

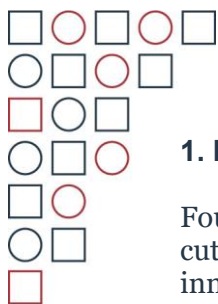
CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP A MANUSCRIPT ON SRH AND ANAEMIA REDUCTION ACROSS THE REPRODUCTIVE LIFE CYCLE OF WOMEN

TERMS OF REFERENCE

September 2026

Deadline for applications:
October 16, 2026, 23:59 EST.





1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a global organization dedicated to conducting cutting-edge nutrition research, supporting critical policy and program formulation and innovation, and integrating nutrition into broader development programs. In more than 60 countries, primarily in Asia and Africa, Nutrition International nourishes people to nourish life. The Research and Development (R&D) unit leads Nutrition International's response to anaemia, a major unmet global challenge, by developing and implementing integrated strategic actions and promoting an evidence-based, holistic approach that addresses all causes of anaemia. The unit plays a cross-cutting role across NI and serves as a bridge between evidence and action — connecting decision makers with context-specific tools and information to identify and prioritize the most effective interventions and generate the greatest impact on the Sustainable Development Goals. NI is partnering with PAI to work towards accelerating anaemia reduction by focusing on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for anaemia prevention and response across the reproductive life cycle of adolescent girls and women.

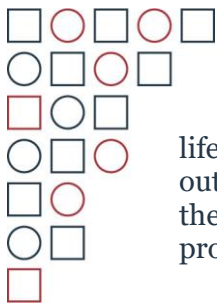
Anaemia is a critical global public health issue affecting women of reproductive age, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and children under five, contributing to maternal mortality, adverse pregnancy outcomes, reduced productivity, impaired cognitive development, and intergenerational health risks. Globally, anaemia affects approximately one in three women of reproductive age and remains far off track from the World Health Assembly target of a 50% reduction in anaemia among women of reproductive age. Progress has been slow, underscoring the need for integrated approaches that address the multiple and interacting direct causes of anaemia across the life course.

In 2023, WHO published the Comprehensive Framework for Action to accelerate progress on anaemia reduction, and the Anaemia Action Alliance was established to promote multisectoral collaboration across sectors and partners. The WHO anaemia framework identifies direct causes of anaemia across four broad groups: 1. micronutrient deficiencies; 2. infections and inflammation; 3. gynecologic and obstetric conditions; and 4. red blood cell disorders. SRH is therefore critical to address anaemia because it is closely linked with this third group of direct causes, including heavy or abnormal menstrual/uterine bleeding, adolescent pregnancy, closely spaced pregnancies, obstetric hemorrhage, and other reproductive health conditions that influence anaemia risk across the reproductive life cycle of women. It is also linked to health care opportunities to screen for, identify, and address anaemia risk and related conditions.

We are seeking to engage a senior consultant to assist with developing a manuscript on the contribution of SRH to the burden of anaemia and joint priorities across anaemia and SRH. The manuscript will provide an evidence-based review of priorities and opportunities for anaemia prevention and management across the reproductive life cycle of adolescent girls and women, and opportunities for clinical and community-based care. The manuscript will synthesize trusted evidence including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, pooled analyses, and other studies as well as authoritative reports and grey literature that articulate how SRH policies, services, and investments can contribute to anaemia reduction as part of a holistic approach aligned with the WHO anaemia framework.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The purpose of this consultancy is to assist NI and PAI with the development of a manuscript that clearly links anaemia and SRH priorities globally across the reproductive



life cycle of women, including adolescents. The consultant will prepare a manuscript outline (in collaboration with NI and PAI), conduct a scoping review of the literature, draft the manuscript, incorporate feedback from NI, PAI, and other agreed reviewers, and produce a final manuscript ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

3. KEY ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

A. Manuscript conceptualization and outline: Work with NI and PAI to clarify the manuscript scope, target audience, proposed journal options, key messages, and analytical framing. The consultant will prepare a concise manuscript outline that positions SRH as critical to anaemia reduction through its links with gynecologic and obstetric conditions in the WHO anaemia framework.

- **Deliverable:** Manuscript outline

B. Scoping review: Conduct a structured review of peer-reviewed and grey literature to identify, screen, and map the breadth and strength of evidence (including gaps), and synthesize SRH-related risk pathways and policy and program opportunities for reducing the burden of anaemia across the reproductive life cycle of women.

Deliverable: Scoping review

C. Draft manuscript: Prepare a full draft manuscript that links anaemia and SRH priorities, integrates global data and evidence, explains the relevance of gynecologic and obstetric conditions as direct causes of anaemia, and identifies priority actions for policy, programming, advocacy, and research as well as areas where future research is needed.

- **Deliverable:** Draft manuscript

D. Manuscript revision and finalization: Incorporate consolidated feedback from NI, PAI, and agreed technical reviewers; strengthen the argument, structure, references, and clarity; and produce a final manuscript ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

- **Deliverable:** Final manuscript ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal

Specific timelines, authorship arrangements, target journal options, and review processes will be agreed upon in coordination with NI and PAI.

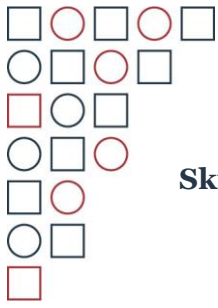
6. PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

Education

- Advanced university degree (RN, MD, Master's or PhD) in obstetrics/gynecology and/or public health, nutrition, or a related field.

Experience

- More than 10 years of experience in public health, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, adolescent health, or a related field.
- Demonstrated experience writing peer-reviewed manuscripts, evidence syntheses, policy papers, or technical publications for global health audiences.
- Strong understanding of anaemia, sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, women's health across the life course, and the global evidence and policy landscape.



Skills

- Strong leadership and strategic thinking skills
- Strong interpersonal and diplomacy skills
- Collaborative, team-oriented mindset
- Excellent written and verbal communication, presentation, and facilitation skills in English
- Ability to work well with minimal supervision.
- High attention to detail and commitment to quality and learning.

Preference will be given to candidates with a university affiliation.

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested consultants are invited to submit the items listed below by email to ni-rnd@nutritionintl.org by **October 16, 2026**, 23:59 Ottawa time. It is anticipated that the consultancy will begin December 1, 2026.

1. Cover letter;
2. Up-to-date curriculum vitae or resume, including list of publications;
3. Daily fees;
4. Proposed timeline for each deliverable, with assigned number of days of work for each deliverable between Dec 1, 2026 – May 14, 2027.