



Terms of Reference (ToR)

For

Impact Assessment of Traditional Healer Mobilization to

Reduce Menstrual Related Discriminations and Other

Harmful Socio-cultural Practices

Good Neighbors International Nepal

Karmachari Sanchaya Kosh Bhawan, 5th Floor

Lagankhel, Lalitpur

August 2024

1. General Background

Good Neighbors International (GNI) is an international, non-profit humanitarian and development organization founded in 1991. Since its establishment, GNI has been dedicated to community development and enhancing the capacity of poor and marginalized communities to improve their livelihoods and quality of life. Currently, GNI operates in over 50 countries promoting socio-economic development. In Nepal, GNI has been active since 2002, aiming to improve the lives of the poor, particularly children, through programs focused on education, income generation, health services, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, advocacy, governance, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. Presently, GNI Nepal runs its programs in 20 districts.

Public health, one of the core components of GNI Nepal contributes to ensuring communities have access to and utilize essential healthcare services and facilities. It primarily concentrates on health system strengthening, maternal and child health, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. GNI Nepal works with multiple actors in the local healthcare system including traditional (faith) healers (THs) who are one of the significant influencers of the healthcare landscape of rural Nepal where there is limited access to modern medical facilities. Rooted in cultural and religious beliefs, THs are trusted to provide remedies for basic health issues. In a survey carried out by GNI Nepal during 2022-23 in 17 working districts, 79.44% stated that there is a practice of consulting THs for health issues in their community while 45.8% confirmed that they or their family members have visited THs in the last one year for health issues. Menstrual health and hygiene, which is one of the major health concerns of adolescent girls and women, is adversely affected by different socio-cultural stigmas and restrictions attached to menstruation in many parts of the country. Considering the pivotal role THs can play in reshaping existing social norms associated with menstruation to promote safe menstrual behavior and practices, GNI Nepal has initiated different initiatives to educate them on basic health including menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and mobilized them for community awareness.

The situation relating to menstrual discrimination and restriction is particularly severe in Far Western areas of Nepal. To address this, GNI Nepal implemented the Health Rights Improvement Project (HRIP) in three municipalities and two rural municipalities of Bajura district. One of the major interventions of the project was to educate THs on menstrual hygiene management and mobilize them for community awareness against menstrual-related discrimination. Further, a Traditional Healers Conclave was organized in Dhangadi where 33 traditional (faith) healers along with representatives of the local and provincial government, and health and WASH stakeholders participated and expressed their solidarity towards dignified menstruation. At the end of the event,

a 14-point declaration was made to eliminate menstrual-related discrimination. GNI Nepal now plans to assess the situation of menstrual discrimination and MHM-related behaviors and practices in Bajura district and the impact mobilization of traditional (faith) healers had upon these behaviors and practices.

2. Purpose and Rationale of the Assessment

GNI Nepal is actively working to eliminate all forms of menstruation-related discrimination and promote safe MHM practices within the community. In Bajura, HRIP educated Traditional healers (THs) on basic health and MHM and mobilized them for community awareness. GNI Nepal continued mobilizing THs and during 2023 THs conducted 246 events of MHM education and reached over 3,903 community members of Triveni Municipality, Badimalika Municipality, Budhiganga Municipality, Gaumul Rural Municipality, and Khaptad Chhedhdha Rural Municipality. GNI Nepal now plans to extend this intervention to other project districts, thus intends to conduct an independent impact assessment of TH mobilization to educate and aware communities against menstrual discrimination and safe MHM practices.

2.1 Objective of the Assessment

The overall objective of this study is to assess the impact of TH mobilization in reducing menstrual-related discrimination and harmful socio-cultural practices at the community level. The specific objectives are:

- To evaluate the knowledge, attitude, and practice of THs regarding menstruation
- To explore the role of THs in shaping and transforming socio-cultural norms related to negative menstrual practices
- To assess the impact and effectiveness of THs in promoting positive behavior and practices concerning menstruation
- To identify and document key insights from the intervention, contributing to knowledge generation.

3. Use of Findings

Primarily the findings will be used to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the intervention and make necessary changes if required based on the recommendations. The major learning captured by this assessment will serve as a reference to improve and design similar initiatives in the future. The major findings and knowledge products derived from the assessment will be shared with broader stakeholders which contribute to existing knowledge on the subject area.

