

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Midwifery Specialist for the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)/Association canadienne des sages-femmes (ACSF)

The Canadian Association of Midwives/Association canadienne des sages-femmes (CAM/ACSF) invites you to submit a proposal in accordance with the requirements of the following solicitation. Applications must be received by CAM/ACSF no later than the due date indicated in the table below.

Issue Date:	March 3, 2020
Proposal Due Date:	March 13, 2020
Written questions and proposals should be submitted via email to:	Email: admin@canadianmidwives.org Subject: "Midwifery Specialist"

Table of Contents

SECTION I – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE 3

SECTION II – OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF WORK..... 4

SECTION III – INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND NOTICES TO APPLICANTS 6

SECTION IV – EVALUATION CRITERIA 7

SECTION I – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

The **Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)** is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the services of Midwifery Specialists. CAM is developing a pool of experts as preferred suppliers to be contracted for a variety of activities throughout the year to contribute to our work within the Strengthening Midwifery Services Project Phase 2 (SMS II) in South Sudan. The successful applicant(s) will be contracted for (a) specific project(s) by the Canadian Association of Midwives over the period March 2020 - December 2020.

Since 2008, CAM has been working through partnerships with other national midwifery associations to deliver reciprocal capacity building and project development initiatives. Through its association to association partnerships, CAM is committed to ensuring that the voices of southern midwifery associations meaningfully inform global maternal, newborn and child health programming. These voices drive the way we plan and prioritize our international work, and the ways in which we link expertise from the Canadian midwifery community with midwives around the world.

As a new country, South Sudan is currently forming the necessary policies, infrastructure, and resources to provide the highest level of care possible for its population. Maternal and child health are a concern for the nation, which faces many hurdles in providing the level of care necessary to address current challenges of high neonatal mortality and morbidity. The United Nations estimates maternal mortality in South Sudan at 789 per 100,000 live births, with most maternal deaths occurring during labour, delivery and the immediate postpartum period (Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan, 2018). South Sudan faces a shortage of human resources for health; this lack is particularly pronounced in rural areas (where most of the population reside). Skilled birth attendance in South Sudan is at a mere 14.7%, while institutional deliveries are estimated at 11.5% of births, which are among the lowest rates in the world (Ministry of Health, National Bureau of Statistics, The Republic of South Sudan, 2013) (UNICEF/WHO, 2016). The government of South Sudan and partners are making considerable strides in educating and deploying the work force needed, but there is a considerable distance to go.

The South Sudan Ministry of Health (MoH), in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is leading the implementation of Phase II of the Strengthening Midwifery Services (SMS) project (2016-2020) with funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Government of Sweden. SMS phase II builds on the activities and lessons learned from the past phase and focuses on scaling up all pillars to strengthen midwifery – education, regulation, and association.

For more information, visit: www.canadianmidwives.org and www.cam-global.org.

SECTION II – OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF WORK

RFP No: 20200303SMS

RFP Date: March 3, 2020

RFP Title: Midwifery Specialist for the Canadian Association of Midwives Global Program, South Sudan

RFP Issued By: Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)

Submission of Questions regarding the RFP:

Questions related to the RFP must be submitted in writing to admin@canadianmidwives.org.

Language of Proposals:

Proposals may be written in English or French.

Instructions for Submission of Proposals:

In order to be considered, an electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted by **March 13, 2020 at 23:59 EST** to admin@canadianmidwives.org. Please include subject line: "Midwifery Specialist".

Interview Process: Following receipt of qualified proposals, CAM reserves the right to interview all applicants. Interview format will be presented to the applicants at the time of official notification of any interview.

Award:

The successful applicant(s) will be added to a select pool of midwifery specialists that will be contracted for specific project(s) by the Canadian Association of Midwives over the period March 2020-December 2020. CAM aims to have midwifery specialists available for programming throughout the year. CAM will divide project work between preferred contractors based on availability and skillset and will do so as equally as possible – with deference to continuity within related work.

CAM will select the successful applicant(s) based on the qualifications of the respondent and the respondent's experience providing performing similar activities in Canada and abroad.

Issuance of this request for proposal does not constitute a commitment on the part of CAM nor does it commit CAM to pay for costs incurred by the applicants for the preparation and submission of a proposal.

