

Terms of Reference (TOR) for Consultancy for Environmental Assessment - Philippines

Assignment	Terms of Reference for Consultancy for Environmental Assessment - Philippines
Published date	December 23, 2025
Concept note submission date	January 12, 2025
Program	Maternal Newborn Health and Nutrition
Contract Type	Consultancy Contract
Duty Station	Philippines with travel to relevant province, districts, and municipalities
Expected Place of Travel	Pangasinan Province
Contract Duration	15 working days Tentative start date of February 16 (subject to change)
Version	#1.0
Expression of interest submission	<p>Interested applicant should submit the following documents in PDF format in English by email to:</p> <p>Olena Karelina proposals@nutritionintl.org Subject header: "Expression of Interest – Consultancy for Environmental Assessment – Philippines"</p> <p>*Please note that Nutrition International's office will be closed for the holidays from December 24 – January 5, 2026. Any inquiries received during this time will be responded to upon office re-opening on January 5.</p>

Consultancy Purpose

Nutrition International (NI) has proposed a project to address stunting in the Philippines. As part of project design and due diligence processes, NI is assessing potential environmental risks associated with project activities and identifying appropriate mitigation measures to ensure environmentally responsible implementation. Using [Global Affairs Canada's Environmental Integration Process Tool](#), the project has been screened and classified as Category B – Low or Moderate Environmental Risk or Opportunity.

NI will conduct an environmental analysis as part of project planning process and due diligence. The findings of the analysis, including mitigation measures for activities identified as having potential negative environmental impacts, will inform project design and be incorporated into project planning documents. These measures will be monitored during implementation and reported on throughout the life of the project.

To support this work, NI seeks the services of a qualified local consultant to conduct the environmental assessment for the proposed project. The consultant will be responsible for analyzing the potential environmental impacts of planned project activities and developing appropriate mitigation measures. In addition, the consultant will assess the vulnerability of the project area to climate change, its potential implications for nutrition outcomes, and how these risks can be addressed within the Local Nutrition Action Plan (LNAP).

Project Background Information

1. About Nutrition International

Nutrition International (NI) is a global nutrition organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, which aims to transform the lives of vulnerable people, especially adolescent girls and women of reproductive age; pregnant women and their new-borns; and infants and young children by improving their nutritional status and health as these groups often have the greatest unmet needs. For more than 30 years, NI has focused on delivering low-cost, high-impact nutrition interventions to people in need targeted towards reducing anaemia, birth defects, low birth weight and stunting. Working alongside governments as an expert ally, NI implements programs with local governments and partners in selected high-burden countries in Africa and Asia.

2. Background and context

The Philippines has made progress in reducing child undernutrition, yet it remains a major public health concern. Stunting affects 23.6% of children under five, with wasting at 5.6% and underweight at 15.1%, driven by micronutrient deficiencies, diarrhea, low birth weight, and maternal anemia. Maternal nutrition indicators are similarly concerning: 21.8% of pregnant women are anemic and 19.1% are nutritionally at risk, while 9.7% of lactating women experience chronic energy deficiency despite rising overweight and obesity. Evidence shows that improving maternal nutrition during pregnancy is critical to reducing stunting risk factors, including low birth weight and preterm birth.

WHO guidance (2020) recommends Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) over iron–folic acid due to its impact on reducing low birth weight and small-for-gestational-age births. The Philippines began MMS distribution in 41 provinces in 2018, and a draft national policy now includes MMS for pregnant women; in 2024, over 220,000 women received MMS. However, gaps in coverage, provider adoption, and adherence persist. In response, and in line with priorities identified by the Department of Health, National Nutrition Council, and local stakeholders, Nutrition International proposes a targeted intervention in Pangasinan to

strengthen F1KD nutrition services, improve MMS uptake and adherence, build provider capacity, and reinforce local nutrition governance through existing government systems.

3. Project Description

The overall project objective (ultimate outcome) is to improve the nutritional well-being of pregnant women and children under five years of age in Pangasinan Province by strengthening nutrition services and nutrition governance through gender-responsive and multisectoral programs.

