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Terms of Reference
Technical consultant: MMS sustainable financing and resource mobilization support – Ethiopia

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Ethiopian Public Health Institute

CIFF CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION

NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL Nourish Life

unicef for every child

Assignment	Technical consultant for MMS sustainable financing and resource mobilization support
Date Advertised	**5th November 2026**
Expression of Interest Submission Deadline	**23rd November 2026**
Contract Type	Consultancy Contract
Program	**NOURISH;** *Nurture the Ecosystem, Optimize the Market, Unlock Financing, Reinforce ANC Platforms, Integrate and Scale MMS (Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation) and Calcium for Healthy Futures*
Duty Station	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Contract Duration	Contract period 15 Dec 2026 to 30 Sep 2027
Expression of Interest Submission	Interested consultants are invited to submit the following documents by email to bidsafrica@nutritionintl.org no later than **23rd November 2026, Close of Business (East Africa Time)**: Subject header: "**Expression of Interest MMS Sustainable Financing and Resource Mobilization Support - Ethiopia"**

1. Background and rationale

About the NOURISH Investment

The NOURISH Investment (Nurture the Ecosystem, Optimize the Market, Unlock Financing, Reinforce ANC Platforms, Integrate and Scale MMS and Calcium for Healthy Futures) is a five-year, multi-country grant initiative designed to strengthen maternal nutrition platforms for Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) and calcium supplementation across Africa. The project supports the sustainable transition from Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (IFAS) to MMS by providing technical assistance to eight African countries.

Maternal undernutrition remains a significant public health challenge in Ethiopia, contributing to high levels of maternal anaemia, low birthweight, and adverse birth outcomes. These conditions not only affect maternal and newborn survival but also have long-term implications for child growth, cognitive development, and human capital formation.

MMS has been identified as a cost-effective, evidence-based intervention to improve maternal nutrition and birth outcomes when delivered through antenatal care (ANC) platforms. While Ethiopia has made progress in strengthening maternal and child health services, the transition from IFAS to MMS and the achievement of sustained, high coverage remain constrained by financing gaps, fragmented funding, and limited integration into national health financing systems.

Ethiopia is advancing broader health sector priorities, including strengthening primary health care, expanding antenatal care coverage, and improving the efficiency and sustainability of health financing. Maternal nutrition and anaemia reduction are recognized priorities within national health and nutrition strategies, creating an opportunity to better integrate MMS into existing policy frameworks and financing mechanisms.

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE), led by the Ministry of Health (MoH), has developed the Roadmap for the Expansion and Scale-Up of MMS in Ethiopia (2025–2030) (the Roadmap) to guide the transition from IFAS to MMS. The Roadmap aims to provide MMS to all pregnant women by 2030, reaching about 12.9 million pregnant women between 2025 and 2030 and expanding geographic coverage from 7% of woredas in 2025 to 100% in 2030, through a start-up phase (2025), an expansion phase (2026-2027) and a scale-up phase (2028-2030). The costed Roadmap estimates a total investment of USD 63.5 million over 2025-2030, of which USD 44.2 million is for MMS procurement and distribution. Its Strategic Objective 6 (Financing) aims to establish sustainable funding mechanisms for MMS introduction and scale-up, by increasing domestic resource allocation, increasing donor funding, and integrating MMS finance tracking into the existing resource tracking and partnership management (RTPM) platform.

This assignment will provide the technical assistance needed to support the delivery of Strategic Objective 6 (Financing) of the Roadmap. It will build on the evidence generated by the MMS Financing Landscape Assessment and the MMS Financing Strategy and will contribute to the broader maternal nutrition financing agenda by helping the MoH and partners translate evidence into sustainable, government-owned financing for MMS.

This work is being undertaken as part of the broader NOURISH Project, funded by Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), with Nutrition International (NI) as Consortium Lead and Regional Technical Assistance Partner leading the Financing pillar.

2. Objectives of the consultancy

The objective of the consultancy is to provide technical assistance to the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), in line with the Roadmap for the Expansion and Scale-Up of MMS in Ethiopia (2025-2030), to translate evidence on MMS financing into government-owned planning, budgeting and financing decisions and to facilitate financing collaboration between the GoE and development partners.

