

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR

A National Consultant to Conduct a Study on the Relationship between Fertility Rate and Household Debt in China

TERMS OF REFERENCE (to be completed by Hiring Office)	
Hiring Office:	UNFPA China Office
Purpose of consultancy:	To conduct a study on the relationship between fertility rate and household debt in China
Scope of work: (Description of services, activities, or outputs)	<p>The research title is: Research on the relationship between Fertility Rate and Household Debt in China.</p> <p><u>Background:</u></p> <p>China's fertility rate continued to decline due to the combined effects of such factors: change in people's fertility desire, the reduction in the number of women of childbearing age and the impact of COVID-10 pandemic, etc. The total fertility rate (TFR) in 2020 and 2021 was at 1.30 and 1.15 respectively, which is far below the policy expected target level (for example, the target in the national population and development strategy is 1.8), already falling into the so-called "low fertility trap". According to a study produced by UNFPA China, CPDRC and PKUIPR in 2021, the decline of China's fertility rate has been attributed to the combined effects of both macro social economic development level and micro economic burden on individuals, especially the direct economic burden associated with in child-rearing and unbearable housing cost have become important drivers of China's low fertility.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the fact that the government of China is developing fertility supportive policy/programme measures in responding to this, UNFPA China and the Department of Social Development of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) have agreed to include a research focusing on the interactions between fertility rate and household debt in the 2022 work plan.</p> <p>The planned research will try to take a closer look at the impact of household debt on fertility level, based on quantitative analysis of both internationally and nationally available data on such indicators as fertility rate, household debt and other social-economic indicators and through comparisons at global, national and sub-national (provincial) levels. This research will be expected to support the design of national fertility supportive policy and programme measures from the perspective of reducing household financial burdens and enrich studies on the interactions between population and economy, thus believed to have both policy value and academic significance.</p> <p><u>Activities/Services involved:</u></p> <p>Specifically, the research will involve the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Activity 1: to conduct a desk review on the relationship between fertility level and household debt to find out the existing literature on this subject matter, available international and national data source, etc. and identify appropriate methodology in support of the planned research for China;-Activity 2: to conduct an analysis on the impact of household debt on fertility level in China at three levels: at global level, to compare the situation of China

	<p>with other countries; and at national level as well as at sub-national level of China to compare the impact across provinces; and</p> <p>-Activity 3: to produce recommendations on fertility supportive policy/programme measures from the perspective of reducing household financial burdens based on the above analysis.</p> <p>As there has not been much literature on the issue in China, the consultant needs to work in an innovative manner and explore as many data sources as possible to support this research.</p>
Duration and working schedule:	<p>The activity will involve 32 working days, starting from 15 June and ending no later than 30 November 2022.</p> <p>The expected working schedule is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -22 June – 30 June: finish an inception report, identifying clearly the data sources and the methodology to be used in this research as well as the report outline and the research implementation plan (5 working days) -1 July - 30 September: finish Activity 2 and Activity 3 and produce a draft consultancy report (20 working days): -15 October-30 November: revise and finalize the consultancy report “Research on the relationship between fertility rate and household debt in China” based on comments from the Department of Social Development of NDRC and UNFPA CO, as well as invited experts (7 working days).
Place where services are to be delivered:	<p>The consultant/consultant team will not be required to work in UNFPA Office. S/he will need to use their own equipment and software for the assignment from UNFPA.</p>
Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g. electronic, hard copy etc.):	<p>In line with the above working schedule, the following deliveries are expected in designated forms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Inception report and the research implementation plan: by 30 June 2) Draft research report on “Research on the relationship between fertility rate and household debt in China”: by 30 September 3) Finalized research report “Research on the relationship between fertility rate and household debt in China”: by 30 November 2022 at the latest <p>All milestones will be delivered in both English and Chinese in electronic forms.</p>
Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements, periodicity format and deadline:	<p>Ms. Suren Navchaa, Deputy Representative of UNFPA in China, as well as Mr. Hao Fuqing, DDG of Department of Social Development of NDRC, will be responsible for monitoring and control of the progress and quality assurance of the assignment. All assignments will be completed by 30 November 2022.</p>
Supervisory arrangements:	<p>Mr. Jia Guoping, Programme Specialist UNFPA in China and Mr. Wang Tanling, chief of Population and Development Division, Department of Social Development at NDRC, will be the supervisor of the consultant(s) during the contract period.</p>
Expected travel:	<p>No travel deemed necessary for this consultancy.</p>
Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:	<p>Expertise required to complete the above research and deliver the expected products include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Established expertise in population and development studies -Expertise/previous research experiences in governmental administration, particularly those related to financing for essential social services, governmental financial transfer mechanisms, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Proved capacity to process and analyze big data sets, particularly those related to economic and financial indicators would be a plus -Strong communication and writing skills, both written and verbal, of Chinese -Ability to work under pressure and deliver high quality products within the given time -Knowledge of UNFPA mandate would be asset
Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g support services, office space, equipment), if applicable:	UNFPA and the Department of Social Development of NDRC will jointly organize consultation meetings when drafts of the study report become available.
Other relevant information or special conditions, if any:	
<p><i>Please send a research plan along with your CV (in English) to jia@unfpa.org before June 23, 2022.</i></p>	