**MTF/ETH/100/BMG**

**Rapid capacity Assessment of laboratory facilities – Terms of Reference**

**Background & justification**

In Ethiopia, the current food composition table (FCT) is outdated, limiting the ability for the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Livestock along with agriculture, nutrition, private sector and other development partners from adequately understanding what Ethiopians are eating, the quality of food being consumed, and most importantly, how to guide policy and programs on better diets for human health and nutrition. The rapid capacity assessment of laboratory facilities is meant to evaluate the capacities in country (not only in EPHI premises) for food and nutrient analyses in order to update the FCT with relevant and accurate data, to be able to get the latest state of the art science on food composition. The exercise is independent and will use a combination of desk review, laboratory visits, interviews of relevant stakeholders (laboratory personnel, private sector, universities, and international partners), evaluations with FAO capacity assessment tools and checklists, interviews

**Objective**

The **objective** of the RCA will be to identify (i) the capacities in country to undertake the spectrum of necessary analyses for the FCT update and (ii) the gaps and needs in order to justify eventual outsourcing of analyses by an external partner, up to a certain level, on the first hand, and to inform future capacity development initiatives, on the second hand.

**Outputs & activities**

The main output of the RCA will be a complete report including:

(i) a desk review of available facilities and data in country

(ii) an institutional and policy analysis around food data

(iii) an analysis of data collected during visits and interviews

(iv) an analysis of the laboratory and institutions capacities highlighting strengths and weaknesses

(v) some recommendations and follow up action with regards to undertaking some analyses inside or outside the country and towards an improved system for future initiatives

Preparatory phase will include:

* Define the scope of the laboratory capacity assessment through discussion with project stakeholders and context analysis
* Prepare assessment tools and checklist to be validated by EPHI/FAO

The activities to be undertaken by the (international) consultant hired for this purpose will be the following:

1- Desk review of available public or private (or intermediary) structures for food analyses (laboratories, etc.) and available data in country (state of the art)

2- Analysis of institutional, governance and policy existing arrangements and set up regarding food composition research and food data management including human resources capacities

3- Visit to a selected number of laboratories including interview with key stakeholders and use of a checklist (through observations and interviews) to be elaborated and refined during the consultancy

4- Elaboration of a rapid capacity assessment report including recommendations and way forward

Duration: 30 to 40 actually worked days

Duty station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with some field visits in the laboratories (20-30 AWD), the rest of the worked days dedicated to elaboration of the report, can be home based.

The international consultant will have at least 10 years of relevant experience in food composition data management, food quality, food quality assessment, evaluation techniques.