

Individual National Consultant - Development of a National Respectful and Supportive Bereavement Care Package Following Maternal Deaths

📅 18 September 2026

📍 Colombo

👤 Individual Consultant

📄 Download the documents

[Link To The Application](#)

Purpose of Consultancy:

Sri Lanka has made remarkable progress in reducing maternal mortality. However, the loss of a mother remains a profound tragedy that deeply impacts everyone - providers, communities and most importantly families, leaving spouses, children, and extended relatives in emotional, psychological, and social distress. The feelings of shock, disbelief, confusion, and guilt can be overwhelming, often leading to long-term adverse consequences, including mental health issues, economic hardship, and social stigma. Respectful and supportive bereavement care is essential to help families navigate this loss and reduce its negative psychosocial impact.

The provision of respectful, compassionate, and supportive bereavement care following a maternal death is an essential component of quality maternal healthcare. Such care can help families cope with their loss, facilitate healthy grieving processes, and mitigate the negative psychosocial consequences associated with maternal deaths.

Providing compassionate care and support to families after a maternal death is a complex and challenging task for healthcare professionals. Healthcare providers require clear guidance and practical tools to respond appropriately to the unique needs of bereaved families within the Sri Lankan context while adhering to international best practices and standards of respectful care.

At present, there is no standardized national guidance or comprehensive care package that outlines the provision of bereavement care following maternal deaths. Consequently, hospitals and healthcare institutions often adopt varying approaches, resulting in inconsistencies in the quality and scope of support provided to affected families. In addition many healthcare professionals have limited training and capacity to address the specific emotional, psychosocial and communication needs of bereaved family members.

Therefore, it is important to guide different categories of healthcare professionals in the delivery of care for the unique needs of grieving families within the local context and in accordance with best practices. Respectful and supportive bereavement care is one area that needs further improvement. There is a vacuum of specific instructions or guidelines on the management of families after a maternal death. Hospitals and healthcare providers often adopt varied approaches, leading to inconsistencies in care. Many healthcare teams also lack the necessary training and capacity to address the specific needs of bereaved families effectively.

Recognizing this gap, the Family Health Bureau (FHB in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has initiated the development of a National Respectful and Supportive Bereavement Care Package following Maternal Deaths. This package is intended to provide standardized guidance to healthcare providers and institutions to ensure the delivery of compassionate, respectful, and family-centred bereavement care across all levels of the health system.

The consultancy aims at developing, reviewing, revising as required through a consultative process and finalizing the National Respectful Bereavement Care Package involving relevant technical experts, content contributors, the Family Health Bureau and UNFPA.

Scope of work: (Description of services, activities, or outputs)

The consultant is expected to carry out the following activities during the period 1st September 2026 to 31st December 2026.

Tasks:

- Meetings and consultations with the Director (MCH), the National Program Manager (Maternal Morbidity & Mortality) of the Family Health Bureau, other relevant officials from diverse disciplines and the UNFPA officials on the proposed activity.
- Review global literature, existing guidance and national guidelines on related topics.
- Review multiple sections of the guideline with relevant officials, collate the sections and write in a uniform manner.
- Develop the guideline where applicable of the format and flow of the guideline based on the feedback provided by the MCH TAC, professional colleges, FHB officials and UNFPA.
- Prepare a final version of National Respectful and Supportive Bereavement Care Package after maternal deaths in professional English maintaining a unique technical language pattern compatible with Ministry of Health norms and standards and revise accordingly based on feedback from the FHB and UNFPA.
- Prepare and Conduct a presentation based on the package to relevant parties as required prior to the launch.

Documents

📄 TOR_for_Maternal_Bereavement_Care_package (1).pdf