The assignment will be led by the MoH and undertaken in close consultation with the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS), regional health bureaus, Nutrition International, the country technical implementing partner (UNICEF) and other stakeholders. The Government leads and owns decisions; the Consultant provides technical support, analysis and facilitation. Work will be sequenced to the Ethiopian planning and budget cycle so that outputs are available when decisions are taken.

Specifically, the assignment aims to:

i) Support efforts to increase domestic resource allocation for MMS, including integration of MMS into government plans, budgets and relevant health and commodity financing frameworks.

ii) Define the MMS finance tracking fields and data requirements needed to integrate MMS into the existing RTPM platform, so that government and partner commitments, disbursements and financing gaps can be tracked over time.

iii) Support budget advocacy, including development and validation of an MMS Investment Brief.

iv) Facilitate alignment of development partners around the MMS financing gap and national priorities and support collaborative financing between the GoE and development partners to increase donor funding for MMS.

- Assess the feasibility of innovative and blended financing options, including concessional financing, guarantees, other mechanisms and options that support local production of MMS, and provide a recommendation for Government consideration.

3. Scope of work

The Consultant will undertake the following activities, in line with the Roadmap, Strategic Objective 6 (Financing).

Activity 1: Support to Increase Domestic Resource Allocation for MMS

Roadmap reference: *Strategic Objective 6, Activity 6.2 (Increase domestic resource allocation for MMS), including 6.2.1 (redirect the existing IFA budget and advocate increasing the Government budget for MMS) and 6.2.2 (implement the resource mobilization plan), and Activity 1.1 (annual budget planning, source identification and allocation for MMS).*

The Consultant will support the MoH, MoF, EPSS and relevant Regional Health Bureaus to reflect MMS in government plans, budgets and financing frameworks. Support will be sequenced to the Ethiopian planning and budget calendar, with the EFY2020 pre-budget and budget preparation processes (January–June 2027) as the main entry window and EFY2021 preparation (from mid-2027) as the follow-on window.

Specific tasks will include: -

- Conduct a rapid, largely desk-based review of policy, regulatory and supply-chain readiness (national ANC guidelines, essential medicines listing, product registration,

procurement and EPSS distribution arrangements), building on the MMS Financing Landscape Assessment

- Review relevant sector and annual plans, the medium-term expenditure framework, programme budgets, commodity quantification and forecasting processes, and EPSS financing arrangements; identify practical entry points and applicable budget lines and codes for MMS.
- Provide technical support to the MoH in implementing the MMS resource mobilization (financing) plan.
- Review and propose options for collaborative financing between the GoE and development partners.

Expected deliverables (Activity 1)

- **1.1** Inception Report
- **1.2** Rapid assessment of policy, regulatory, and supply-chain readiness, including mapping of planning and budgeting processes, financing entry points, and relevant budget code for MMS integration.
- **1.3** Technical inputs for integrating MMS into annual plans, budgets, and financing frameworks, including redirection of existing IFA allocations and increased government funding for MMS.
- **1.4** Review and propose options for collaborative financing between the GoE and development partners.

Activity 2: Integrate the MMS finance tracking into the existing resource tracking and partnership management (RTPM) platform

Roadmap reference: *Strategic Objective 6, Activity 6.4 (Integrate the MMS finance tracking into the existing RTPM platform).*

Building on the MMS Financing Landscape Assessment and existing resource-mapping and health accounts data, the Consultant will support the MoH directorate responsible for the RTPM platform, working with EPHI and Regional Health Bureaus as relevant, to prepare MMS finance tracking for integration into the RTPM platform. Configuration of the platform and routine data entry remain the responsibility of the MoH and its system administrators; the Consultant will provide the technical support a first round of data population Specific tasks will include: -

- Compile a baseline of past, current and forecast government and development partner commitments and expenditure for MMS and related maternal nutrition supplementation, documenting data gaps where partners or regions cannot report.
- Support in defining the MMS finance tracking fields and data definitions, and links to existing resource-mapping, health-accounts and EPSS data, for integration into the RTPM platform.

