**Consultancy Brief: Advocacy (Access to treatment)**

**Aim**

As part of its Capacity Building/Organisational Development Programme in India, the MS International Federation (MSIF) is seeking experienced consultant(s)/a Consultancy Company based in India to provide training and mentoring for the [Multiple Sclerosis Society of India (MSSI)](http://www.mssocietyindia.org/) in the area of **advocacy with a focus on access to treatment.**

**Background**

MSIF [www.msif.org](http://www.msif.org) is a [unique global network](https://www.msif.org/about-us/our-members/) of MS organisations, people affected by MS, volunteers and staff from around the world. Our movement is made up of 48 MS organisations with links to many others.We inspire, mobilise and bring the world together to improve the quality of life of everybody affected by MS and to end MS forever.

We work to build the capacity of national or local structures, which we believe - with their contextual knowledge, cultural awareness and local language - are best placed to meet the needs of people with and affected by MS living or working in the country.

Having built a successful capacity building programme in the Arab region, with the launch of a new five-year strategy, in 2018 we began focused work with the MSSI.

In June, MSIF visited Delhi to facilitate an initial workshop with MSSI representatives from across India and took the opportunity to meet with a range of MSSI’s stakeholders.

During the workshop, which was attended by 23 delegates from MSSI’s eight Chapters (Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Mumbai and Pune), the group came together to identify key areas for possible collaboration at a national level.

The shortlisted areas for potential collaboration were advocacy, awareness raising, strategic planning, fundraising and rehabilitation.

After a day of exploring how MSSI and MSIF could work together in these areas, the delegates voted and decided to pursue **advocacy** with a focus on access to treatment. They then identified the key problems, their vision and a number of potential goals which they could work towards at the national level including the implementation of the 2016 Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act; inclusion of MS in the upcoming database of rare diseases; reducing import tax on treatment; working with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to promote the research and development/manufacture of Indian DMDs and implementation/adoption and further inclusion of people with MS in government/state insurance schemes and policies. The above, alongside the results of a stakeholder mapping exercise can be found in the Country-wide Advocacy Project Initial Framework developed during the workshop. (**See Annex 2)**.

**Tasks**The next part of the Capacity Building/Organisational Development Programme will consist of **three** phases:

**Phase 1 (August - September 2018)**

In order to develop the above framework into a full project plan that the MSSI can implement from 2019, and to provide the MSSI with training on advocacy, MSIF and MSSI will be holding a one and a half days workshop from **31 August - 1 September 2018** in **Chennai, India**.

The Consultant(s) will be required to deliver the workshop involving an estimated 23 delegates representing MSSI’s eight Chapters.

The aims of the workshop are to:

* further explore and refine the goals identified during the June Workshop (in terms of possible advocacy pathways, timelines and impact, and the skills and resources needed) in order to prioritise which goal/s to develop into a country-wide multi-year project
* work with the delegates to begin to develop the above project plan
* increase delegates’ knowledge of how successful advocacy projects are developed and run;
* provide delegates with the tools and skills to plan and implement such advocacy projects.

**Phase 2 (September - December 2018)**

A period of mentoring and coaching (mainly online) to continue to build the capacity of MSSI’s volunteers and staff in the area of advocacy with a focus on access to treatment . The Consultant(s) will be required to carry out the following tasks through **calls, Skype, email and meetings**:

* provide mentoring and technical support to the MSSI to finalise the country-wide advocacy project plan
* carry out any necessary desk-based research (policy and evidence review, interviews with key stakeholders etc.) to help inform and guide the project
* agree and allocate tasks according to the skills and the capacity of those involved;
* regularly review progress of the tasks and support the MSSI to ensure that agreed milestones are met and the project moves forward in line with the plan

**Phase 3 (January - June 2019)**

In addition to the tasks outlined in Phase 2, it is anticipated that the Consultant(s) will be required to additionally support the MSSI through:

* developing a toolkit for the project (e.g. case studies, advocacy letters/papers, petitions, evidence-based reports/guidelines/background documents, media/press campaign) and
* providing mentoring and technical support on the project implementation (e.g. approaching and meeting with decision makers, coalition building, approaching the media/press etc.)

**Outputs**

* Increased understanding by MSSI’s volunteers/staff in the area of advocacy, and their ability to use advocacy tools;
* A written report detailing findings from the desk-based research including recommendations for the most feasible and impactful aim(s) and advocacy routes for the project;
* Detailed multi-year advocacy project plan
* Toolkit to support MSSI in carrying out the country-wide advocacy project.

**Consultant(s)' specification**

MSIF is seeking consultant(s), currently living and working in **India** (preferably in Delhi) to carry out a mentoring and coaching service in advocacy with a focus on access to treatment. This consultancy is open to individuals and/or a group/team of consultant(s).

The consultant(s) will be required to give a maximum of **32 working days** (20 days for phase 1 and 2, 12 days for phase 3) in total (to include material preparation) between **20 August and 20 June 2019.**

**It is essential that the consultant/consultancy team has the following skills:**

* excellent spoken and written English;
* proven work experience in the field of NGOs;
* excellent facilitation skills;
* experience in designing (theory of change), implementing and evaluating advocacy campaign(s)/project(s);
* proven experience in training, consulting or on-the-job coaching of NGOs in India in the areas of advocacy;
* a good understanding of the civil society sector in India, in particular in the areas of health and disability;
* a good understanding of the advocacy landscape in India including state and national level decision-making processes, access points and stakeholders.

**Preferred specifications**

* good understanding of access to treatment and healthcare in India;
* experience in designing and running access to treatment/healthcare campaigns/project(s).

**How to apply**

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following to Abdelfatah Ibrahim, MSIF Capacity Building Manager, [abdelfatah@msif.org](mailto:abdelfatah@msif.org) by **17.00 GMT on 12 August 2018**

* CVs[[1]](#footnote-1) for all consultant(s) who will be involved in the work.
* Completed Skills and Experience form (Annex 1)
* A proposal of no more 3 pages explaining how you would respond to the Brief indicating the methodology/techniques you would use and an outline of the budget for the service (the daily rate for preparing and carrying out the service). This should include tasks to be included and a breakdown of the time/days required to carry these out.
* In order to avoid any conflict of interest, perceived or otherwise, consultant(s) should note that, in order to be eligible to tender for the work, they (or their company/agency/organisation) should not have been employed by (as a permanent or temporary member of staff) or have carried out services for (in an advisory or consultancy capacity) national or international healthcare companies, or their subsidiaries, within the past 6 months. Consultants who have carried out services for national or international healthcare companies, or their subsidiaries, within the past 18 months, **should declare this within their application**.

**MSIF**

July 2018

**Annex1: Skills and Experience Form**

Please complete this form giving examples of your experience where possible. Please maintain the current formatting.

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| **Essential** |
| 1. excellent spoken and written English |
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| 1. proven work experience in the field of NGOs |
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| 1. excellent facilitation skills |
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| 1. a good understanding of the civil society sector and advocacy landscape in India |
|  |
| 1. proven experience in training, consulting or on-the-job coaching of NGOs in India in the areas of advocacy |
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| 1. has experience in designing and running advocacy campaign(s)/project(s) |
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| **Preferred** |
| 1. a good understanding of access to treatment in India |
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| 1. has experience in designing and running access to treatment campaigns/project(s) |
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| 9. a good understanding of the disability sector in India |
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1. Relevant references may be requested at a later stage [↑](#footnote-ref-1)