

## **Terms of Reference**

**Identifying Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) policies in Ethiopia, the obstacles to implementation and providing recommendations on how to overcome gaps in service.**

**Client:** EngenderHealth

**Client Contact:** Kimberly Cole, MPH, Program Associate, Country Programs and Support

**New School Consultant Team Members:** Neesha Goodman, Anna Sackett, Rachel Vasilver

**New School Faculty Supervisor:** Mark Johnson

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### **I. Background:**

As a leading public health organization, EngenderHealth is committed to improving the quality of health care around the world. Reproductive health and family planning are two urgent areas addressed by EngenderHealth. As the second most populous country in Africa, Ethiopia faces critical challenges, both in the public health and socio-economic arenas. EngenderHealth began working in Ethiopia in 1987. After years of expanding knowledge, access and use of methods of contraception, EngenderHealth is currently focusing on increasing use and improving the quality of comprehensive contraception and safe abortion services in Ethiopia. Despite the recently extended guidelines under which abortion is legal, the quality of service remains inadequate. An integrated approach to combating inadequate health care is the first step to improving the quality of life in Ethiopia.

### **II. General Project Description:**

In the span of three months, the team of New School student will collaborate with EngenderHealth to support its current work, as it relates to Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) and family planning in Ethiopia. The New School student team will conduct a comprehensive desk review of the current policies and regulations pertaining to CAC and family planning.

The team of New School student consultants will identify the existing gaps between policy and delivery, between law and execution, as well as examine all issues inhibiting the implementation of effective and sustainable CAC and family planning services. The team will examine CAC and family planning through the lens of cultural values, stigma, harmful traditional practices (HTP's), youth and gender issues, marital status, patient rights and inadequate health care. Finally, the team will provide a summary of recommendations based on its findings, international guidelines as well as successes and failures of strategies used in other countries, as a deliverable to the client organization—EngenderHealth.

### **III. Practicum Project Objectives:**

1. At the end of four weeks, identify existing international guidelines as relating to CAC and family planning and determine how effective Ethiopia is in applying these standards.

#### **Activities:**

- Individual and group research reports on international guidelines.
  - Individual and group research on existing CAC and family planning policies within Ethiopia.
  - Group session to identify and compare international standards relating to CAC and family planning in Ethiopia.
  - Identify potential experts for interviews.
2. At the end of six weeks, evaluate existing attitudes and behaviors impacting CAC and family planning, such as, religion, culture and socioeconomic factors.

#### **Activities:**

- Conduct interviews with CAC and family planning experts.
  - Identify gaps between international standards and level of implementation in Ethiopia.
  - Research other organizations addressing CAC and family planning.
  - Identify countries which have had both successful and failed CAC and family planning policies.
  - Identify factors inhibiting CAC and family planning.
  - Research patient experiences and how they perceive services and their general social attitudes toward CAC and family planning.
3. By the end of eight weeks, complete a preliminary assessment of existing policies and regulations in Ethiopia and the level of implementation.

#### **Activities:**

- Group session to determine policies which have and have not been effective in Ethiopia.
  - Construct a preliminary draft of group assessment of CAC and family planning in Ethiopia.
  - Group conference calls with regional offices in Ethiopia.
4. By the end of twelve weeks, complete a summary of recommendations and guidelines which service providers can use to effectively overcome obstacles in CAC and family

planning. Also, develop recommendations for policies and strategies to strengthen CAC and family planning.

**Activities:**

- Group session to determine recommendations based on group findings.
- Construct a preliminary draft of group recommendations of CAC and family planning in Ethiopia.
- Draw up a final report outlining summary of findings and recommendations for implementation of CAC and family planning in Ethiopia.

**IV. Methodology:**

The team of New School student consultants will conduct a thorough examination of the current CAC and family planning policies in Ethiopia in order to determine which policies work and which do not. The findings should yield a comprehensive examination of CAC and family planning in Ethiopia, which the team will use as a foundation to develop recommendations for the final policy brief. The research will include direct and indirect interviews with experts in the fields of CAC and family planning, secondary resources from organizations such as WHO, IPAS, UNIFEM and scholarly articles found on LexisNexis, JSTOR and similar databases.

For the purposes of this study and the final policy brief the team of New School student consultants will include an overview of the international guidelines pertaining to CAC and family planning and a comparative study of Ethiopia's application of the standards to that of other countries. The brief will include a report on the attitudes, behaviors and religious and cultural traditions that impact CAC and family planning. It will also provide a summary of findings of the gaps and inconsistencies in CAC and family planning service. Finally, our team will develop a set of recommendations and guidelines for more effective implementation of CAC and family planning strategies in Ethiopia.

**V. Timeline:**

Activity	Week Of:	9/9	9/16	9/23	9/30	10/07	10/14	10/21	10/28	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/25	12/2	12/9	12/16
Meet with EngenderHealth and discuss project topic		9/9														
Group conference calls with regional offices in Ethiopia		9/9								11/4		11/18				
Submit ToR to EngenderHealth and faculty supervisor			9/16													
Draft initial international guidelines report				9/23												
Continue research on guidelines					9/30		10/14									
Midterm summary report								10/21								
Conduct interviews								10/21			11/11					
Submit draft brief												11/18				
Incorporate client feedback													11/25	12/2		
Prepare for presentation															12/2	
Submit final policy brief																

## V. Deliverables:

The team of New School student consultants will commence work on the project on September 9, 2008 and will deliver a final policy brief on December 16, 2008. The Terms of Reference set forth in this document provide a summary of the timeline, objectives and activities of our project. Our team's deliverables for the policy brief are as follows:

- 1) Initial report on findings of existing international guidelines as relating to CAC and family planning. This report will identify if and how Ethiopia applies existing international CAC and family planning guidelines.
- 2) Summary report outlining cultural attitudes and social behaviors impacting CAC and family planning in Ethiopia.
- 3) Submit draft brief and preliminary findings to EngenderHealth.

4) Final policy brief including a review of existing CAC and family planning policies in Ethiopia and a comprehensive report of recommendations and guidelines for more effective CAC and family planning in Ethiopia.

5) Presentation of findings to EngenderHealth's New York and Ethiopian Offices.

**Signatures:**

**EngenderHealth:**

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Melinda Pavin, Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

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