Expected deliverables (Activity 2)

- **2.1** Updated MMS Financing Baseline: consolidated baseline of historical and current government and development partner commitments, allocations, disbursements, and expenditure, and projected financing for MMS, with data sources and gaps documented.
- **2.2** MMS Finance Tracking Specifications and Data Dictionary for RTPM: tracking indicators, data fields, definitions, sources, and reporting requirements for integrating MMS financing data into the existing RTPM platform.

Activity 3: Develop the MMS Investment Brief and support budget advocacy

Roadmap reference: *Strategic Objective 6, Activity 6.1 (Explore the financing gap and develop a resource mobilization plan or financing mechanisms for effective coverage, services and supply), including 6.1.3 (advocacy workshop for the financing plan), and Activities 1.1 and 1.7 (policy briefs and advocacy directed at key decision-makers.*

The Consultant will develop an evidence-based MMS Investment Brief, anchored in the costed Roadmap and the MMS Financing Strategy, and support the Government and partners in budget advocacy, with the aim of securing explicit domestic budget allocations for MMS in the EFY2020 budget and positioning the brief for EFY2021.Specific tasks will include: -

- Develop a budget advocacy plan and key messages aligned to the budget calendar, targeting MoF, parliamentary committees, MoH leadership and regional bureaus.
- Prepare a rapid two-page policy brief with a costed ask for the EFY2020 budget process, based on the existing Roadmap costing.
- Draft the MMS Investment brief and facilitate validation and Government endorsement.
- Support budget advocacy for EFY2020 (briefings, hearing materials),

Expected deliverables (Activity 3)

- **3.1** Budget Advocacy Plan and Rapid Policy Brief
- **3.2** Draft MMS Investment Brief
- **3.3** Final MMS Investment Brief and Validation Workshop Report

Activity 4: Facilitate development partner alignment around the MMS financing gap

Roadmap reference: *Strategic Objective 6, Activity 6.3 (Increase donor funding for MMS),*

The Consultant will facilitate alignment of development partners around the MMS financing gap and national priorities, working through existing government-led coordination platforms and using the results of the financing tracker, in order to increase donor funding for MMS

Specific tasks will include: -

- Map development partners, UN agencies, foundations, NGOs and private actors, and their current and intended MMS support, including the funding sources identified in the Roadmap.
- Work with the MoH to place MMS financing on the agenda of existing nutrition and maternal and child health coordination platforms, with the aim of making it a standing item
- Prepare a common financing gap statement, facilitate a partner alignment dialogue and a high-level partner financing roundtable, and record commitments in a pledge register.

Expected deliverables (Activity 4)

- **4.1** Partner Mapping and Common Financing Gap Statement: mapping of partners and their intended MMS support, and a financing gap statement for EFY2020 and beyond, discussed with partners through the government-led coordination platform.
- **4.2** Partner Roundtable Briefing Pack and Report: Briefing pack and report of the high-level partner financing roundtable, including a pledge register and a biannual update on the conversion of pledges to agreements and disbursements.

Activity 5: Assess innovative and blended financing options, including for local production

Roadmap reference: *Strategic Objective 6, Activity 6.1 (financing plan considering corporate social responsibility, sin tax, public–private partnerships, donations and other innovative financing means), and the Roadmap's local manufacturing activities.*

The Consultant will assess feasible innovative and blended financing options for MMS, including concessional financing, guarantees and other mechanisms, within Ethiopia's fiscal, debt and institutional context. The assessment will build on the preliminary long-list of options and scoring framework, which covers domestic budget and procurement-channel financing, concessional loans, results-based financing, blended grant and concessional structures, guarantees, matching funds, pre-financing or revolving facilities, offtake commitments for local production, debt swaps and other options.