4. Scope of the Assessment

The assessment will be carried out in Triveni Municipality, Badimalika Municipality, Budhiganga Municipality, Gaumul Rural Municipality, and Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality of Bajura district where GNI Nepal has carried out interventions related to MHM. The study will primarily focus on the traditional healers and their role in promoting safe MHM. It will explore the six evaluation criteria—relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability—of mobilizing traditional healers to promote safe MHM practices in the community. Additionally, the study aims to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice of THs regarding MHM, community perceptions of the role and influence of THs on social norms relating to MHM, as well as produce a well-documented lesson learned, best practices, success story, and recommendations based on the findings. The primary respondents will be THs and community members in the study area. Additional information will be collected from local government, schools, health facilities, female community health volunteers (FCHVs), and members of the health mother group.

Expected task for the proposed consultancy	
Survey Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desk review ▪ Develop & finalize appropriate methodologies, and approaches to be used for the assessment ▪ Develop assessment tools (questionnaires, KII and FGD checklists, survey forms, etc.) for quantitative and qualitative data collection on major areas of assessment ▪ Deploy assessment tools in the mobile data collection application Kobo Toolbox in both languages (Nepali and English) ▪ Define and calculate the sample population and sample size based on standard statistical measurement ▪ Piloting of survey tools
Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Train enumerators on tools and techniques of data collection. ▪ Collection of quantitative and qualitative data from the field. ▪ Capture lessons learned, best practices, and stories.
Data management & analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage (validating, and cleaning) and analyze quantitative survey data using standard software. The analysis must consider data segregation based on relevant attributes. ▪ Deliver the clean version of the database (in MS Excel or SPSS) ▪ Transcribe and analyze qualitative data/information
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare preliminary report and share with GNI team for discussion and feedback. ▪ Prepare and submit the final assessment report incorporating the feedback. ▪ Facilitate the dissemination of assessment findings.

5. Suggested Methodology

This assessment will adopt a mixed research methodology applying both quantitative and qualitative approaches. A structured questionnaire will be administered to collect quantitative data whereas different qualitative tools like focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interview

(KII) will be conducted to capture qualitative information. To determine the sample size of the assessment, an appropriate sampling method will be applied ensuring inclusiveness of the sample. This is the suggested methodology for this assessment, other approaches which may be more relevant to this assessment can be adopted if proposed by the consultant/firm.

6. Expected Deliverables

The consultant/firm will deliver the following deliverables during this assignment.

- Inception report including a brief presentation on the survey framework and methodology
- Final assessment tools (questionnaires, FGD, KII checklist, and others if any)
- Survey approval from NHRC: Support in obtaining approval letter from NHRC
- Support to publish in an international journal
- Final data sheet (Excel or SPSS) and keynotes/transcription of qualitative data
- Documentation of best practices, lessons learned, and success stories
- Draft assessment report including brief presentation slides on key findings
- Final assessment report, the template shall be finalized in consultation with GNI Nepal
- Facilitate the dissemination of assessment findings if required.

7. Duration of Assignment

The total assignment is expected to be completed within 30 working days. The breakdown of specific tasks and required working days proposed by the consultant firm/ individual.

8. Responsibilities of GNI Nepal

GNI Nepal will be responsible for facilitating the survey and coordinating with field stakeholders. Specifically, the responsibilities of GNI Nepal include:

- Provide inputs to finalize the detailed survey plan, methodologies, tools, approaches, and instruments.
- Facilitate the survey team to work on the survey area.
- Coordination with concerned stakeholders and participants related to the survey.
- Monitor, provide feedback, and ensure the effectiveness of the survey.
- Obtain NHRC approval from NHRC and initiate to publish an article

9. Budget and Payment Procedures

The consultant/firm shall submit the total budget with a detailed breakdown including applicable taxes the time of proposal submission. The budget covers consultancy fees along with travel and accommodation costs and other applicable budget lines (as per the agreed budget). The final budget will be agreed between GNI and the consultant/firm prior to signing the agreement.

