

# **Terms of Reference for updating the National Reference Training Manual of the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) for the Ministry of Health**

## **1. Background**

Of the 38.4 million people living with HIV worldwide at the end of 2021, 1.7 million were children under the age of 15 years. In 2021 alone, 160,000 children worldwide were newly infected with HIV. The most frequent source of HIV infection in infants and children is transmission from mother-to-child during pregnancy, labour and delivery, or breastfeeding. Comprehensive programmes for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) including ARV therapy and prophylaxis can significantly reduce the number of infants who are HIV-infected and promote better health for their mothers and families.

Guyana implemented PMTCT in the year 2003 with 23 sites and has a total of 203 sites at the end of 2022. PMTCT remains central to global HIV initiatives. International organizations and national governments are working together to build PMTCT capacities and achieve the global goal of reducing the number of infants born with HIV. National PMTCT programmes provide an important foundation for HIV prevention and treatment programmes. With the commitment of the international community to increasing access to treatment for persons living with HIV, scale-up of PMTCT programmes is recognized as an important gateway to HIV prevention, care, treatment and support programme for HIV-infected women, their children and families.

The Guyana Training Curriculum (GTC) is designed to assist with national efforts to scale up PMTCT services and improve the overall care of families. The GTC is one component of a coordinated, national plan for building capacity to train staff and strengthen MCH services at the local level to ensure beneficial outcomes for communities.

PMTCT has been reporting for previous years a mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) rate above 2%, however, with the continuous training the can be reduced. Hence there is a need for the updating of the National Reference training Manual for the PMTCT programme since the last update was done in 2011.

## **2. Goal**

Update the National PMTCT reference training Manual to include updated information on preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV and training material guides.

## **3. Objectives**

Review the existing National Reference training PMTCT Manual 2011 for Health Workers Manual and update same according to the newer updates of PAHO/WHO.

## **4. The Assignment**

- The contractor will be tasked with updating and editing the National Reference training PMTCT Manual of 2011.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health, Maternal and Child Health Department and the Health Sciences Education Department on the updating of manual.

- Conduct consultative sessions with the relevant personnel for the updating of the manual
- The Consultant will be responsible for reviewing the previous work reporting document. In addition, Graphics Design, Editing, Slides and Content Writing would be included in the Manual. Included in the PMTCT reference training manual would be training power point slides per chapter.
- Liaise with the PMTCT Department, MOH, in this task to ensure that all the activities are included in the Manual
- Provide monthly written feedback to PAHO/WHO on the implementation progress on the National PMTCT Reference Training Manual and any other task as specified by the Project Officer.
- List of areas to include in the new Manual , new guidelines introduced in the PMTCT programme, ARV prophylaxis, case study of HIV positive infants, confidentiality and any other areas as specified by the MOH/PMTCT Department and PAHO/WHO Focal point.

## 5. Professional Qualifications, experience, and other conditions

- Academic Qualifications with a first degree in medical or a health-related field plus a Master of Public Health or any Postgraduate studies in a health-related field.
- Previous experience in the Maternal and Child Health/ Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission programmes over the last 5 years.
- Previous experience in working on Projects in Maternal and Child Health Good human relations skills must be demonstrated in dealing with all internal and external stakeholders.
- Good communication and teamwork skills.
- Flexibility is to be demonstrated in meeting the goals and objectives.
- Ability to conduct training with groups of young adults.
- Confidentiality and integrity are always to be maintained.

## 6. Duration of contract

1 August 2023 to 30 November 2023

## 7. Supervision

The local contractor would be supervised by Specialist, Family and Community Health /IM Focal Point and PAHO/WHO Representative, Guyana Office in collaboration with the MOH/PMTCT programme.

Approved by

*Luis Codina*

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Dr L Codina

PWR, Guyana