The two specific objectives (intermediate outcomes) of the project are: 1) increase the use of gender-responsive nutrition services among children under five and pregnant women, and 2) enhance the implementation of multisectoral and gender-responsive nutrition programs by local governments in Pangasinan Province in the Philippines.

Specific Objective 1 (intermediate outcome 1100). Strengthening Health Systems to Delivery of Quality Nutrition Services will be achieved through the implementation of the following major activities:

- **Improving Frontline Service Capacity (immediate outcome 1110)** through updating and integrating gender-responsive training package including Growth Monitoring Plan (GMP) for health and nutrition service providers; developing an integrated counseling, job aids and tools on key stunting determinants; delivering cascade or cluster-based trainings for facility and community workers; developing supportive supervision toolkit and training supervisors; and strengthen supportive supervision and facilitative review meetings and improve supply chain management for provision of timely and adequate micronutrient supplementation.
- **Integrating MMS into ANC Services (immediate outcome 1120)** by conducting an MMS readiness assessment in Pangasinan; supporting the development of provincial MMS operational plans aligned with national DOH guidance; updating and disseminating Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) materials to improve understanding of MMS benefits and uptake; training and mentoring facility and community health workers on MMS counselling, side-effect management and adherence follow-up; documenting implementation experiences, challenges and enablers; and providing technical assistance for the development of costed MMS implementation roadmaps. The project will support the strengthening of MMS supply chain management systems to ensure a steady supply from national and/or local governments but will not finance the procurement of MMS.
- **Enhancing Community Knowledge and Engagement (immediate outcome 1130)** will be achieved through the review, update and translation of gender-responsive SBCC materials for effective community use; using findings from the gender and human rights assessment to tailor community messaging and engagement approaches; strengthening the conduct of community awareness sessions with caregivers, influencers and support groups; and, strengthening community level demand creation for MMS supplementation through ANC, exclusive breastfeeding, age-appropriate complementary feeding, Vitamin A Supplementation and growth monitoring and promotion assessments.

Specific Objective 2 (intermediate outcome 1200). Nutrition Governance for Gender Responsive and Multisectoral Nutrition Programs will be accomplished through the implementation of the following major activities:

- **Strengthening LGU Capacity (immediate outcome 1210)** through the provision of technical assistance to local nutrition committees and project sites staff on LNAP development and management; review and update of existing LNAPs to ensure they are gender-responsive, multisectoral and costed; coaching and mentoring of project sites

staff on program management and implementation; support operationalization of SBCC strategies at LGU level; and, develop knowledge products to share effective practices, lessons and recommendations.

- **Evidence-Based Policy and Financing for Nutrition (immediate outcome 1220)** will be supported by updating the NNC Compendium with emerging evidence and effective practices; facilitating national annual stakeholder review workshops; strengthening LGU capacities for data management, analysis and evidence-informed planning; building leadership capacity of Local Chief Executives; conducting learning and advocacy events for increased domestic financing for nutrition; and, strengthening LGU forecasting, costing, budgeting, nutrition commodity stock monitoring and reporting.
- **Civil Society and Women's Organization Engagement (immediate outcome 1230)** will be facilitated by supporting the LGUs to adopt policies expanding LNC membership to include CSOs and WOs; mapping and assessing eligible CSOs and WOs for engagement; providing technical assistance based on assessed gaps; co-developing evidence-informed advocacy messages on gender-responsive nutrition; and, supporting CSOs and WOs to engage in planning and accountability mechanisms.

4. Project Areas and Reach

The project will benefit an estimated 140,800 direct beneficiaries and 435,300 indirect beneficiaries living in Pangasinan Province covering at least 28 municipalities. Final beneficiary targets will be confirmed and adjusted if required once baseline survey results and population assessments are completed.

Pangasinan Province has been selected based on the following criteria: (i) prevalence and magnitude of stunting, (ii) designation as priority provinces under the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN), and (iii) the absence of coverage by the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project (PMNP), which will prevent duplication and extend support to underserved areas.