The consultant/firm shall bear all tariffs, duties, and applicable taxes or charges levied at any stage during the execution of the work.

The total consultancy cost (agreed) will be paid in three installments:

- 30% upon submission and acceptance of the inception report
- 30% upon submission of the draft report including sharing the survey findings in an internal meeting and acceptance of the draft report
- 40% upon acceptance of the final report

[Note: *GNI Nepal will not be responsible for covering insurance and other hidden costs related to the survey*]

10. Team Composition and Required Expertise

Team leader

With demonstrated experience (at least 5 years) in designing and leading assessment of development projects and should possess at least a master's degree (PhD preferred) in anthropology, sociology, social research, or other relevant social science. She/he should have experience in conducting both qualitative and quantitative research with strong analytical skills and the ability to produce quality technical reports in English.

Data Analyst

With at least 3 years of proven experience in data management and interpretation and at least a bachelor's degree in statistics or data science. A bachelor's degree in other relevant fields with 5 years of demonstrated experience in data management and interpretation can be considered. Data analysts should have expertise in operating mobile-based data collection tools.

Team Member

Knowledge and experience in WASH and MHM-related assessments will be an added advantage.

11. Ethical Considerations

The consultant/firm is expected to maintain the highest level of research ethics during this assignment. GNI Nepal is a child-centered organization and highly sensitive towards child rights and protection. The consultant/firm taking over this assignment is expected to demonstrate the highest degree of sensitivity and express commitment toward child rights and protection. The consultant/ firm should support GNI Nepal in fulfilling all requirements of proposal writing till report submission to NHRC.

12. Confidentiality

The consultant/firm shall not at any time disclose or make use of any confidential information relating to GNI Nepal, Partner Organizations, and the respondents obtained during this assessment. Consultant/firm should strictly maintain confidentiality during and after the completion of this assignment.

13. Documentation and Copyright

The consultant/firm should document and provide all the background sources of information (survey data, FGD and KII notes, quotes of respondents, photographs, etc.) so that the organization can trace the source of statistics or other information if required. Copyright of all these data, documents, and knowledge products will remain with GNI Nepal. Further publishing and use of such information and findings of the assessment require prior consent from GNI Nepal.

14. Documents to be submitted

The individual consultants or registered firm shall apply with the following documents:

A. Technical and financial proposal

Technical proposal: A concept note including the approach, methodology, work plan, flowchart, and timeline of activities.

Signed CVs of the proposed team

Financial proposal Detailed budget breakdown of service costs and travel costs including taxes.

Additional documents

For registered company:

- Organization profile with relevant experiences
- A copy of the company/firm registration
- A copy of the tax clearance certificate (2079/80)
- VAT/PAN registration
- Audit report (latest year)
- Any other relevant documents

For individual consultants:

- Copy of PAN/VAT Registration of Team
- Other relevant documents that demonstrate the experience of the proposed team.

15. Acceptance of Proposal

All rights to accept or reject a proposal without citing any reasons shall be reserved with GNI Nepal. If deemed necessary, the consultant shall be asked for modifications.

16. Evaluation Criteria of the EOI

Quality and cost-based selection criteria would be adopted to select the consultant. 70% weightage is given to the technical proposal which includes methodology, approaches, data quality assurance, team composition, and prior experience. The financial proposal—proposed cost to conduct the assessment will have a 30% weightage.

The proposal should reach the address below **via email, courier, or hand delivery** by **25 August 2024**, EOD. Please, mention in the subject line of the email or enclose the proposal in an envelope marked as “Proposal for Impact Assessment of Traditional Healer Mobilization to Reduce Menstrual Related Discriminations and Other Harmful Socio-cultural Practices” " and drop it at the following address:

Good Neighbors International Nepal

Karmachari Sanchaya Kosh Bhawan, 5th Floor, Lagankhel

GPO Box 8975, EPC 1605

Lalitpur, Nepal

Email: eoig@gninepal.org

GNI Nepal adheres to the standards for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) as outlined in the policy. All personnel involved in the project are required to follow these standards, and any instances of misconduct will be promptly investigated and addressed in accordance with our protocols.

GNI Nepal reserves all rights to make the final decision regarding selecting the consultant/firm without any obligations.

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