

Request for Expressions of Interest

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) is leading a five-year project to improve the health and development of very young children in selected communities in South Africa. Using a participatory approach aimed at building community ownership and capacity, the project will work in partnership with local health and social services department cadres providing child health and development services, as well as with nongovernmental and community-based organizations, to tailor its activities to local needs and capacities. Project approaches and activities are being refined in consultation with project partners to meet the following objectives:

- Objective 1 – Strengthen local health and development systems and community structures to provide intersectoral services responsive to the actual needs of communities.
- Objective 2 – Improve the quantity and range of clinical and community-based services addressing the health and development needs of children less than two years old.
- Objective 3 – Increase behaviours among caregivers that positively affect the health and development of children less than two years old.
- Objective 4 – Expand the knowledge base and foster the widespread adoption of project lessons.

By strengthening local health and development systems, improving services, and changing behaviors, the project will result in measurable improvements in targeted health indicators and help these countries make progress toward meeting their commitments under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

PATH is seeking expressions of interest from firms or research institute (organizations) to conduct a rapid appraisal the child health problems, needs, challenges and priority solutions from the perspective of decision makers, stakeholders, providers and beneficiaries at the provincial, district and sub-district level in four districts of South Africa. The planned rapid appraisal will take place in one selected district in each of Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Northern Cape Provinces and will utilize available secondary data acquired by the organization as well as primary data to be captured through qualitative methods. The appraisal report will document root health and development problems and challenges facing pregnant women and children below two years of age as prioritized by the communities, facilities and other health, welfare and local governance structures. Applicants must be available to conduct field work in October and November and submit final report no later than December 31, 2011.

Interested organizations are invited to submit a three (3) page expressions of interest (EOI) that outlines the applicant's capacity and vision of the research conduct in the selected provinces. The expressions of interest should describe:

- Your organization's credentials in implementing qualitative and quantitative assessments around maternal and newborn health in facility and community settings and in collaboration with local and provincial governments.
- Your organization's presence and comparative advantage to implement this assessment in the specified provinces.
- The proposed scale and timeline for the assessment; the approach to planning and implementation of the assessment, including how to select health facilities and communities, a description of existing (secondary) data you will access and utilize for shaping the assessment, and the quantitative and qualitative methodologies you will employ to conduct the assessment.
- Your approach to engagement with local communities and local government to ensure necessary participation in the assessment.
- The assessment management structure, including the size and qualifications of the assessment team.
- The approximate budget for carrying out the assessment (budget range acceptable)

Based on a review of the submitted EOIs and further diligence, which might include some clarification questions, PATH will invite short-listed organizations to submit a detailed tender proposal. PATH reserves the right to reject or accept the EOIs submitted for its review and additional proposal details will be provided to those organizations invited to submit full proposals. **EOI's should be submitted by 12h00 on 16th September 2011.**

Questions should be addressed to windowofopportunity@path.org.