Research Protocol Development for Community-Based HIV Services for Children

Scope of Work

Period of Performance: 15-08-2022 – 30-09-2022

Contract Type: Fixed Price

Project Overview

For two decades, Pact has provided HIV and case management services to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and their households across sub-Saharan Africa. Pact currently implements PEPFAR/USAID-funded OVC service delivery programs in five countries, prioritizing HIV prevention and care for children under 18. Pact’s community-based case management services for children and adolescents living with HIV (C/ALHIV) support epidemic control in these countries with the aim to reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals. In recent years, Pact’s programs have pivoted to enhanced community-based support for HIV outcomes, including identification of C/ALHIV, linkage to treatment, treatment adherence, and viral load suppression. Pact seeks a researcher to lead efforts in building the evidence base for Pact’s success in improving these HIV outcomes, and identifying the elements of Pact’s case management approach with the highest contributions to these outcomes. The purpose of this consultancy is to develop the research protocol for carrying out the study.

Researcher responsibilities:

- Meet with Pact’s OVC technical leads to understand Pact’s evidence priorities and research needs.
- Conduct desk review of Pact’s current OVC service delivery project documents, including donor reports, workplans, available data, and assessment findings. Conduct virtual meetings with project staff, as needed. Present back key findings of desk review to ensure a common understanding with Pact staff of project objectives, approaches, and results.
- Lead the development of a research protocol, in close collaboration with Pact’s technical leads, for synthesizing the evidence needed for fulfilling Pact’s research strategy. The research protocol should include the following sections: aim/objectives, research questions and sub-questions, primary and secondary outcomes of interest, design/methodology, sampling plan, participant description and inclusion/exclusion criteria, detailed data analysis plan that specifies the common independent and dependent variables across datasets, results dissemination plan, timeline, and ethical considerations.
- Protocol appendices including primary data collection tools and consent/assent forms. Present final protocol to research working group overseeing this study.
- Conduct close-out meeting with Pact’s technical leads, including handover of all final materials developed over course of consultancy.

Pact Responsibilities

Pact will collaborate in the following activities:

- Oversee consultancy and provide a primary point of contact for consultant
- Participate in all meetings as described above
- Provide background materials on the OVC projects for the desk review
- Participate in developing the protocol
- Provide technical reviews of the protocol
Deliverables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desk review presentation</td>
<td>August 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol draft 1</td>
<td>September 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol draft 2</td>
<td>September 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final protocol presentation</td>
<td>September 28</td>
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Consultant Qualifications

- Advanced university degree (at Master’s degree level or higher) in social science, research methods, public health or related field
- Knowledge of PEPFAR/USAID orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) program approaches and outcomes
- Experience conducting mixed methods research studies
- Project management experience and ability to meet deadlines
- Excellent analytical and statistical analysis skills
- Excellent report writing skills
- Knowledge of the civil society/NGO sector and USAID/PEPFAR funded projects
- Exceptional diplomacy and cross-cultural skills
- Facilitation skills, good written and oral communications skills

Proposal Requirements

Pact seeks proposals from qualified consultants describing their approach to fulfilling the requirements and deliverables of the scope of work. The proposal should include the following sections: technical approach, timeline, deliverable-based budget with daily rate, CV of the applicant, and three professional references.

Proposals are due to Pact by email at health@pactworld.org by August 8. Please include “Research Protocol Development for Community-Based HIV Services for Children” in the email subject line.