Specific tasks will include: -

- Agree appraisal criteria and weights with MoF and MoH (e.g., fiscal and debt fit, ownership and sustainability, speed, scale, partner appetite, ease of implementation).
- Refine the existing long-list of options and review relevant country and global precedents
- Assess financing options that support local production of MMS.
- Screen options for fiscal space, debt sustainability and concessionality requirements together with MoF.
- Appraise options through scoring and financial modelling of blended structures, guarantee costs, concessionality and expected resource mobilization.
- Develop indicative terms for up to two preferred options and prepare a decision note for Government consideration, with a roadmap of the steps, approvals and partners needed to take the preferred option forward

Expected deliverables (Activity 5)

- **5.1** Appraisal Framework and Options Long-list: appraisal criteria and scoring weights agreed with MoF and MoH, the refined long-list (including options for local MMS production) and a review of relevant precedents.
- **5.2** Draft Option Appraisal Report and Financial Model: comparative assessment of shortlisted options, including fiscal and debt sustainability, concessionality, resource mobilization potential, and financial modelling.
- **5.3** Final Option Appraisal Report and Financial Model: revised to reflect MoF, MoH and partner feedback.
- **5.4** Decision Note and Preparation Roadmap: recommendation for Government consideration, indicative terms for up to two preferred options, and the steps, approvals and partners required to take them forward.

Deliverables, timeline and level of effort

The Consultant will deliver the following outputs in line with the agreed workplan. Detailed descriptions of deliverables are provided in the Scope of Work section. Due dates are indicative and will be confirmed in the Inception Report, particularly where they depend on Government planning and budget calendars.

Activity	Output	Due Date	Estimated LOE (Days)
Activity 1: Support to Increase Domestic Resource Allocation for MMS	1.1 Inception Report and Workplan	8 Jan 2026	5
	1.2 Rapid Readiness and Budget Entry-Point Review	20 Jan 2027	10
	1.3 MMS Inputs to Plans, Budgets and Financing Frameworks	19 Mar 2027	12
	1.4 Collaborative Financing Review and Plan	25 Jun 2027	10
Activity 2: Integrate the MMS Finance Tracking into the Existing RTPM Platform	2.1 Baseline MMS Financing Landscape Update	26 Feb 2027	10
	2.2 MMS Finance Tracking Fields and Data Dictionary for the RTPM Platform	28 May 2027	13
Activity 3: Develop the MMS Investment Brief and Support Budget Advocacy	3.1 Budget Advocacy Plan and Policy Brief for EFY2020 Budget Hearings	12 Feb 2027	10
	3.2 Draft MMS Investment/ Technical Brief	12 Mar 2027	10
	3.3 Final MMS Investment Brief and Validation Workshop Report	30 Apr 2027	7
Activity 4: Facilitate Development Partner Alignment to Increase Donor Funding for MMS	4.1 Partner Mapping and Common Financing Gap Statement	21 May 2027	6
	4.2 Partner Roundtable Briefing Pack and Report	13 Aug 2027	8
Activity 5: Assess Innovative and Blended Financing Options, including for Local Production	5.1 Appraisal Framework and Options Long-list	1 Mar 2027	6
	5.2 Draft Option Appraisal Report and Financial Model	30 Jun 2027	12
	5.3 Final Draft Option Appraisal Report and Financial Model	20 Aug 2027	8
	5.4 Decision Note and Preparation Package for the Selected Instrument	17 Sep 2027	7
Total Estimated Level of Effort			**134 days**

4. Deliverables

The consultant will be expected to produce the following outputs:

1. MMS technical inputs to government plans, budgets and financing frameworks, and a collaborative financing plan.
2. MMS finance tracking specifications and data dictionary for integration into the RTPM platform, with an updated financing baseline.
3. Budget advocacy plan, rapid policy brief and validated MMS Investment Brief.
4. Partner alignment products: partner mapping, common financing gap statement, roundtable report and pledge register, and a draft aligned workplan or compact.
5. Innovative and blended financing options appraisal report, financial model and decision note, including options for local production.

5. Duration of the consultancy

The consultancy is expected to be conducted over a **period of 134 working days**, between 15 December 2026 and 30 September 2027. The level of effort will be spread across the period in line with the Government planning and budget calendar, with higher intensity between January and June 2027.

6. Location and travel requirements

The consultant will be based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with periodic engagement at relevant government and partner offices.

