**Example terms of reference for national technical working group on child survival**

*Note: This is a sample template for Terms of Reference and may need to be adapted to the specific context and needs of the TWG.*

**Purpose**

A Technical Working Group (TWG) on child survival has been established to provide technical expertise and guidance to support the coordination, implementation and scale up of evidence-based interventions and strategies to improve child survival rates in [Target region/country]. It aims to strengthen health service delivery for children, improve the capacity of the health workforce, and ensure effective information sharing, integration, and monitoring of program activities. This document outlines the terms of reference for the TWG.

**Strategic Approaches:**

* Collaborate across Ministry of Health (MoH) Directorates and Programs, including child health partners, to improve child health and survival.
* Advance joint actions by MoH, other Ministries, and partners to address programmatic and health system barriers.
* Promote effective leadership and accountability at all levels for child survival.
* Prioritize strategic investments in primary health care (PHC), focusing on integrated management of newborn and child illness (IMNCI) and integrated community case management (iCCM).

**Objectives**

* Support MoH and directorates/programs in strengthening equitable and comprehensive child health programs.
* Enhance partnership coordination and strengthen referral systems across healthcare levels.
* Promote the implementation of a Child Survival Action Plan and other related guidance
* Facilitate planning and resource mobilization for child health interventions.
* Identify and act on priorities to accelerate mortality reduction in under-five children.

**Tasks/Responsibilities**

* Provide support for joint planning, management and monitoring and evaluation of child health programs/activities considering local and international best practices
* Provide technical expertise and guidance on evidence-based interventions for child survival, including development and updating of technical protocols and guidelines for effective service delivery
* Facilitate collaboration and coordination among government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other key stakeholders working on child survival
* Disseminate best practices and facilitate platforms for sharing ideas
* Contribute to the development and implementation of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of child survival programs. Regularly review and analyze data to inform decision-making and identify areas for improvement.
* Advocate to government for improved policies that support child health and survival.
* Collaborate with stakeholders to mobilize resources for the implementation of child survival programs.

**Membership**

*Note: The list below generally outlines the type of stakeholders to consider as members. For the actual TOR, government agencies, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders in the country should be specially named.*

The TWG will be comprised of experts in child health, including representatives from the following:

* **Chairperson:** e.g. Child Health Manager of MoH
* **Co-Chair:** e.g. key partner working in child health
* **Secretariat:** e.g. key ministry or partner staff working in child health
* **Government agencies:** Ministry of Health, national child health programs, relevant technical departments e.g. malaria, nutrition, immunization)
* **United Nations and intergovernmental agencies:** UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, World Bank, other relevant agencies.
* **NGOs:** Child-focused international and national NGOs.
* **Donors:** USAID, FCDO, and other relevant funders.
* **Academia:** Research institutions, public health experts, pediatricians, epidemiologists
* **Private sector:** Pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers of essential health commodities.
* **Civil society organizations:** Community-based organizations, youth groups, faith-based organizations.
* **Professional associations:**Pediatric, nursing/midwifery, obstetrics associations
* **Regulatory bodies:** Doctors/Nursing/Midwifery councils, pharmaceutical councils

**Roles and Responsibilities**

* **Chairperson (co-chair as alternate):**
  + Provide leadership and direction to the TWG.
  + Facilitate meetings and discussions.
  + Ensure effective communication and collaboration among members.
  + Represent the TWG at relevant meetings and forums.
* **Members:**
  + Actively participate in meetings and contribute their expertise.
  + Review and provide feedback on documents and reports.
  + Implement agreed-upon recommendations within their respective organizations.
  + Identify and share relevant information and resources.
  + Represent the TWG at relevant meetings and forums.
* **Secretariat:**
  + Provide administrative and logistical support to the TWG.
  + Prepare meeting agendas and minutes, including action items with roles/responsibilities
  + Maintain communication with members and stakeholders.
  + Disseminate information and reports.

**Subcommittees/taskforces**

To enhance performance of the main TWG, additional subcommittees may be formed. Examples of potential subcommittees could include newborn health, IMCI, iCCM, immunization, community, M&E, advocacy, and resource mobilization.

**Meetings**

The TWG will meet [Frequency] to discuss progress, review recommendations, and plan future activities. Additional meetings may be convened as needed.

Other persons may be invited to the TWG, including technical experts and donor representatives when appropriate to the agenda of the meeting.

**Reporting**

The TWG will provide regular reports on its activities and progress to the [Reporting body]. These reports will include:

* Updates on key findings and recommendations.
* Information on technical support provided.
* Challenges and opportunities identified.
* Plans for future work.

**Duration**

The TWG will be established for a period of [Duration] with the possibility of renewal based on achievements and ongoing needs.

**Review and Evaluation**

The TWG's performance will be reviewed annually to assess its effectiveness in achieving its objectives. The review will consider factors such as:

* Progress made towards achieving the goals of the TWG.
* Quality and relevance of technical advice provided.
* Effectiveness of communication and collaboration among members.
* Impact on policy and program interventions.

These Terms of Reference may be amended as needed by consensus of the TWG members.

Please direct any questions regarding this document to: [Name and contact information of the relevant person/office]