SCOPE OF WORK

We are seeking applications from midwives that can be contracted throughout 2020 for a variety of projects supporting the SMS II project in South Sudan. Our projects this year are diverse and cover a variety of health-related topics/issues. We are seeking midwives that possess a wide range of skills and experiences to help us deliver our programming. Some of the activities we are looking to implement in 2020 include:

- Association Strengthening: Working alongside the South Sudan Nurses and Midwives Association (SSNAMA) to help strengthen policy and systems, mobilize resources, and engage with membership.
- Midwifery Education: Develop and deliver in-service/ continuing professional development (CPD) training modules.
- Peer to Peer Mentorship: Oversee the ongoing remote mentorship program between young Canadian and South Sudanese midwives and produce practical and innovative resources for midwives.

Location: Most postings for 2020 will require remote work (from your location/home office), as well as travel to South Sudan, and possibly to other locations in East Africa. Candidates should be prepared for significant and flexible travel (between 1 and 3 trips during the life of the contract, for a total of up to 30 travel days). Candidates should indicate their availability for travel in their letter of intent. Applications for remote work only will be accepted and considered.

Dates of Service: CAM/ACSF requires support from Midwifery Specialists year-round. Individual work schedules may be flexible and can be negotiated with CAM. Please be sure to indicate your availabilities and lead-time requirements in your cover letter.

Desired Skills: CAM consultants can expect to conduct some or all of the following tasks during their assignment:

- Meeting facilitation
- Manual and guideline development
- Workshop development
- Workshop delivery
- Copywriting
- Provide expert input into interprofessional activities
- Producing reports (collecting, analyzing data)
- Presentations

SECTION III – INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND NOTICES TO APPLICANTS

A. Midwifery Specialist Application

Applicants are welcome to submit a proposal for one or all aspects of the above Scope of Work or can apply generally to be considered for an activity to be agreed upon with CAM. Midwifery Specialist applications shall include the following:

- **Coverletter**- Applicants shall submit a complete narrative (max. 2 pages) and/or supporting materials discussing their profile, interests, and their capabilities to perform the scope of work. **Please consider the following when submitting your application:**
 1. What is your interest in working with CAM and the SMSII project specifically?
 2. How many years have you practiced midwifery?
 3. What other consulting work have you undertaken, if any?
 4. Describe briefly your experience working with non-profit/community organizations, professional organizations, and/or health organizations.
 5. Describe briefly your experience living and/or working internationally, and specifically in conflict or post-conflict regions.
 6. What aspects of the Scope of Work are you most interested in and why?
 7. Indicate your availability per week and/or periods of availability throughout the year.
 8. Indicate the lead time required for notice of travel/ project work.

- **Curriculum Vitae** – Please submit your curriculum vitae, maximum 2 pages.

- **Past Performance/References** - A minimum of two (2) client/employer references worked with in the past two years on an activity that is similar to this Scope of Work. Include the contact information (names, company or organization, phone number and email).
**This is not required for suppliers who have worked with CAM in the past three years.*

B. Questions

Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted IN WRITING VIA EMAIL no later than March 9th, 2020. Questions shall be submitted to: admin@canadianmidwives.org.

C. Submission of Offers

Proposals must be received no later than **March 13th, 2020**.

Proposals shall be submitted via email to: admin@canadianmidwives.org. Subject: Midwifery Specialist

Note: Any proposal received after the above date and time will not be considered

SECTION IV – EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. General Information

CAM intends to evaluate proposals in accordance with the following criteria and select applicant(s) whose proposal(s) best fit the evaluation criteria.

B. Evaluation Criteria

Selections will be made based on whose services will ensure the best possible fit with CAM's projects in South Sudan.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Certification or demonstration of qualifications
- Experience in administration and report writing
- Experience and interest working in global and maternal, newborn and child health
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Demonstrable proficiency in autonomous and remote work
- Experience in innovative problem solving and relationship building across distances
- Experience working in international and/or humanitarian settings
- Cross-cultural communication and facilitation skills in English
- Ability to effectively work in the Global South and with heightened risk and security protocol
- Ability to adapt to changing living and work conditions
- Ability to collaborate within a diverse team.

The ideal candidate is a Registered midwife (or nurse) with at least five (5) years of practice experience and member of CAM (or the Canadian Nurses Association). Preference will be given to applicants with experience working within the SMSII project.

Note: For travel positions, previous international work experience is required.

C. Acceptance of Offer and Award

The successful applicant(s) will be added to a select pool of Midwifery Specialists for the Canadian Association of Midwives. CAM reserves the right to select a proposal in whole or in part, or not to select a proposal, in accordance with the best interests of CAM.