The assignment will require in-country travel, including participation in stakeholder consultations, technical meetings, validation workshops, budget-related engagements and visits to selected Regional Health Bureaus as needed. All approved travel and overnight stays required under this consultancy will be reimbursed by NI in accordance with NI policies and standard rates, subject to prior approval.

The consultant will be responsible for local travel within Addis Ababa for meetings and consultations related to the assignment. When not required for in-person engagements, the consultant may work remotely but is expected to remain accessible for regular coordination and technical discussions with the NOURISH team, and relevant government and partner stakeholders.

7. Management and reporting/coordination mechanism

- The Consultant will work under the guidance of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and will report to the Director, Nutrition Financing (NOURISH) at NI on contractual and administrative matters. The Consultant will work in close collaboration with the NI Health Economics and Nutrition Financing team, the Ministry of Finance, the country technical implementing partner, UNICEF, and other relevant maternal nutrition implementing partners in Ethiopia.
- The Consultant will participate in the MMS Financing Technical Working Group and in quarterly joint NOURISH-Government review meetings and will provide monthly progress updates to NI.

- All tools, models, analyses and products developed under this assignment will be handed over to the Government of Ethiopia. National data remain the property of the Government.
- At all stages of the assignment, the Consultant will take into account the technical guidance and inputs of government stakeholders and partners, including on the structure, content, and policy relevance of all outputs.
- Nutrition International will provide funding for the assignment. Payment will be linked to satisfactory delivery of agreed outputs, as certified by the NI Supervisor in consultation with the MoH focal person and will be made in instalments against groups of deliverables as set out in the contract.
- The contract will cover the duration of the assignment as defined in this Terms of Reference (ToR).

8. Required expertise, experience and qualifications

The Consultant should have the following profile:

A health economist or public finance specialist with strong expertise in health financing, public financial management, budget advocacy, resource mobilization, and economic analysis of health and nutrition interventions. The individual should have a demonstrated track record of delivering high-quality analytical work, policy-relevant reports, and government-facing technical assistance in low- and middle-income country contexts, preferably in Africa.

Education:

- Master's degree or PhD in health economics, economics, public finance, public health, nutrition or a related field

Skills:

- Strong analytical and quantitative skills, including experience with financing and economic analysis.
- Excellent technical writing and presentation skills.
- Ability to translate complex analysis into clear, policy relevant. recommendations.
- Strong stakeholder engagement and facilitation skills.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Working knowledge of Amharic is an advantage.

Experience:

- At least 8 years of relevant experience in health financing, public finance, or economic analysis of health or nutrition programmes.
- Demonstrated experience in developing health financing strategies, investment cases, budget advocacy materials, or resource mobilization plans
- Relevant experience conducting financing landscape analysis, costing, and/or financing gap assessments in Ethiopia or elsewhere in East Africa.
- Practical knowledge of public financial management and planning and budget processes in Ethiopia (federal and regional), including the budget calendar.
- Experience appraising innovative and blended financing instruments (e.g., concessional financing, results-based financing, guarantees) and engaging multilateral and development finance institutions (desirable).

- Experience supporting the development of financing proposals to global, multilateral or bilateral funding mechanisms (desirable).
- Familiarity with maternal and child health and/or nutrition programs, preferably including supplementation interventions
- Experience working with government institutions (e.g., Ministries of Health and Finance) and development partners
- Demonstrated ability to support policy processes, stakeholder consultations, and validation workshops
- Experience in sub-Saharan Africa, with familiarity with the Ethiopia context considered an advantage

For the Request for Proposals

Application Process

Interested consultants are invited to submit the following documents by email to bidsafrica@nutritionintl.org no later than **23rd November 2026, Close of Business (East Africa Time)**:

1. **Up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
2. **Cover Letter** (maximum 2 pages) explaining the applicant's suitability for the assignment, motivation, and availability.
3. **Technical Proposal**, including the following:
    a) Appreciation of the Background and Context
    b) Proposed Implementation Approach
    c) Any Comments or Questions on the Terms of Reference (TOR)
4. **Financial Proposal**
5. **Three Reference Checks**

Any questions regarding this TOR should be sent to procurementafrica@nutritionintl.org no later than **9th November 2026, Close of Business (East Africa Time)**

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