant.
* ACF and the consultant will agree on a fixed daily rate and specific days of work over a period of time to accomplish the given mission. A timesheet of effectively worked days is sent by the consultant and validated by ACF’s contact person. Payment is due at the end of the contract period, after production of deliverables.

**Resources**

ACF France will:

* Provide all relevant documents that are available to ACF and in line with the objectives of the consultancy.
* Regular feedback and support to the consultant

The consultant will use its own resources to achieve the given mission:

* A private insurance
* A computer virus free and with official licences for softwares
* A private & secure internet connexion
* A landline and/or a mobile phone
1. <https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/sites/default/files/publications/ACF_MHCP_Policy_Dec_2009.pdf>; <https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/sites/default/files/publications/Conceptual_Models_of_Child_Malnutrition_The_ACF_approach_in_mental_health_and_care_practices_01.2013.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/publication/manual-for-the-integration-of-child-care-practices-and-mental-health-into-nutrition-programs/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)