**Title**

Consultant – Health Financing

**Scope of Work**

One of the strategic areas of work for HSTP & its partners is health financing for universal health coverage in India. Key to moving towards UHC and designing appropriate strategies is measuring progress of health financing indicators, that rely on estimation of out-of-pocket expenditures on healthcare. In India OOPE is estimated from the National Sample Survey Office Health and Morbidity Survey (HMS) and Consumer Expenditure survey (CES) that are conducted once in five years. While the CES 2017-18, findings were not released by the NSSO, the HMS 2017-18 survey findings, when analysed showed a significant decrease in OOP estimates (in comparison to the earlier survey HMS 2013-14) and the resultant catastrophic health spending and impoverishments. Further, India’s health accounts report FY 2017-18 released in 2021, showed household out of pocket expenditures as proportion of total health expenditure decreased from 64% in 2013-14 and 49% in 2017-18.

While a section of researchers claimed this to be significant downward trend due to successful government investment and interventions, others cited errors in HMS 2017-18 data multipliers; non- comparable (to earlier surveys) survey periods, sample sizes, estimation methods and the questions asked in the household interview etc. However, no clarity on way forward was established, requiring the need for an unbiased, scientific exercise. A thorough examination of the estimation methods helps to clarify the underpinning errors and limitations if any, understand which factors and variables in the HMS influence OOPE estimates and, in the process, generate a consensus on current estimates and standardizing the estimation methods and processes for the future.

HSTP will be undertaking this scientific exercise to support its over all work on health financing for UHC in India. Dr. Indranil will support this work through conducting this research in collaboration with HSTP and other researchers involved in the exercise contributing specifically to the following:

1. Conduct exploratory research and comparative analysis of OOPE estimation methods in NSSO CES/ HMS with other available datasets, for example, National Health & Family Survey (NHFS), Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) etc.
2. Submit a report on the above research and contribute to drafting working paper / manuscript for peer-reviewed journal publication on this specific topic of improving OOPE estimation methods in India.

**Compensation**

A fee of INR 15,000 per working day inclusive of taxes for total 15 working days amounting to INR 225,000 will be paid. Consultant will generate two invoices during the contract period, as scheduled:

1. 1 Feb 2022 – 15 March 2022: INR 112,500
2. 15 March 2022 – 30 April 2022: INR 112,500

**Term**

This engagement shall commence upon execution of this Agreement. The Agreement shall continue in full force and is effect from **February 1, 2022** to **April 30, 2022** and is extendable based on the review of Consultant’s performance by the Foundation and mutual concurrence on revised terms of engagement.