Terms of Reference for engaging a consultant to Design assessment tools for baseline assessments of childhood vaccination services in Cameroon.

Background
The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) is a faith-based organization which started providing health services to Cameroonnians in the Northwest Region in 1936 and has since then expanded to all ten regions of the country. Currently, The CBC Health Services run Nine (9) hospitals, 31 Integrated Health Centers, 52 Primary Health Centers, A central Pharmacy with the capacity to procure, produce and distribute drugs, consumables, and medical supplies to all the institutions timely. The CBC Health services also run comprehensive health programs to prevent and manage people living with HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, various forms of disabilities, women’s health problems, youths and displaced populations. For more information, please visit www.cbchealthservices.org.

Context
The Ministry of Health Through the Expanded Program for Immunization in Cameroon has made significant efforts in achieving the desired vaccination coverage with great success. According to national reports, in 2021, about 86% of children born in Cameroon receive at least a dose of vaccines and this coverage varied with regions, districts and communities, reflective of the specific geographic, cultural and behavioural differences that exist in the country. Regions with conflicts and displaced populations as well as some specific communities in urban areas seem to contribute most to the gap.

The CBCHS recently partnered with the Ministry of Public Health (MOH), World Vision International, the vaccine Alliance (GAVI) and the Africa Christian Health Association Platform (ACHAP) and other partners involved in the childhood vaccination program to support the MOH in reducing the gap towards achieving Zero-Dose Children in Cameroon. To effectively do this, the project has to be context specific and include strategies that address specific gaps in each locality. It is for this reason that a quick baseline assessment is required to inform planning and decision making.

Purpose
The purpose of this consultancy is to conduct a rapid assessment of the baseline situation of childhood immunization activities in Cameroon. This assessment should capture both qualitative and quantitative baseline data at various levels (national, regional, district, community, beneficiary levels) on the current situation on the topic that will facilitate the generation of an informative baseline report. The report should highlight key gaps at various levels and from various perspectives which the project can use to work with the EPI program to design and implement strategies to address them.

Methodology
The consultant is expected to use designed tools in conducting a desk review of the current situation at various levels, existing data, tools used and disaggregate existing national data by regions, districts, health areas to recommend priority districts for an intervention aimed at reducing missed opportunities. The consultant is also expected to conduct targeted key informant interviews with stakeholders in target regions/districts to document context specific challenges and use findings to propose context specific solutions to increase vaccine coverage to 100%.
Deliverables

The consultant will be required to produce and submit a comprehensive baseline report of up to 60 pages which should include baseline information at the national, regional, district and facility levels in terms of the vaccination services offered, the supply chain issues and community mobilization activities/challenges. The second section of the report should include service data for 2021 or the most recent data available indicating gaps in regions and districts (in order of priority), and district specific issues that might have contributed to the gaps observed. Findings from the qualitative data should be used to support these findings. A third section of the report should present the consultants findings regarding of gender, Equity, social inclusion, behaviour, emotional and social difficulties in specific areas backed by evidence from the KIIs and voice notes, pictures, and other anecdotes that can help showcase the actual situation on the ground. Finally, the last portion of the report should highlight key recommendations for consideration if funding is available to bring about improvement and achieve desired targets.

The completed report should be submitted by email to the email addresses indicated below. The consultant may be called upon to clarify aspects of the report during its review and use.

Timeframe

We hope that this consultancy will last for an average of Two weeks including three days of desk review work in collaboration with the national Expended Program for Immunization (EPI) office to understand the program, data collected and existing gaps, five days of field consultations (through physical visits where feasible or virtually) to understand contextual issues and three days of analyzing the information to generate the final report.

Expected Qualifications, skills, and experiences

The consultant should possess the following minimum qualifications and skills;

1. A post graduate degree in either public health, Sociology, Anthropology, or any related field.
2. Excellent monitoring and evaluation skills.
3. Experience in conducting mixed methods studies (using both quantitative and qualitative approaches).
4. At least five years of experience in designing and conducting similar assessments
5. Familiarity with inclusive health principles, gender norms and health system issues.
6. A good understanding of EPI activities will be an added advantage.

Submission of the Expression of interest

Consultants that meet the requirements stated above should submit a letter expressing their interest to the Director of Health Services of the Cameroon Baptist Convention using the following physical or email addresses.

Director of Health Services
Cameroon Baptist Convention
Nkwen Baptist Center, Bamenda
P.O Box 1, Bamenda

Director of Health Services
CBC Resource Center for Excellence
Mvan, Yaounde

Email: raise4zdcmr@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Prof. Tih Plus Muffih, MPH, PhD
Director of CBC Health Services