Assignment Details

1. Study Objectives

The environmental assessment of the project will focus on the different project activities under Pillar 1 - Strengthening Delivery of Quality Nutrition Services and Pillar 2 - Nutrition Governance for Multisectoral Nutrition Programs. In addition, it will also include the assessment of climate change vulnerability and impact on nutrition in highly vulnerable municipalities covered by the project. Based on these scopes, the objectives of the environmental assessment will be as follows:

1. To identify project activities that may pose potential environmental risks and develop appropriate mitigation measures that can be integrated into project planning and implementation.
2. To assess environmental and climate-related vulnerabilities in high-risk municipalities covered by the project, including their implications for nutrition outcomes, and to develop recommendations to address these risks through multisectoral Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAP).

2. Scope of Work

Based on the above objectives, the scope of work of the consultant will be as follows:

1. **Environmental risk and impact assessment of project activities**
 - Development of screening criteria and screening of the project

- activities to determine high risk activities
- Identification of specific negative environmental impacts of identified high risk activities and development of mitigation measures to be integrated into the project plan and monitored during implementation
- Review of existing environmental laws and policies of the government and determine their applicability to the project

2. Assessment of environmental and climate-related risks and implications for nutrition in high-risk project sites

- Identification of municipalities among the 28 target municipalities that may be exposed to environmental and climate-related risks
- Based on identified risk factors (e.g. flooding, extreme weather events, heat stress, landslides, sea level rise, or other environmental hazards), selection of representative municipalities to assess potential impacts on:
 - Delivery of nutrition services through the health system and local nutrition programming
 - Access to and uptake of health and nutrition services by Pregnant and Lactating Mothers (PLM) and children under five (CU5)
 - Overall nutrition outcomes of PLM and CU5
- Based on the assessment findings, development of practical recommendations for environmental risk management, including climate adaptation and mitigation measures, to be integrated into multisectoral LNAPs

3. Study Design: Methodology

The consultant is expected to propose methodology to carry out the scope of work. The methodology should include but not limited to desk review of available literature, key informant interviews (KII) or focus group discussions (FGD), and site visits.

4. Deliverables

1. Inception report covering the methodology, final report outline and timeline of the implementation activities
2. Presentation of the projects environmental assessment findings
3. Final report following the agreed outline

5. Duration and Implementation Arrangement

This consultancy is for the maximum of 15 working days to be carried out starting on February 16, 2026 (subject to change). The consultant will report directly to the Project Director and will receive support from Nutrition International's technical and project teams.

This is a home-based position in the Philippines. The consultant is expected to have their own IT equipment required to carry out the assignment, including a laptop, cellphone, and a reliable internet connection. Travel periods from home to project site will not be included in the working days.

Required Experience and Competencies

The selected consultancy agency should demonstrate:

- At least master's degree in environmental science or similar related field
- Experience in conducting environmental impact assessments for projects of similar size and scope, funded by bilateral donors
- Familiarity and understanding of different environmental laws and policies in the Philippines
- Strong analytical capacity and proven ability to write compelling reports

- Ability to take direction and guidance from the Nutrition International (NI) project team, collaborate effectively, and remain flexible when working in evolving and ambiguous contexts
- Excellent interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity, and ability to communicate effectively in English and local language/s
- Ability to adhere to tight deadlines, exercise discretion and maintain confidentiality
- Technical knowledge in public health and health systems would be an asset

This consultancy is open to individual local consultants. Experience working in Pangasinan Province will be an added advantage.

Application Procedure

Interested applicant should submit the following documents in PDF format in English by email to: Olena Karelina (proposals@nutritionintl.org) with the subject header “Expression of Interest – Consultancy for Environmental Assessment – Philippines” no later than January 12, 2026.

- Updated and detailed copy of CV
- Copy of academic and professional certificates
- Technical proposal that will include a submission letter, availability of consultant, professional experience, proposed methodology, and implementation plan
- Financial proposal in PHP and CAD, including daily rates, travel costs and/or subcontracting fees
- Sample of similar environmental assessment report, clearly identifying the contributions made by the consultant
- 2-3 professional references (current or former supervisors or managers)